The Kinetics of Cellular Proliferation. Edited by Frederick Stohlman, Jr., Grune & Stratton, New York/London 1959. 456 p., $ 5.75.

The book contains the Proceedings of a Conference (held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 1959) on the kinetics of the cells of the blood. The subjects of this topic are subdivided in: The Use of Classic Morphologic Technic, DNA Synthesis Stability and Degradation, Studies with DNS Labels, Leukocyte and Platelet Production, Kinetics of Red Cell Production; a final chapter deals with Mathematical Considerations.

It is not possible to review in detail the numerous papers presented by workers from USA, England, Denmark, France, Belgium, Sweden. It should be emphasized, that the book gives an excellent authoritative cross section of the respective problems. The very well printed volume will be of great help for the hematologist and experimental pathologist; it deserves careful study. G. Rosenow, New York


Victor Herbert: The Megaloblastic Anemias. (Modern Medical Monographs No. 18). Grune & Stratton, New York/London 1959. 168 p., $ 6.00. After a brief summary of the incidence, the well known characteristics of the typical peripheral blood smear and bone marrow changes are described which occur in some of the megaloblastic anemias. This section contains also a discussion of the diagnostic importance of the presence of macrocytosis, macro-ovalocytosis and hypersegmented polymorphonuclear leukocytes in the blood smears of pernicious anemia. The presence of these cells as the earliest manifestation of vitamin B-12 deficiency is particularly emphasized.

Two chapters contain a somewhat exhaustive discussion of the etiologic classification of the megaloblastic anemias due to vitamin B-12 deficiency. A similar discussion of the anemias due to folic acid deficiency and other causes follows. These two chapters undoubtedly are “the heart of this monograph” as the author has stated in his summary. In view of this fact and because of the inadequacy and confusion in the two sections of the book “Differential Diagnosis and Therapy” – it might has been as well to limit the discussion to that contained in the above quoted
chapters. The chapter “Differential Diagnosis” gives nothing of value to the hematologist and could only be confusing to the student not familiar with the several megaloblastic anemias.

Varia

XXIV/1960

What the author lacked in experience in diagnosis and management as seen by the physician in practice, might have been gained by reference to the many excellent discussions in the older literature. The author’s statement in the Preface, “This monograph is based in large measure on recent massive and productive research” is borne out by the fact that of the 612 references cited, probably less than 10% are to literature published before 1940.

In the final chapter which deals briefly with therapy, the author wisely re-emphasizes the importance of early and accurate diagnosis. As in the case of the preceding sections greater familiarity with and reference to the older, well authenticated literature would have added to the practical value of the discussion. As an example of this: liver is still an excellent and often used means of therapy in pernicious anemia. Where facilities for parenteral therapy are not available, or parenteral treatment is not desired, liver may be the treatment of choice.

W. P. Murphy, Boston

P. Chevallier et Jean Mouliner: Immunologie sanguine et Groupes sanguins. G. Doin et Cie., Paris 1959. 172 p., 17 fig., 2 tab. NF 20.-.


Varia

Séance spéciale de la Société Française d’Hématologie
Hôpital Broussais, 96 rue Didot, Paris
Lundi 21 novembre 1960, à 14 heures 30
Sous la direction de A. Eyç¿uem
Mononucléose infectieuse
P. Lepine: Epidémie et virologie.
Jean Bernard et J. L. Amiel: Les formes familiales de la mononucléose infectieuse.
M. Chany: Tentative d’isolement du virus de la mononucléose infectieuse.
A. Eyç¿uem et coll.: Etude sérologique de la mononucléose infectieuse.
P. Giroud et coll.: Rapport avec les rickettsioses.
J. Couvreur: Rapport avec la toxoplasmose acquise.
G. Desmonts: Sérologie de la toxoplasmose.