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differential diagnosis of the specific roentgenographic patterns”.
The book is very well organised, and is clear and easy to read. It is concise and informative, both
to the advanced student and the experienced clinician or radiologist, and is remarkably
exhaustive in its coverage of the subject. The sections dealing with
W. Eger and A. Gbegl: Die Strahlenpneumonitis. Experimentelle Grundlagen - Klinik und
Therapie. Radiation pneumonitis, experimental foundation, clinical features and treatments.
(Hippokrates, Stuttgart 1965), 152 p., 75 fig., 26 tables. DM 36.-.
The most interesting part of this monograph deals with carefully designed animal experiments
which demonstrate the evolution of histological lung changes as a result of the application of
varying radiation doses. The importance of preexisting broncho-pulmonary disease is duly
stressed, and the discussion of the pathogenesis of radiation pneumonitis is excellent.
The preceding review of the literature is redundant and, often, semantically objectionable. The
rather misleading concept of a “protrahiert-fractionierte Bestrahlung” has not been abandoned.
Terms such as “Hautdermatitis” (dermatitis of the skin), of “restriktive Ventilationsbildung”
(instead of “Ventilationsstörung”) seem rather improper.
On page 51, a third stage in the evolution of the disease is postulated, namely scarring following
the fibrotic stage. This concept is, rather fortunately, no longer mentioned in the competent
discussion of radiologic changes as seen in chest films.
The concept of the latency period, its duration depending upon radiation dosage, is discarded in
the discussion of pathogenesis, although an incubation period is mentioned in the preface.
Similarly, in the preface, the radiological changes are said to be pathognomonic, whereas in the
chapter dealing with this subject in more detail, the great difficulties encountered in detecting
and differential diagnosis of radiation pneumonitis are adequately stressed.
While quoting terms in a foreign language, some errors were left uncorrected.
Based on further animal experiments the authors conclude that Prednisolone therapy might be
beneficial in reducing the radiation effects on the lung.
The paper, print and the illustrations in the book are excellent.
H. Lüdin, Basel
Diagnosis based on Roentgenographic Patterns. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore
There are few books the reviewer has read with greater interest and pleasure. The aim of the
book, as stated in the preface, “to provide maximal diagnostic assistance to the physician who
infrequently encounters patients with undiagnosed respiratory complaints or abnormal chest
films”, has been attained to a measure such that the above announcement sounds like an
understatement.
The text is divided into three parts entitled “An outline of diagnostic techniques in
bronchopulmonary disease”; “An outline of the roentgenographic patterns in bronchopulmonary
disease. The key to differential diagnosis”; and “The280
Libri

merits and limitations of fluoroscopy of the lungs could well provide especially profitable reading for many continental radiologists and clinicians.

The indiscriminate use of the terms “miliary” and “micronodular” found in many publications might be semantically debatable; at least from an etymologic point of view it is felt that the use of the adjective “miliary” might preferably be limited to nodules of the size of a millet seed, such as observed in true miliary tuberculosis. The X-ray films are most informative, their reproduction, however, is not felt to be quite as good as usually is the case in e.g. Scandinavian radiologic publications.

The publication might well become a standard text in medical literature. The authors are to be congratulated for their achievement.

H. Ludin, Basel


The four chapters of the present volume are the work of highly competent authors. F. J. Bassekmann (85 pages) describes the morphology of the mycobacteria. Especial stress is laid on electron-microscopical and fluorescence-microscopical investigations. The morphology of colony-forms is also dealt with. It is shown that fungoid ramifications can also be observed in M. tuberculosis. There are also interesting illustrations of the lysis of mycobacteria. The literature is covered up to 1963.

G. Penso (18 pages) concisely discusses the isolation, morphology and reproductive cycle of the mycobacteriophages. Valuable information is given on methods for growing and controlling the mycobacteriophages.

J. Asselineau (82 pages) deals with the chemical constituents of mycobacteria. The methods required are described. The inorganic and organic constituents are then described in detail, the lipoids being given special prominence. The change in chemical composition under the influence of tuberculostatics and in strains of varying virulence is described. Numerous tables on the chemical composition of various mycobacteria facilitate comprehension greatly. The literature is covered up to 1966.

The chapter on tuberculin is written by M. Magnusson (59 pages). The preparation and purification of tuberculin is first described. Especially valuable are the details of the methods for estimating tuberculins in man and animals.

Every chapter has an extensive bibliography.

The index is good.

Paper, printing and illustrations are of excellent quality.

This book can be recommended to everyone who is concerned with mycobacteria and tuberculins.

Dr. W. A. Vischer, Basel