Book Reviews


There are few other areas in gastroenterology in which so many new discoveries have been made within the last decades as in the area of the gastrointestinal hormones and their effect. This volume sums up above all the literature until the end of 1972 covering the hormones secretin and pancreozymin-cholecystokinin (CCK-PZ). In a comprehensive review, Jorpes and Mutt describe the development of our knowledge in these two hormones including structure, analysis and synthesis, structural and functional analogies to other hormones (gastrin, caerulein, glucagon), distribution in the gastrointestinal tract, liberation of the hormones, breakdown in the organism, the biological effect on the pancreas, the small intestine, the stomach, liver and gallbladder, etc. Bodanszky reports on the synthesis of secretin and Jamieson on the intracellular processes taking place in the exocrine pancreatic cell during secretion. These chapters are excellent. Unfortunately, gastrin is given no special section and thus the title of the book is rather misleading. The important advances in gastrin research obtained by radioimmunological measurement necessitate a special chapter. Zimmerman, Dreiling and Janowitz discuss, in a further chapter, the use of the secretin test for the measurement of the exocrine pancreas function. They describe to a large extent the results from the Mt. Sinai Hospital and do not take into consideration the improved version of the test using pancreozymin, as is now used especially in Europe. The rejecting attitude of these authors towards this test is known, despite this a discussion of the European literature on this subject is missing. In two different chapters (Torsoli et al., Plessier), the use of cholecystokinin for radiological examination, especially of the gallbladder and bile ducts, is discussed and thus there is some repetition. In a very good chapter, Pfeiffer et al., present a review of the latest knowledge on the effect of the gastrointestinal hormones on the function of the islet cells. All together, this book is a must for all researchers on the subject of the gastrointestinal hormones. H. Goebell, Ulm


Endoscopy in emergency cases has become a routine practice in many gastroenterological departments. This symposium reviews the indications, techniques and results. Six sections are described as follows: urgent endoscopy in cases of bleeding in the upper gastrointestinal tract, urgent oesophagoscopy, urgent proctoscopy, urgent peritoneoscopy, also a section each on ‘other urgent endoscopy’ and ‘new fields in gastrointestinal endoscopy’. On 142 sides, 44 papers deal with the endoscopy of bleeding in the upper gastrointestinal tract! As all these papers describe more or less the same results, thus only a few of them have to be read. More interesting,
however, is the summary of a panel discussion including the definition of urgent endoscopy, also opinions about the optimal time for endoscopy, the choice of instruments, anesthetics and gastric lavage. The part about urgent endoscopy of the oesophagus deals mainly with foreign bodies. The comments about urgent endoscopy in the case of rectal bleeding and urgent peritoneoscopy are especially interesting because they describe new experiences and stimulate a broader use of these methods of examination. This book is of interest to the gastroenterologist specializing in endoscopy; it is too specialized for the general gastroenterologist and contains too much repetition. H. Goebell, Ulm


In a few cases, the treatment of diseases of the small intestine is very satisfying for both physician and patient (glutenenteropathy, Whipple’s disease, tropical sprue), in other cases it is an unsolved problem (Crohn’s disease). This book consists of a collection of lectures on this topic from a symposium held in Nice (April 1972). Contributions on the following subjects are included: action of drugs on the small intestine (Monges and Salducci), motor diarrhea (Bernier), celiac sprue (Rubin), Whipple’s disease (Delmont et al.), infectious jejunoileitis (Levrat), tropical sprue (Hernandez-Morales), Crohn’s disease (Geoffrey et al.), congenital enzyme deficiencies (Dahlquist), chronic ischemia (Lena et al.), small bowel resection (Dowling), surgical treatment of diarrhea after extensive resection of the small intestine (Grenier et al.). The book concludes with a dissertation on intestinal transplantation. The quality of the contributions differs widely. Sometimes, knowledge similar to that found in a good gastroenterology textbook is presented. Or else, a subject is dealt with inadequate discussion of the literature (eg. the paper on the treatment of chronic ischemia). The article by Dowling on the treatment of conditions following resection is exceptional. Also those by Delmont et al. on the therapy of Whipple’s disease and by Dahlquist on congenital enzyme deficiencies. They deal with the problem from a sound base of extensive personal experience and indicate at the same time possibilities for further research. This book is interesting for the postgraduate student of gastroenterology, general physicians and surgeons, but it offers little new material for the gastroenterological specialist. H. Goebell, Ulm


This book is the outcome of a postgraduate course in gastroenterology which was held in Oxford in 1973. In 22 chapters, experts deal with the most important aspects of the pathophysiology of the stomach as well as the small and large intestine. Important general subjects such as gastritis, the treatment of peptic ulcer, glutenenteropathy, Crohn’s disease and colitis ulcerosa are demonstrated in the form of summaries. Also many topics, important from the pathophysiological point of view are covered, such as: gastrin, mechanism of intestinal absorption, bile acids and intestine, the carcinoembryonic antigen, prostaglandine and intestine. Each chapter contains a good review of the literature, enabling the acquisition of further information. This book can be recommended, without
reservation, to all physicians and surgeons but also to gastroenterologists for up-to-date information. The liver and pancreas are omitted purposely. H. Goebell, Ulm

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This book is the 20th edition of the famous textbook of physiology by Howell, divided for the first time into three volumes. It is meant for both the medical undergraduate and the postgraduate student. In the third volume, which will be reviewed here, the subject digestion and excretion, metabolism and endocrine function are dealt with. This book is mediating in a lucid way a vast amount of knowledge of physiology. This is achieved with the help of good illustrations and modern literature references both important for the course of study. Remarkable is the attention given to pathophysiology, enabling the student to understand in a logical way the disturbed function as being a direct sequence of the normal physiological state. In the section on gastroenterology, the motility of the gastrointestinal tract is covered in detail (Ruch), the secretion in the digestive tract (Magee) and the absorption in the intestine (Masero). This book is not only interesting for the student and postgraduate but also for teachers of these subjects.

H. Goebell, Ulm


This comprehensive monograph is the result of a longstanding cooperation between pathologist and clinician in gastroenterology. Based on his own very extensive experience with mucosal biopsies the author has achieved an enjoyably complete presentation of the subject. The book comprises three chapters: on the stomach, the small-intestine and the colon. Mucosal lesions of the esophagus have not been included. Each part starts with the description of the normal mucosal appearances and as useful discussion of their normal variations. The first chapter comprises a description of the different types of gastritis, gastric mucosal hypertrophy and the Ménétrier’s disease. Early cancer and dysplasia of the gastric mucosa have been touched on somewhat briefly and have not been related to endo-scopic appearances. Polyposis of the stomach and the intestine is discussed solely in the context with the Cronkhite-Canada syndrome. No special mentioning has been made on the histology of macroscopically overt gastric and intestinal cancer. The different types of small intestinal villous atrophy are well presented. The most informative and complete presentation, however, is on the mucosal lesions of the colon, which include entero-colitis, Crohn’s disease, damage from ischemia, bacteria and parasites and a number of less well-known conditions. The main literature on the different topics has been discussed and the histological alterations are in general well documented. There are no summarizing tables, however, which could have proved helpful in some instances to make the informations more concise.

This is a book based on great personal experience which will be helpful to all physicians who are interested in this field.

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