Book Reviews

N. Hennig and S. Witte: Atlas der gastroenterologischen Zytodiagnostik. 2. Aufl. Thieme, Stuttgart 1968. 151 Abb., 314 Einzeldarstellungen, davon 125 farbig, 11 Tab. Preis: DM 56,-. Recently many findings accumulated in the field of cytodiagnostics of the digestive tract. All important new contributions are respected in the second edition which is more than the title indicates. It contains a concise description of all major findings in exfoliative cytology of the digestive tract. It starts with the cytology of the oral cavity with a note on sex chromatin and findings after hormonal treatment, in hematologic diseases, in inflammation and cancer. The chapter is supplemented with a brief note on the cytology of the parotid gland. The next chapter deals with the cytology of the esophagus where the cytodiagnostic tool is valuable in the diagnosis of cancer. Further the pattern of stomach cytology is described in normal conditions, in gastritis, in ulcer disease and in tumours where the cytodiagnosis renders valuable services.

Further the description of the cytology of the duodenal content is given where the changes in duodenitis, cholangitis, hepatitis and also the pattern in the pancreatic sap after secretin stimulation is described. The subsequent chapter deals with colon cytology. A brief chapter is devoted to the cytology of ascites. The findings described in this book are based mainly on the staining with Pappenheim’s and Papanicolaou’s methods, supplemented with the pattern as revealed by phase-contrast and fluorescence microscopy (after intravital application of atebrin and after staining of fixed smears with acridine orange). In the second part which could more logically precede the description of findings a thorough explanation of the obtaining of the material and methods in the cytological studies is given. It is a pity that histochemical methods are not mentioned at all (with the exception of peroxidase reaction and acridine orange) although they might be of value especially in gastric and enteral cytology. 78 pages of the book are devoted to illustrations. The majority of them is very good. Also their selection is mostly very good and only some pictures are unconvincing. The literature and subject indices are very good. This book will be valuable to all adherents of the cytological examination in gastroenterology. The publishing house deserves compliments for the high technical standard of the book and for its moderate price. Z. Lojda, Prague

R. S. Mackay: Bio-Medical Telemetry. Sensing and Transmitting Biological Information from Animals and Man. Wiley & Sons, New York/London/Sidney 1968. 388 p. Price: 115s. Biotelemetric methods would be of great value in research for many scientists (also in the field of gastroenterology) but the information about them has been scattered and not easy to find. Therefore it was a very good idea to write a book in which principles, procedures and applications of biotelemetrical methods with their advantages and limitations are explained. The author who is an active worker in this field succeeded in explaining the principles of biotelemetry to a wide circle of workers. Biologists will welcome basic data about electronics and modulation systems and also about plastics and other material which is dealt with in the first chapters. The fifth chapter deals with pressure sensing and transmission and for gastro-
enterologists the illustration of components and steps in assembly of the gastrointestinal pressure transmitter is interesting. In the following chapters temperature sensing and transmission as well as telemetry of bioelectric and chemical electrode potentials are described. Gastroenterologists find here a description of an ingestible pH transmitter. The eighth chapter describes sensors and transmitters for sounds, flow and radioactivity registration. Here the problems in the localization of the site of bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract with this approach are considered. In the following chapters frequency and antenna selection, various receivers and demodulators, calibration and response control, and principles of passive transmission are described. Next chapters give examples of application of telemetric studies in wild lands and aquatic animals. The chapter “Inward power and telestimulation” describes among others the endomotorsonde of Vantrappen et al. (this is a small capsule containing an electric motor and a gear system which can carry transducers and introduce various objects to desired locations of the human gastrointestinal tract).

The book is a good introduction to biotelemetry and will be very stimulating to workers wishing to use the biotelemetric approach. Z. Lojda, Prague


The first volume of the third edition of the most popular textbook of histochemistry which had to be divided into two volumes appeared last year. The arrangement of the book remained unchanged but all chapters were substantially completed or rewritten. The methodological guide remains also in this edition a rather independent part to the end of the book. The first volume covers 16 chapters of the second edition, i.e. history of histochemistry, preparative steps for histochemical reactions, histochemistry of proteins and aminoacids including immunofluorescence and applied histochemistry of collagen, reticulin, elastic tissue, fibrin, fibrinoid, keratin, histochemistry of nucleic acids and nucleoproteins, carbohydrates and mucosubstances including applied histochemistry of amyloid, colonic histiocytosis, Whipple’s disease, gargoylism and mucoviscidosis; histochemistry of lipids, lipo-proteins and proteolipids, aldehyde and ketones and histochemistry of phos-phatases.

In the past 8 years since the second edition of this book we were witnesses of a vast expansion of histochemistry and cytochemistry so that it is impossible for a single person to cover critically all methods and their application with his own experience. The author succeeded to cover most of the subjects excellently. Due to a modern and outstanding critical treatment of the subjects with a very good source of references and many stimuli for the work in applied and basic histochemistry the book is highly recommendable as a basic textbook not only for every worker in biology, histology, cytology, embryology, pathology, zoology and biochemistry but also for workers in clinical research interested in applied histochemistry.

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