Book Review
F. De Matteis and W.N. Aldridge (eds.) Iron and Hemoproteins
DM 152.-ISBN 3-540-08460-6
This book contains an approach to the study of heme metabolism under physiological and
pathological conditions by 14 authors well known in the field. A major emphasis is put forward
on the molecular mechanism involved in the detoxication of drugs and the relationship of this
process with heme metabolism, porphyria and other metabolic disorders.
The biosynthesis and degradation of the heme, the induction and inhibition of hepatic
hemoprotein are extensively covered. The mechanism of loss in liver cytochrome P 450 by
chemicals and hepatic porphyria are explained at the molecular level for various types of
compounds that can induce porphyrin disturbances. This problem is also analysed in terms of
pharmacogenetical and nutritional factors. Additional toxicology deals mainly with lead
poisoning. A chapter also includes the effect of drugs on bilirubin metabolism.
This book is most interesting to pharmacologists, toxicologists, hematologists and
dermatologists as well as more basic researchers since it covers basic mechanisms and side
effects including clinical studies in detail. It is well presented and easy to handle thanks to
its division into defined chapters. The literature is extensive and an index of authors as well
as subjects makes it a most useful piece of bibliography. Ch.M. Lapière, Liège
Varia
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