
This book is a collection of lectures held at the 3rd Liver-Symposium at Vulpera in Switzerland in September 1968. The authors are 50 outstanding European hepatologists, most of them originating from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and some overseas guests.

The papers cover the following leading topics: intrahepatic cholestasis, liver regeneration, liver damage by alcohol, chronic hepatitis, liver detoxification, therapy of the hepatic coma, liver neoplasm, angiography and scintigraphy.

This very selection clearly demonstrates that this book does not claim to supply information of post-graduate value. It presents chapters dealing with the most rapidly expanding topics, written by authors with extensive personal experience with the study of problems concerned and intends to reflect the present day state of the hepatologie research.

The symposium was inaugurated by H. Kalk. After the introductory lecture dealing with the intrahepatic cholestasis and four papers on liver regeneration (from the point of view of pathologists and surgeons) the interrelations of liver cirrhosis and diabetes are discussed (‘hepatogenous diabetes’ caused by insulin-resistance). The most topical theme of the ethanol and liver integrity is first dealt with as seen by a pathologist (steatosis, acute and chronic alcohol hepatitis). Further the pathophysiology and biochemistry is confronted with clinical experience with trials on the quantitation of the deleterious dose of alcohol. Its toxicity is opposed to the nutritional status of drunkards and their disposition in terms of the changing responsiveness of the liver parenchyma.

The extensive round-table discussion on the chronic hepatitis was moderated by H. Popper. Its pathology, etiologic factors, prognosis and therapy is presented in many short communications. The question of immunotoxicity is discussed and improved terminology suggested for lupoid hepatitis. In the conclusion the place of chronic hepatitis between the initial reversible liver injury and liver cirrhosis is stressed.

The paper by Renner on liver detoxification challenging the current final attitude of its apprehension is very interesting. The modern aspects of the therapy of liver insufficiency include immunosuppressive drugs, liver transplantation, blood-exchange transfusions and animal-liver perfusions, which have been studied experimentally and clinically, as well.

The book containing short-cut records of discussion held during the sessions and complete up-to-date references pertaining to the respective chapters, will be highly appreciated by specialists and research workers in hepatology.

Alena Huslarova, Prague