Further Section

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Book Reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Livres Nouveaux


The latest volume (VII/1) of the Handbuch der Allgemeinen Pathologie deals with inflammation and immunity – subjects of basic interest to allergists. It consists of four separate articles – indeed they amount to monographs – on Inflammation by W. E. Ehrich, on Specific Infective Granulomas by F. C. Roulet, on Allergic-hyperergic Inflammation by Erich Letterer and on Resistance and Immunity by R. Bieling. All are written in German.

Ehrich’s article on inflammation, which occupies some 240 pages with nearly 80 pages of references, treats the subject with a judicious balance between morphological and chemical evidence, with slight emphasis upon the former; the revitalization of microscopical anatomy by chemistry and biochemistry, a tendency which has been apparent of recent years, is here fruitfully illustrated. After discussing in some detail the structure and chemistry of the tissues in which inflammation occurs (with special attention to the blood vessels), and the causes, regulation and progress of primary inflammation, Ehrich next deals with exudation, infiltration and proliferation. Under the last heading there is a full and illuminating discussion of the cytological side of antibody production – a point upon which none can speak with greater authority. Finally systemic reactions, healing, and systemic factors which modify inflammation are discussed. Throughout there is a refreshing emphasis upon dynamics, upon what is actually happening, with no tendency to rely on classification and terminology as a substitute for knowledge. There are over three thousand references, with full titles of papers, which further contribute to the value of the article.

Roulet’s article, which occupies 150 pages with 20 pages of references, deals at some length with tuberculous granulomata, and includes a detailed discussion of the characteristics of epithelioid and giant cells. This is followed by 14 pages on Boeck’s sarcoid (Morus Besnier–Boeck–Schaumann), a disease which though rare is of the greatest interest in elucidating the problems of hypersensitivity in tuberculous, and indeed of all kinds of infections. The granulomata met within leprosy, syphilis and various bacterial and virus diseases are then considered, with a final discussion on the forms and functions of granulomata in general. The other two articles are shorter though also of great value. Letterer in a stimulating essay discusses specifically allergic inflammation, paying particular attention to the traditional distinction, which is tending nowadays to become less rigid, between the immediate and the delayed such as polyarteritis (periarteritis) nodosa, endocarditis, etc. Owing without doubt to the paradox implicit in the use of the term «immune » reaction for the reaction of hypersensitivity (paradoxical in spite of the clearly close relationship between the two), he makes much use of the term «hyperergic» (hyperergisch) for anomalous reactions of this type, as a stage between the «norm-ergic» reactions of no or of full immunity. In the present state of the subject a revision of terminology is probably required, as long as it is used critically: one difficulty is that acceptance
of a term is very apt to demand, or conceal, acceptance of the theory upon which it is based. Here at any rate the relationship between immediate and delayed reactions, the infective granulomata, and «immunity», is discussed very fully and is certainly one of the growing-points of pathological studies to-day.

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The cognate problem of the relationship between resistance and immunity is approached from a rather more bacteriological aspect by Bieling in the final article, in which he deals also with the influence of age, nutrition, hormones, latent infections, etc.

As a source book, and for research workers interested in detailed discussion of points such as those which have been mentioned, this volume should be of great value. For the general reader, using it as a textbook, it is rather heavy going, particularly when confronted with long paragraphs unbroken by headings: a greater use of indented sub-headings would have helped in this respect. The illustrations which are upon the same type of paper as the text (some in colour), are all adequate and many of them are brilliant. P. G. H. Gell, Birmingham


This book is a comprehensive, well-written, scholarly account of our modern knowledge of dermatology, and is practically encyclopedic in scope. Almost 2 000 superb black and white pictures illustrate all the ordinary and almost all of the extraordinary dermatoses. Journal articles referred to in the text are inserted into the text. This at first may seem odd to the reader, but after a time he will appreciate its convenience. The material that is of secondary importance is set in fine print, for availability to those readers who wish such information.

Systemic diseases with dermatologic manifestations such as lues and disseminated lupus are admirably handled with respect to diagnosis and treatment. The sections on contact dermatitis, drug eruption, eczema and urticaria are splendid. In fact, in its entirety this book deserves nothing but the highest praise. But here and there material is included, such as the section on chancroid, which is chiefly of historical interest and could be omitted without detracting from the worth of the volume. This book is highly recommended as an excellent reference work. William Kaufman, Bridgeport, Conn.


This superb textbook on diseases of the chest is highly recommended. The writing is concise, clear, authoritative and well-edited. The pitfalls of diagnosis and the special problems which arise and must be solved in the treatment of many diseases of the chest are given proper emphasis. The bibliography is carefully selected with stress on pertinent recent references. The black and white illustrations including reproductions of roentgenograms are well-chosen and highly informative; the type is large and readable; the format is pleasing. There are forty chapters. Drs. Roger H. L. Wilson, Walter E. Heck and William A. Winn have each contributed a chapter, and the other chapters have been written by Drs. Hinshaw and Garland. At the beginning of each chapter is an outline of the contents which shows at a glance the major topics discussed. The chapters cover such topics as the diagnostic procedures used in a study of patients with chest diseases; anatomy of the tracheobronchial tree and lungs; measurements of pulmonary function; the bacterial, viral and rickettsial pneumonias; bronchial asthma; pulmonary emphysema; pulmonary congestion and edema; tuberculosis; neoplasia;
pulmonary and associated changes in collagen diseases; pulmonary aspects of occupational
diseases; pulmonary inflammation and fibrosis due to physical, chemical and obscure causes. 
The section on asthma is excellent. The authors point out that Loen’s syndrome is sometimes
caused by allergies to such antibiotic drugs as para-aminosalicylic acid

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and penicillin. On page 197 there is an instructive case report of a young boy who was
mistakenly treated for allergic asthma by desensitization injections, when his difficulty was
actually created by a foreign body in his left bronchus.

