Book Reviews


This book records the proceedings of the 19th Symposium of the Colston Society held in the University of Bristol in April 1967. The nine sessions were concerned with the structure and function of the normal liver, newer techniques in the diagnosis of liver disease (2 sessions), hepatitis, portal hypertension (2 sessions), newer aspects of the treatment of liver failure, liver transplantation and several short papers as well as a panel discussion on the treatment of portal hypertension. The discussions related to the various topics are also published. As with all symposia, most of the presentations are not new. Nevertheless, the volume offers a fine collection of papers by authors eminent in their respective fields and provides an informative review on newer thinking and developments in hepatology. It should be of value to all physicians interested in liver disease.

H. Affolter, Basel


This book represents a compilation of the papers read at the 5th Metabolic Symposium in Bad Mergentheim, October 1968. The problems of pathology and clinical forms of the small and large intestine diseases have been presented in 17 papers and at a round-table discussion (the latter on malignant tumors of the gastrointestinal tract).

The authors brought new aspects of intestinal pathophysiology and showed modern methods of clinical investigation. The meeting was mostly devoted to ulcerative colitis from the diagnostic, clinical and therapeutic points of view. The authors are physicians maintaining a good balance between the physiological approach and concepts and their applications to clinical practice. The lucidity of the book is enhanced by many tables, diagrams, graphs and X-ray pictures. Each paper has its own list of references. The style of the publication is clear and concise and reaches a high level of presentation.

The book can be recommended to clinicians in practice and to research workers interested in gastroenterology.

R. Ronský, Prague


Prof. Hess, the famous medical author of numerous works referring to biliary-pan-creatic surgery, is giving here an excellent review of this major problem in gastroenterology, with which we are faced daily. He is founding his arguments on the experience acquired with 202 private patients which he operated on for chronic pancreatitis during the last ten years.

This volume starts with a long ‘Summary’ of 10 pages, which is also an index table, relating not only the matter but the numerical results and the ideas which have been brought forth in each chapter. This new technique of writing a book makes it a very agreeable work to read.

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The most instructive part for physicians is the one concerned with the time when an operation should be performed; and for surgeons what type of operation should be chosen once the abdomen is open: Hess shows here the variety of problems which confront one, and the various therapeutic solutions which occur at that time. He does not forget however to recall the means which are left to allay unbearable suffering when the pancreas cannot be removed or operated on. This is a beautifully illustrated work, written in a flowing style and short paragraphs. The author should be congratulated for this work of art. M. Demole, Geneva

Rigenerazione epatica e sul trapianto del fegato (Regeneration and transplantation of the liver). Atti del Convegno Internazionale, Soc. E. Universo, Rome 1966. Vol. I, 568 p.; vol. II, 600 p. These two large volumes are the reports of a Congress in Montecatini (Italy) in October 1966. The 130 papers are mostly in Italian and of various importance.

The major ones are on ‘Biochemical and histological basis of liver regeneration’ by N. Siliprandi and L. Gotte (Padova, Italy) and ‘Experimental sources of variation in the study of liver regeneration’, by J. M. Echave Llanos (La Plata, Argentine). They give an accurate general idea of the question, but were written three years ago. An inspiring paper, written by L. Bertrand and H. Michel (Montpellier, France), asks ‘whether the regeneration nodules, in alcoholic cirrhosis, are responsible for portal hypertension’? and it concludes negatively.

The problems of hepatectomy fill 750 pages; 100 more of them are reserved for a round table conference on transplantation. The last 300 pages are not in relationship to the main theme. M. Demole, Geneva


This volume presents a series of 20 contributions on recent progress in important gastroenterological problems by 32 prominent authors from different countries. Among topics covered, a strong emphasis is laid on the stomach and small intestine. They are the subject of 16 articles, namely those on gastritis (Taylor and Fisher), electron microscopy of human gastric mucosa (Lillibridge), cardiorespiratory abnormalities associated with gastroesophageal hemorrhage in cirrhosis (Del Guercio), experimental peptic ulcer (Lambert), erosive gastritis (Katz and Siegel), gastrophotography and cinegastroscopy (Colcher), cytology in diagnosis of malignant lesions of the stomach (Villardell), organic constituents (Piper) and proteolytic enzymes (Tang and Wolf) of gastric juice, intrinsic factor and other vitamin B12 transport proteins (Simons), gastrone (Glass), intestinal villi (Sessions et al.), electron microscopy of fat absorption (Dobbins), medium chain triglycerides (Holt), adult celiac disease (Cooke), and small intestinal resections (Winawer and Zamcheck). Granulomatous colitis (Marshak and Lindner), immune mechanisms in ulcerative colitis (Watson and Bolt), pancreatitis (Marks et al.) and gastrointestinal angiography (Sybers and Galambos) are dealt with in the remaining contributions.

The book reminds of the English edition of ‘Modern Trends in Gastroenterology’ some years ago. Its special advantage is the fact that research as well as clinical aspects of individual problems are joined together in a very successful way. Reading this volume is stimulating and pleasant for both the scientist and the clinician. Prof.

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Glass is to be congratulated for the selection of individual topics and their authors as well as for all the rest of his editorial work. It is his merit that the book has an internal logical construction and that its contents cannot be labelled as ‘membra
disiecta’. If there would be an election for ‘a book of the year on gastroenterology’, this volume would be a serious candidate for it. P. Fríc, Prague


This volume comprises 22 lectures and discussion of the 4th Pfizer International Symposium held at Edinburgh in May 1968. The selection of topics handled in individual reports was rather broad. Absorption and malabsorption of nutrients and minerals as well as the significance of bile acids adsorption to natural components of the diet and the role of gastrointestinal secretions in iron absorption were discussed in nine lectures, among which the reports of the late Prof. Fourman on effects of gastrectomy on the bone and of his collaborator Dr. Morgan on calcium and phosphorus transport across the intestinal cell deserves special attention. The reviews on histology and histochemistry of small-intestinal mucosa are presented by M. Shiner and E.-O. Riecken. Intestinal microorganisms and kinetics of small-intestinal epithelium in malabsorption were the subject of interesting reports given by Paulley, Delpíñan and Creamer. Clinical aspects of malabsorption discussed at this symposium included gluten-enteropathy in childhood, tropical sprue, malabsorption in Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, the relation of malignancy and malabsorption, radiology of the small intestine and acid-base changes in pancreatogenous malabsorption.

This symposium documents that various aspects of malabsorption remain the subject of multidiscipline interest and that in spite of recent progress many problems are left without satisfactory explanation. The discussion to individual papers is very stimulating and contributes a great deal to the value of this book. It must be critically stated that the reproduction of some microphotographs and X-ray pictures should deserve greater attention. This does not, however, influence the fact that this volume is worth reading by all those interested in malabsorption problems.

P. Fríc, Prague


Since the second world war English has become the leading language of the medical world. For physicians whose native language is not English it is very important to know both English medical terminology and its correct pronunciation.

The German–English (Volume I) – English-German (Volume II) Dictionary for Physicians caters for this need. A completely revised second edition by the late Professor F. Lejeune and W. E. Bunjes was published this year by Thieme Publishing House in Stuttgart. The need for this dictionary is proved by the fact that the first edition published in 1953 was reprinted in 1959, in 1963 and again in 1967.

I recommend this modern medical dictionary to all non-native speakers of English. K. Herfort, Prague