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This special issue, vol. 3, pp. 157-292, 1971, of European Surgical Research contains the abstracts of papers presented at the 6th Congress of the European Society for Experimental Surgery in Helsingborg, Sweden, April 1971. This very interesting volume contains 147 abstracts dealing with seven main topics: (1) coagulation and fibrinolysis in trauma and shock; (2) surgical pathophysiology; (3) use of plastic material in surgery; (4) experimental organ transplantation; (5) use of computers in experimental surgery; (6) wound-healing, and (7) cancer biology and surgery. Reading of these abstracts may be of real advantage for both clinical and experimental surgeons. These papers represent original work of scientists from several countries, and give adequate information on the most recent progress in surgical research. The reviewer found all abstracts very stimulating, but was particularly impressed by the work on organ transplantation, wound-healing and surgical pathophysiology. Whatever the specialty or scientific interest of a surgeon, or surgical physiologist, this collection of papers is worthy of careful study.

K. Kowalewski, Edmonton


The baffling subject of viral hepatitis, in all its complexities, is dealt with in this issue by British experts, who, from their own research, review almost every aspect of this fascinating disease entity in a complete and up-to-date account that pin-points the extent of our knowledge in 1972. The reader will be struck by the detailed information available about the two forms of viral hepatitis. It is to be hoped that during the present decade identification and isolation of the causative viruses will be achieved, leading to effective prevention, so that viral hepatitis, which has produced so much morbidity and mortality, will join the long list of diseases that have been conquered by man.

This number should enlist the attention of, and be mandatory reading for, hepatologists, immunologists, immunopathologists, clinical and experimental pathologists, virologists, blood transfusion workers and epidemiologists.

M. Demole, Geneva


This volume is a morphologic documentary, the interpretation of which is based upon the clinical experience of the authors.

To the morphologic description of the cell organelles is added for the first time a study on alterations of the direct communications between Disse’s spaces and the bile canaliculi, including the intercellular tight junctions.

Confrontation of the ultrastructural images with the clinical and experimental data facilitates the understanding of the pathophysiology in the cholestatic form of infectious hepatitis. Morphological, clinical and experimental arguments suggest blocking of the bile
pigments along the Disse bile canaliculi communications to be the cause of the mysterious jaundice that could not be explained until now. M. Demole, Geneva

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This part of a large work is a highly concentrated and modern description of the anatomic evolution, of physiologic function and of diseases of the oesophagus and stomach. The subject is very well covered up to 1971. In the many controversial subjects, as for instance, the aetiology of gastric cancer or peptic ulcer, the historical background is reviewed, current opinions are summarized and important questions for future research are raised.

The book is easy to read. The German language is pleasantly distinct and mostly free from hypothetical speculations. The authors have in an admirable way succeeded in collecting and summarizing the vast and difficult literature in their fields.

For the chapter on the oesophagus, the reference list covers 20 dense pages; and that for the chapter on the stomach, 357 pages.

The book is recommended for study by those who want fast and rather complete information about diseases of the oesophagus and stomach; the reader will find that this book covers even very rare diseases. The book is most valuable to teachers who want a modern well for their lectures. The vast, up-to-date bibliography will be helpful to many clinical scientists in this field.

I. Borg, Malmö


The book deals with problems of a frequent disease, peptic ulcer, whose origin, pathogenesis and therapy is obscure in the literature in many respects. The authors approached their study from the point of view of psychosomatic medicine and elaborated the subject in a modern way.

The book consists of three main sections:

The first section acquaints the reader with experimental production of gastric ulcers. Though immobilization of animals and with factors by which ulcerogenesis is influenced, the pathogenesis of the disease in man is dealt with in the chapter by Yager and Weiner. It emphasizes the important role of psychological factors on the onset and exacerbation of peptic ulcer. The chapter presents a survey of possible pathogenetic causes as well as hormonal and nervous regulative factors which are translated into gastric physiology.

