

Book Reviews

P.E. Roy and P. Harris (eds.)

Recent Advances in Studies on Cardiac Structure and Metabolism

Vol. 8: The Cardiac Sarcoplasm

Urban & Schwarzenberg, München 1976

XIV + 338 pp., 239 fig.

ISBN 3-541-07591-0

This volume results from the presentation of research material by various investigators during the 7th Annual Meeting of the International Study Group for Research in Cardiac Metabolism. The contents deal principally with metabolic aspects of protein synthesis, substrate concentration, cyclic AMP levels and phosphorylation during ischemic, hypertrophic, hormonal and β -adrenergic interventions of myocardial activity. A few papers are devoted to sarcoplasmic structures as they relate to the mechanics and kinetics of contraction. The role played by Ca^{++} in exerting a positive inotropic action is delivered in a rather pompous presentation resembling more an award acceptance speech than the exposition of facts. Like all symposiums of this nature the book favors an inquiry by the experimentalist rather than the clinician. The time delay required to bring together in an organized form the various manuscripts for a multiauthor publication dulls the impact of current research findings otherwise realized at the time of presentation. Nevertheless, this volume should prove helpful as a reference resource to investigators and those beginning research studies in the area of normal and altered myocardial metabolism.

J.W. Manning, Atlanta, Ga.

D.G. Julian

Cardiology

Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London 1978

347 pp.; £ 4.25

ISBN 0-7020-0691-2

This is an excellent book that achieves its purpose: to describe and explain the various manifestations of heart disease in a way which is comprehensible to the non-specialist, and particularly to the student of clinical medicine. The text is up-to-date, concise and comprehensive. As should be expected of a book of this kind, it does not put forward too many of the scientific doubts that might confuse the student, and it refers the reader to larger textbooks and other publications for a more thorough understanding of knowledge and controversy.

The structure of the book is clear and well balanced, starting from up-to-date basic physiology and electrophysiology, and going on to a clear and simple description of clinical symptoms and signs of cardiac disease. The principles and applications of the various diagnostic procedures, the clinical, hemodynamic and electrocardiographic findings of the various disorders of the heart, the vascular system, the lungs and the systemic diseases affecting the heart, and the modern aspects of cardiac surgery are all intelligibly explained and properly discussed.

The third edition has been extensively revised and additional illustrations have been added. The author is a most experienced teacher of cardiology. His experience is reflected in each chapter of this book, particularly by the excellent ability to summarize clearly most of the major areas of cardiology today.

This book is strongly recommended for those who seek a ready summary of cardiac disease and its clarity and brevity make it useful not only to the medical student and general practitioner, but also to the paramedical personnel, such as cardiac nurses.

Y. Drory