

Reviews of Recent Books



Chemistry of Digestive Diseases, by J. R. Gamble and D. W. Wilbur. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1961, pp. 120, \$4.50.

The authors of this short book have prepared a useful review of gastric secretion and intestinal absorption. Most of the basic information about such subjects as the blind-loop syndrome, secretin tests, intrinsic factor and milk-alkali syndrome are covered. The references go through 1959 and, therefore, are quite up-to-date considering the usual delay in book publishing.

Perhaps the only criticism that can be made of the book is that it covers too much too generally for many readers. However, as I. N. Kugelmass, the editor of the American Lectures Series in Living Chemistry, says, the book is "designed as an introduction to alimentary research and the chemical guide to medical practice for real understanding of digestive disease in the patient." Considered in this light, this monograph should be a useful and worthwhile guide to the intricacies of digestive metabolism.

S. O. WAIFE

Contribution A La Biochimie Des Obesites Experimentales, by J. Christophe (English summary). Editions Arscia S.A., Bruxelles, 1961, pp. 220.

This little book is essentially a compilation of articles embodying the work of Dr. Christophe and his co-workers while he was a visiting research fellow in the Nutrition Department of the Harvard School of Public Health. It was presented as a thesis in Belgium. Part of the work was carried out in collaboration with Dr. Mayer, part of it in the Deaconess Hospital in Boston in collaboration with Dr. Renold and Dr. Mayer.

The booklet covers such experiments as the measurement of glucose utilization in normal and hypothalamic hyperphagic animals and glucose utilization in exercised animals and men, using a technic largely devised by Dr. Christophe. The larger part of the work deals with the hereditary obese hyperglycemic syndrome of mice and is concerned with the histology of the pancreas, the increase in circulating insulin, the effect of insulin-

like agents, and some of the idiosyncrasies of the metabolism of adipose tissue in these animals, compared to normal mice and mice made obese by gold thioglucose.

While it may be convenient to find in one booklet the content of articles which have appeared in a number of journals such as *Diabetes*, *Metabolism*, *Nature*, *American Journal of Physiology* and *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, it is regrettable that the introduction summarizing previous work by others in the various fields covered contains a number of serious errors and omissions. As such, this booklet can have only limited usefulness for workers in this field.

J. MAYER

Food Additive Control in the Netherlands, by Dr. W. Meijer. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1961, pp. 41, \$.50. (In New York, available from Columbia University Press International Documents Service.)

This is the third in a series of publications, the first two having dealt with regulatory control of the manufacture and use of food additives in Canada and the United Kingdom. These were prepared, respectively, by L. I. Pugsley of the Food and Drug Directorate and C. L. Hinton, formerly of the British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association.

Dr. Meijer is Director of the Foodstuffs Control Service in The Hague. The basic food law, enacted in 1919, is administered by the Director General of Public Health in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Health. In adopting standards and regulations, the aid of a twenty member Advisory Commission may be invoked, of which at least half may represent manufacturers and non-government scientists. Noteworthy is the fact that the law covers not only foodstuffs but also other commodities which might be injurious to health such as bedding, toys, utensils, household products and rubber articles used in infant feeding. To implement enforcement the government of the Netherlands (population 11 million) maintains about 200 laboratory personnel including chemists, pharmacists and

veterinarians, which may be compared with the total of 1,660 scientists (and field inspectors) in the Food and Drug Administration of the United States (population 185 million).

Of interest are the food additives permitted in the Netherlands but not in the United States; for example, hexamethylene tetramine in fish products, octyl and dodecyl gallates in oils and fats, ammonium persulfate in flour, and even resin for coating coffee beans. Many differences exist also in the coloring matters permitted in food, for example carotene, but not annatto, is permitted for coloring butter, margarine and vegetable oils. Efforts to minimize such differences can be expected to gain momentum as the objectives of the Common Market are realized, since this will demand greater uniformity in international food laws than now exists.

B. L. OSER

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

Books received for review by *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* are acknowledged in this column. As far as practicable, those of special interest are selected, as space permits, for extensive review.

Biochemical Mechanisms, by Lloyd L. Ingraham. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1962, pp. 108, \$5.75.

Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 11. The Mechanism of Action of Water-soluble Vitamins,

edited by A. V. S. de Reuck and Maeve O'Connor. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1962, pp. 120, \$2.50.

L'Allergie Digestive, by Henri Sarles and Andre-Pierre Gauthier. Masson & Cie, Paris, 1961, pp. 139.

Modern Problems in Nutrition, edited by J. C. Somogyi. S. Karger, Basel/New York, 1960, pp. 224, \$9.00.

Modern Problems in Nutrition, Vol. 2, edited by J. C. Somogyi. S. Karger Ag., Basel/New York, 1962, pp. 180, \$9.00.

Archives of Oral Biology, Vol. 7, No. 1. Pergamon Press, London, 1962, pp. 123.

Introductory Foods, 4th edition, by Osse Hughes. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1962, pp. 502, \$6.00.

The Study of Influenza. A Translation from the Russian. U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Bethesda, 1960, pp. 939.

Probleme de Morfopalogie. Academia Republice Populare Romine, 1961, pp. 377.

Atlas of Clinical Endocrinology, 2nd edition, by H. Lissner and Roberto F. Escamilla. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1962, pp. 489, \$23.00.

100 Problems in Environmental Health, edited by J. E. McKee, W. L. Faith, H. Heukelekian, T. F. Mancuso, E. M. Mrak and C. N. Sawyer. Jones Composition Co. & Kirby Lithograph Co., Washington, 1961, pp. 185.