The second section deals with the pathogenesis and the course of peptic ulcerations in man. The problem of gastric secretion is studied as the main factor developing peptic lesion, its regulation and methods of examination (State). The role of epidemiological and sociocultural factors in the etiology of ulcers is the subject of the paper by Pflanze. The author gave 229 references on this problem and elaborated the chapter comprehensively.

The third section of the book gives a wide list of drugs used in the treatment of peptic ulcer disease from a point of view of the gastroenterologist (Müller-Wieland and Ossenberg) and the psychoanalyst (Nemiah). Discussing these papers, Engel emphasizes the necessity of an individual approach by the doctor to the patient and the need to combine administration of drugs with psychotherapeutic methods of treatment.

The book sums up present knowledge on the etiology, pathogenesis and therapy of peptic ulcer, shows various methods of investigation and lines of further research. Exten
sive literature listed with each section provides a basis which experts interested in the etiology and pathogenesis of peptic ulcer will find useful. — R. Ronský, Prague

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The book, appearing in its sixth edition, is divided into two main sections. The first gives a survey of medical diets, their composition, and principles of dietary treatment in various diseases. The text also includes modern chapters on nutrition after portocaval shunt anastomoses, on artificial feeding and on nutrition for old people.

Dietary recipes of recommended meals are listed in the second section of the book which comprises 883 technological procedures. This part includes highly interesting chapters on programming of diets in modern institutions and especially on the preparation of semi-finished (frozen) food in hospital kitchens. It also emphasizes the advantages of this procedure from the economic and personnel point of view, since it helps to solve the worldwide shortage of hospital kitchen staff and the problem of insufficient variety of hospital meals.

The value of this book lies in its modern treatment of questions of practical dietology and in its showing of the necessary course of further progress through the use of new technological procedures and methods of management. — R. Ronský, Prague


Most valuable and interesting collection of 9 papers with the participation of 21 authors. Thematics devoted to some basic metabolic aspects of the hepatic coma, which is now in the forefront of interest, particularly when solving some problems of shunt operations (portacaval anastomosis) and problems of transplantation.

In the introduction the editor (E. Polli) analyses the pathogenetic problems and the classification of neuropsychic disturbances in coma in general and in hepatic coma particularly.

The second paper (L. Sokoloff) deals with the neurophysiology and the neurochemistry of the coma referring to the differences of various types of the coma.

The third contribution (F. Plum) concerns the changes of biochemical values in cerebrospinal fluid in hepatic encephalopathy; the next one (B. K. Siessjö et al.) treats the relation between changes in the acid-base and the energy metabolism of the brain in hepatic coma.

The fifth paper (A.T. Maiolo et al) studies the brain energy metabolism in hepatic coma; the following ones (S. Berl) deal with the cerebral amino acid metabolism in hepatic coma and with cerebral ammonia metabolism in the some conditions (W. H. J. Summerskill).

The last part of the book brings 2 shorter studies concerning the metabolism of glucose in brain after heptectomy (G. M. Tyce et al.) and the oxygen electrode study of rat brain respiration in hepatic coma (P. T. Lascelles).

The book is a greatly valuable contribution to the above-mentioned problems, not only because of being so topical, but also by the selection of authors and by its precise documentation, as well as by a rich list of recent literature, and last but not least by published discussions of other qualified participants to each presented paper. — J. Filip, Prague

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The easy introduction and safety of operation with the fibroscope and the capability to recognize endoscopic findings by gastrocamera make the fibroscopic examination of the stomach one of the most important diagnostic methods of gastric diseases. Japanese endoscopists demonstrated the importance of fibroscopic examination with the gastrocamera in the detection of gastric cancer in its early stages. Two of these investigators, Prof. Ashizawa and Kidokora, have supplied endoscopists with an endoscopic color atlas of gastric diseases. 1,884 mostly colored pictures of normal and pathological conditions, obtained with the gastrocamera, are divided into 5 sections. In the first part, the endoscopic findings of the cardial region and fornix are illustrated. The second deals with the upper and middle portions of the body of the stomach. The third deals with the lower portion of the body and of the angulus. The fourth concerns the pyloric antrum and pylorus. The fifth deals with the normal and pathologic pictures of the operated stomach. Every picture is supplemented with a diagram and a description of endoscopic findings. This facilitates correct evaluation of the examination to less experienced endoscopists. But also, the more advanced of them will study this volume with great interest; particularly, the endoscopic pictures of early gastric cancer.
The authors should be congratulated for their excellent work, as well as the Georg Thieme publishing house for publishing this atlas. K. Herfort, Prague