This book is an eminently practical one, which deserves a place in the working
library of every physician. William Kaufman, Bridgeport, Conn.

D. M. Pillsbury, W. B. Shelley and A. M. Kligman: Dermatology. W. B. Saunders Co.,
Philadelphia, Pa., 1956. 1331 pages, 564 figures. $ 20.00.

This is a magnificent textbook of dermatology. The authors teach the reader the fundamentals of
dermatology step by step in a manner which emphasizes basic principles of diagnosis and
treatment. This authoritative, highly readable, well – edited and beautifully illustrated volume
contains 52 chapters arranged into five major sections: 1. Applied Basic Principles in Diseases of
the Skin; 2. Basic Principles and Clinical Applications of Allergy and Hypersensitivity; 3.
Principles of Diagnosis; 4. Dermatologic Therapy; and 5. Cutaneous Medicine.
Each section represents the mature, logical and thoughtful experience of the authors.
There is a welcome lack of obsolescent and archaic synonyms for many dermatologic
diseases. The book as a whole and each section taken by itself is excellent. To mention
only a few topics: the discussions of allergy, hypersensitivity, contact dermatitis, eczema,
lupus erythematosus, bacterial and fungal diseases, are masterful. Such figures as
No. 246, which describes factors contributing to lichen simplex chronicus are not
only informative but also enliven the book with a pleasant humor which unfortunately
is lacking in most medical textbooks. This book is highly recommended as one of out
standing excellence in its field. William Kaufman, Bridgeport, Conn.

1956. 963 p., 173 fig. % 13.00.

This important work represents the collaborative effort of 25 authors under the editorship of Dr.
Sodeman to provide a volume which analyzes symptoms and signs and the mechanisms of their
development. The 31 well-written and well-edited chapters are grouped into 12 major sections
such as «Infection and Allergy », « Physical, Toxic and Chemical Agents», «Water and
System», etc. The various topics which are taken up in this volume are for the most part given in
sufficient detail so that the clinician may find answers he seeks to some of the specific questions
he may have about the mechanisms of disease. The illustrations are well-chosen. The second
edition is a marked improvement over the first, both in the arrangement of chapters and in the
nature of the added material. The book as it stands is a most useful volume and should be in the
library of every practising physician.
However, I hope the third edition will cover such additional topics as the patho
logic physiology of the Ears, Nose and Accessory Sinuses and Eyes, the pathological
physiology of headaches, including migraine, and an extended discussion of psychoso
matic reactions. William Kaufman, Bridgeport, Conn.

447 pages. $ 11.50.
This well-written, beautifully illustrated, well-organized book on the physiologic approach to cardiac diagnosis is highly recommended. This volume is not the usual clinical textbook of cardiology, but rather a basic contribution to the understanding of the dynamics of cardiovascular health and disease in a manner that is technical, yet easy to grasp.

There is an adequate discussion of what is known about the methods of studying the heart and circulatory system with every modern method today available. A thorough knowledge of the fundamentals covered in this book would help most doctors to sharpen their ability to make correct cardiac diagnoses, and to better understand the limits of adjustment of normal and abnormal cardiovascular systems. The twenty chapters are divided into five main parts: Function of the Normal Cardiovascular System; Regulation of the Cardiovascular System; Congestive Heart Failure; Methods of Cardiac Diagnosis; Diagnosis of Cardiac Disease. The bibliographies which follow each chapter are highly selective and include almost exclusively the more recent references in the field.


This photo-offset manual on the interpretation of the unipolar electrocardiogram is a lucid and excellent exposition of this subject. The author, who is Professor of Medicine at Wayne University College of Medicine, is an astute clinician and an inspiring teacher. His manual is an outgrowth of those previously used in his well-known postgraduate courses on the interpretation of the unipolar electrocardiogram.

The textual material, often in outline form, gives information that every physician who uses electrocardiographic studies in his practice should be thoroughly acquainted with. There are a limited number of illustrations which help the reader understand the textual material. The doctor who studies this book will be well rewarded for his efforts by having as a result a good working understanding of the correct interpretations of the unipolar electrocardiogram.

Sir Henry Dale states in his “Introduction” that this publication is “likely to render an important service to the promotion of further medical researches during many years yet to come, and an even more permanent service to the historical record of the progress of medicine as an experimental science”. The publication will consist of four volumes and contain a complete collection of the scientific papers of Paul Ehrlich in the original language and most of them also in English translation. On the occasion of the centenary of Ehrlich’s birth, in 1954, the Archives published a special issue in which a number of outstanding research workers showed the great importance and influence of the immortal ideas and achievements of Ehrlich on medical research and practice in our time. It is an invaluable service, indeed, to collect all his publications and translate the most important items into English. All the papers collected in the First Volume are most interesting and provocative and it is hard to believe that they were written as early as 1877-1902. All research workers must be deeply grateful to the Editors for this admirable work. It is certainly a great advantage to have
the most important papers of this great genius in such a careful and fine English translation. Print and colour plates – among them the very first picture of a "mast-cell" - are excellent. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg.