**Book Reviews**

**M.H. Lessof**


The main chapters of this very instructive textbook cover the biology of allergy and the role of mediators, diagnostic tests, allergy in infancy and childhood, gastrointestinal reactions and food intolerance, allergy and the kidney, allergic aspects of rheumatic diseases, drug allergies, allergy to insects and arachnids, allergy and the skin the respiratory tract, the eye and the ear. The latter section deals with the evidence for and against a causal relationship between allergy and secretory otitis media and Menière’s disease. Whereas in the former there is conclusive evidence for a causal relationship between allergy and secretory otitis media at least in quite a number of cases, there are no convincing data in favour of an allergic origin of Menière’s disease. The final chapter is dealing with immunotherapy, which has failed to become rationalized because of the incomplete understanding of the pathogenesis of allergic diseases and the mode of action of immunotherapy.

It is interesting to note the gain of a detailed understanding of the biochemical basis of the allergic reactions on the one side and the paucity of effective, selective or novel antiallergic agents on the other, which is in marked contrast to many other areas of pharmacology.

Summing up, it is the aim of this book to present both basic scientific and clinical aspects of allergy for the benefit of all those who are interested in this subject: allergists, clinical immunologists, dermatologists, paediatricians, chest physicians, ophthalmologists and otorhinolaryngologists.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel

**Jan Stahle**


The present monograph contains the proceedings of the last Bárány Society meeting in Uppsala held in June 1983. In 58 papers the most recent advances in vestibular physiology and pathophysiology as well as the discussion of diagnostic and therapeutic problems are presented. This publication provides a complete review of the most actual results in the field of scientific and clinical vestibular research and will be of great interest not only to the otologist but also to the neurologist and the neurophysiologist.

C. Stager, Basel