Although modern German medical literature is rather extensive and contains many excellent monographs on general and special topics, a modern monograph on diseases of the exocrine pancreas was missing so far. Only in surgical literature we could find the excellent monograph of Hess, which, however, describes the diseases of the exocrine pancreas mostly from surgical aspects. Professor Ritter has now filled this gap by his ‘Erkrankungen des exkretorischen Pankreas’.
The author divided the topic into five chapters. The first one offers a short outline of the anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the exocrine pancreas. It is appreciable, that a great part of this first chapter treats the relationship of the exocrine pancreas to the various organs of the digestion tract, the kidney, the circulatory and endocrine system, the main processes of the metabolism in physiological as well as pathological conditions, and that the author emphasizes the importance of changes of such relations for the clinic. The part treating the relation between external and internal secretion of the pancreas is arranged very clearly.
The second chapter describes the results of the most important experiments developing experimental pancreatitis. The interconnected following chapter on clinical manifestations of the diseases of the exocrine pancreas offers to the reader the possibility to confront the experimental results to the clinical experiences. The fourth chapter is devoted to the diagnostics and the fifth one to the conservative treatment of the individual diseases of the exocrine pancreas.
The author informs the reader in an extensive and modern manner about the aetiology, the clinical manifestations, the diagnosis and the conservative treatment as well as about the indications for the surgical treatment of the diseases of the exocrine pancreas. The topic would, however, be more easily understood, if the book contained more tables and surveys. K. Herfort, Prague
A. Engel and T. Larson (ed.): Regional Enteritis (Crohn’s Disease). Nordiska Bokhandeln’s Förlag, Stockholm 1971. 324 pp., 73 tab., 70 fig.; sKr. 53.50/US$ 10.50.
The book contains the proceedings of the 5th Skandia International Symposium, which was devoted to the Crohn’s disease and held in Stockholm from September 29 to October 1, 1971. Highly competent experts – clinicians, histopathologists, microbiologists and immunologists – presented here their experiences and the results of their research work in Crohn’s disease.
The book offers to the reader the present histopathological (Morson) and patho-physiological knowledge (Smith) of the disease, its clinical manifestation and diagnosis (Thaysen, Brahme and Lennart-Jones), its course and progress (Truelove), some ideas on immunological (Thayer, jr.) and genetic factors (McCornell).
So far, the opinions on the therapy of Crohn’s disease are divided. Therefore, the papers on the medical management (Bárány) and above all the surgical treatment and its results (Golocher), the results of surgical treatment in Sweden (Wallensten) and the diversions by ileostomy of the colon (Oberhelman, jr.) are very valuable. Different countries show differences in the frequency of occurrence of Crohn’s disease. For this reason, the papers on clinical features and epidemiological data in the Basle area (Fahr-länder) and the epidemiology in Sweden (Krause) are highly interesting, as well as their confrontation with the main lectures and the discussion on them.
Of great interest are also the chapters about the fields for future research work in Crohn’s disease: physiological characteristics in germ-free animals (Gustafsson), regional enteritis in domestic animals (Nielsen) and perspectives of research into Crohn’s disease (Truelove). I agree with the editors A. Engel and T. Larsen, that ‘this part of the volume offers rare, outstanding and fascinating reading’.
To my opinion, this book will be read by all, who are interested in gastroenterology and especially in the Crohn’s disease. K. Herfort, Prague