Book Reviews


A meeting on Hyperlipidemia and its practical meaning was organized in Solothurn, Switzerland, in 1968 by G. Miller. The reports from authors of many countries were brought up to date and are printed here (in German) as short chapters. These are written in a simple language, illustrated with clear diagrams and each ends with a few of the most important references.

The first part is devoted to physiopathology and technical methods (G. Hartmann and M. Werner, Basle). The second one deals with clinical problems: the meaning of hyperlipemia in atherosclerosis, diabetes, liver and pancreatic diseases, etc. In the third part, the therapy is discussed, especially diet (J. L. De Gennes, Paris) and drugs (F. Knüchel, Heidelberg). Each part ends with one or two pages of ‘practical conclusions’, in which the busy physicians will find the main items from previous chapters. This is a very useful book easy to read and in which one learns a lot of significant facts which play a major part in many digestive diseases.

M. Demole, Geneva


The course of practical gastroenterology which is organised by the Medical Department of Erlangen Teaching Hospital is popular in West Germany. The papers given at the 4th course, which took place in autumn 1969 in Erlangen under the chair of Prof. Demling were published in 1970 by the publishing house Karger.

This booklet has 14 short chapters, 9 dealing with diagnosis and 5 with the clinical manifestations and treatment of some diseases of the digestive system. I would like particularly to draw attention to the paper of Demling ‘Duodenoscopy’ and Dölle’s paper ‘Pille und Leber’ (‘Pill and the Liver’).

This booklet gives to German-speaking physicians interested in gastroenterology good information about some new aspects of gastroenterology. K. Herfort, Prague


The publication begins with a review of the gastric surgery from the 18th century to our days with many interesting facts. Further informations can be obtained from the 357 references. The figures are instructive and the reproductions of the X-ray pictures are distinct (though some indicating arrows had made it easier for the unexperienced reader).

Something new can hardly be found in this book, which may serve as a guide for the critical surgeon. All the advices given may not be accepted, however. The conception of converting a B II resection into a B I resection to cure the efferent loop syndrome is not a method generally accepted. Welbourn, Johnson, and Andreassen did not find this method adequate; and according to our results (Borg et al.) this operation should be avoided. In the chapter on the efferent loop syndrome the reviewer is lacking the descrip-
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The part played by serotonin in the ‘dumping syndrome’ is very obscure. It might have been omitted since even Jesseph has left this hypothesis. The technical details in the book may be of some value to an unexperienced surgeon, but appear somewhat overestimated. The reviewer consider duodenal mobilization according to Kocher unnecessary in most instances since the gastric remnant can be easily mobilized. The book with its compressed historical review of gastric surgery is easy to read and the list of references is extensive. The book may be of some value as an introduction to the post-gastrectomy problems. For further studies of this complicated field the reference list is helpful. I. Borg, Malmö

The leading author with 65 co-workers give to German speaking physicians a monograph whose task is the synthesis of theoretical and practical medicine, i.e. to make clear the pathophysiological causes of individual symptoms. The chapter devoted to the digestive system has 3 parts: The alimentary canal (Martini and co-workers), The liver (M. Schmid) and The biliary tract and the exocrine pancreas (M.M. Forell and H. Stahlheber).
After a brief introduction about the anatomy and physiology of the individual parts of digestive system the authors describe the leading symptoms and signs of the diseases of the digestive system, their causes and pathophysiological sequelae. Schmid’s part about the pathophysiology of the main symptoms of the diseases of the liver especially fulfils the task marked out by the leading author very well. It is surprising that the authors of the part dealing with the biliary tract and the exocrine pancreas do not go into details about the syndrome of hypertension in the biliary ducts, its causes and sequelae and in the part on the exocrine pancreas do not deal more intensively with steatorrhoe, jaundice of pancreato-genetic origin and the relations between the exocrine and endocrine pancreas.

Siegenthaler’s monograph ‘Clinical pathophysiology’ is a good guide for the information about modern conceptions of the causes and pathophysiological sequelae of the leading symptom and signs of the diseases in this field. K. Herfort, Prague

Our knowledge about the mechanisms of anal continence and defaecation has been enlarged by systematic anatomical and physiological investigations. This book does not only offer a review of recent references but the author presents the results of his own scientific work.
Three-dimensional studies of the human pelvis, the microscopical architecture of the muscles, cineradiographical as well as physiological and pharmacological aspects of defaecation are presented and discussed. Excellent-partly coloured-figures correspond with the comprehensive text. This book will be of great value to all those who are working in the field of gastroenterology. G. Berg, Erlangen