Book Reviews – Livres nouveaux – Buchbesprechungen

This is essentially a practical book. The principles of dermatological therapy and pharmacology are briefly – but concisely and critically – discussed and form a sound basis for the therapeutic suggestions of the authors.
Paul Kallós, Helsingborg.

Many will agree with the Author’s statement that “the rapid evolution of electrocardiography through a maze of changing nomenclature and new techniques has left behind a group of confused practitioners”. The author has succeeded in his attempt to show the way out of this confusion; he shows us not only the methods of recording the electrical activity of the heart but also how to interpret the tracings. Both the merits and the shortcomings of direct recording electrocardiographic machines are fully discussed. The subject matter is arranged as a series of progressive graduated lectures and is easy to follow; the illustrations are excellent.
Paul Kallós, Helsingborg.

The second edition of this well-known single volume text-book is now available. This short but comprehensive work can be recommended not only to students of pathology but also to physicians who wish to attain a full understanding of the process of disease. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg

Proceedings of the Third Armour-Laboratories ACTH-Conference. Edited by the Staff of the Armour Laboratories, Chicago, Ill., 1953. 2 mimeographed volumes, 658 pages.
The Proceedings of the First and Second Conferences were indispensable books in this important field of biology. It is therefore to be regretted that the Proceedings of the Third Conference – held in Chicago, April 25-26, 1952, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Albert H. Holland, Jr., – have not appeared in print. Only a limited number of mimeographed copies were available through the courtesy of Armour Laboratories. The Conference dealt with all the important problems in ACTH-research, and each contributor is an expert in his special field. The main subjects were: “ACTH Assay Procedures and Studies in Humans” (W. Wolf son); “Use of ACTH for Measurement of Adrenal Cortical Reserve” (D. Jenkins); “Present Methods of Determining Oxysteroids in Blood and Urine” (L. Samuels); “Physiologic Evidence for Simultaneous Secretion of Hydrocortisone and Cortisone by the ACTH Stimulated Normal Human Adrenal” (W. Wolf son); “Recent Concepts of Adrenalectomy and Hypertension” (G. Thorn) ; “Factors Affecting Clinical Response to ACTH”: (1) “Sensitivity and Acquired Resistance” (P. Forsham); (2) “End Organ Response” (H. Armstrong); (3) “Diet” (L. Kinsell); and (4) “Other Pituitary Factors Contaminating Corticotropin” (E. Astwood). The patho-genesis, prevention and
management of ACTH complications were fully discussed in a number of papers: (1) “Intestinal Ulcers and Perforation” (J. S. L. Browne); (2) “Thrombo-embolic and Hemorrhagic Phenomenon” (R. Margulis); (3) “Hypertension” (E. B. Ferris); and (4) “Psychotic Responses” (I. A. Mirsky). “The Use of ACTH in Burns” was discussed by J. M. Converse, “The Role of ACTH in Surgery” by B. Zimmerman. The various aspects of the “Role of ACTH in Infectious Diseases” were presented by L. Kinsell. R. Smith discussed “Insufflation Therapy”. The review of J. Jailer dealt with the “Role of ACTH in Obstetrics and Gynecology”. W. P. Holbrook reviewed the “Current Status of ACTH in Rheumatoid Arthritis” and D. Gordon the “Current Status of Use of ACTH in Ophthalmology”. In his presentation of the “Role of ACTH in Collagen Diseases and Hyper-sensitivity” A. McGeHee Harvey briefly relates his accumulated experience with ACTH in severe allergic reactions of the serum sickness type caused by therapeutic serum and drugs; in patients with “intractable intrinsic asthma”; and in periarteritis nodosa. The first group consisted of “self-limited” diseases, in which the effect of a short intensive ACTH (or oral cortisone) treatment was uniformly excellent. Particularly interesting are two cases with true serum sickness due to horse serum, who had extremely severe neural involvement; slow intravenous infusion of 20 mg. ACTH afforded complete control of the severe pain within 12 hours. There was no residual neurological dysfunction in either patient. Dr. Harvey and his colleagues treated 72 chronic “intrinsic” asthma patients with ACTH, cortisone and/or hydrocortisone, 31 of whom had previously received multiple courses of ACTH. Of 64 patients receiving a first course of ACTH treatment, 50 obtained complete relief and 12 were improved; only two cases were refractory. The average period of freedom from symptoms was 8 days. Repeated courses had the same effect. In a controlled study of a group of patients various therapeutic schedules were utilized in the attempt to ascertain the optimal dosage of ACTH. Analysis of the results seems to show that 500 to 800 mg. ACTH intramuscularly, given over 10 to 15 days, “affords appreciably longer periods of remission” than do smaller doses (25 mg. given over 5 to 10 days). The average duration of remission following big and small doses respectively was 80 and 36 days. The results in periarteritis nodosa were satisfactory during treatment with intravenous ACTH. Though it is now well established that ACTH, cortisone and hydrocortisone have a definite place in the therapy of allergic diseases, the indiscriminate use of these potent agents is to be condemned.

The 2 volumes of these Proceedings contain a wealth of detailed information and are very stimulating to read. It is to be hoped that the Armour Laboratories will continue to sponsor such conferences and that further Proceedings will appear in print and be more generally available. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg.

Second International Congress of Allergology

The Second International Congress of Allergology will be held, by invitation of the Brazilian Allergy Society, in Rio de Janeiro, November 6-13, 1955, under the chairmanship of Dr. F. W. Wittich, Minneapolis, Minnesota, President of the International Association of Allergology. A wide and extensive program dealing with almost all important problems of allergy and related immunology, biochemistry, pharmacology and therapeutics has been elaborated, and is under preparation by the I.A.A. and the Brazilian Allergy Society.
Sir Henry H. Dale, London; Professor Pasteur Vallery-Radot, Paris; Professor Bernardo Houssay, Buenos Aires and Dr. Robert Cooke, New-York City, have been invited as guest speakers. The official languages will be English, French and Spanish, and the main topics will be presented in these three languages, although scientific communications and discussions may be presented in the native language of the author.

The scope of the program is wide, including a number of symposia, and a limited number of scientific communications, scientific and technical exhibits, receptions, excursions, entertainments, banquets and also a ladies’ program.

All information concerning the Congress is available from the General Secretary of the I.A.A. Dr. Bernard N. Halpern, 197 boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris (7), France, or from the Secretary of the Sociedade Brasileira de Alergia Dr. Fabiano Alves, Avenida Rio Branco 277, 7 andar, sala 705, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.