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Foreword

This book compiles the papers presented at the International Symposium on Renal Stone Research, held in Madrid, from September 18th to 20th 1972, and attended by about one hundred scientists from several countries in Europe and America.

The meeting followed the line established in the Symposium held in Leeds, Great Britain, in 1968 on the same subject, which attracted a great number of physicians, physicists, biochemists, epidemiologists and crystallographers, interested in studying a disease whose occurrence, though intermittent, is becoming an increasing problem in well developed countries. An indication of rising interest in the subject of renal lithiasis is the number of other meetings organized to discuss this topic, in the United States, Germany and Thailand, after the Symposium in Leeds and before the meeting in Madrid.

The present papers are a survey of the metabolic, physiopathologic and therapeutic aspects of lithiasis, the physico-chemical bases of stone formation and the recent advances in the crystallographic study of renal calculi. The therapy of hypercalciuria and hyperoxaluria and the alkalinizing treatment of uric acid stones are also discussed. Particular emphasis is given to the structural study of renal stones.

The final session of the meeting was devoted to future investigations in this field. It seems important that urologists, surgeons, internists, nephrologists and general practitioners become more interested in the complex scientific bases of the study of this disease, without which, firm progress in its treatment cannot be expected. The necessity of unifying concepts and methodology in the study of these patients is emphasised.

We are gratefully indebted to Fundación Jiménez Díaz in Madrid, where the Symposium took place, and to the several Organisations and Pharmaceutical Laboratories whose generous financial support made the Symposium possible. We also acknowledge the exceptional assistance of Miss Maria L. San Roman as Secretary of the meeting. In conclusion we wish to thank Messrs S. Karger AG for undertaking the publication of the papers presented at this Symposium.

February 1973