

Reviews of Recent Books

Clinical Endocrinology by K. E. Paschkis, A. E. Rakoff, and A. Cantarow, Hoeber-Harper, New York, 1954, pp. 830, \$16.00.

When, among their prefatory remarks, the authors declare that endocrinology has emerged within a relatively brief period as a "highly respected and dignified member of the family of medical specialties," we must recognize that this admirable status has been achieved in part through their own efforts and contributions in this field. In the present work, one finds an integration of the biochemical, physiological, and clinical data referable to specific endocrine systems. Each gland is discussed individually from the standpoint of its development, role in cellular metabolism, and in relationship to pathologic physiology in which it may become involved. Specific diseases are found in separate chapters under the heading of hyperfunction or hypofunction of the gland in question.

In addition to the thorough coverage of the endocrinological disorders, there is a rather brief section on obesity. Here, one would like to find more exact references to dietary plans rather than general schemes for weight reduction; the highly successful group therapy methods are not mentioned. The attractive "glucostatic theory" of Mayer is not presented in this section. The final chapter of the book should prove extremely useful, as it presents the current procedures employed in the investigation of endocrine disease, together with methods and interpretations.

As might be expected, the section on the ovary is outstanding. The authors have accumulated here in a wealth of fundamental data which will aid the reader in orienting himself quite adequately in this complex area. The sections on the adrenal, thyroid, and parathyroid glands offer complete presentations of the actions of these organs in health and disease, with detailed discussions as to management of the disorders in which they are involved. Somewhat less satisfactory, however, is the section dealing with the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

Each chapter is supplied with numerous references, and a useful table of commercially available hormone preparations is found at the end of the text. This volume should provide the practitioner with an excellent foundation from which he can build a full understanding of the endocrine glands and their dis-

orders and provide his patients with appropriate treatment based upon this knowledge.—CHARLES R. SHUMAN

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

Elements of Food Engineering. Vol. 1 by M. E. Parker, with the collaboration of E. H. Harvey and E. S. Statler, Reinhold Pub. Corp., New York, 1952, pp. 386, \$8.75.

The Biochemistry of the Nucleic Acids (ed. 2) by J. N. Davidson, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 200, \$2.25.

The Vitamins: Chemistry, Physiology, Pathology. Vol. I, edited by W. H. Sebrell, Jr., and R. S. Harris, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 676, \$16.50.

Symposium on Protein Metabolism, National Vitamin Foundation, Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 103, \$1.50.

Newer Concepts of the Causes and Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus, National Vitamin Foundation, Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 177, \$2.50.

Nutrition and Physical Fitness (ed. 6) by L. Jean Bogert, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1954, pp. 664, \$4.50.

Wine as Food and Medicine by S. P. Lucia, The Blakiston Co., Inc., New York/Toronto, 1954, pp. 149, \$3.00.

Colloque sur les acides aminés, S. Karger, Basel/New York, 1954, pp. 333, Sw. fr. 25.

Submicroscopic Morphology of Protoplasm (Eng. ed. 2) by A. Frey-Wyssling, Elsevier Press, Houston, 1953, pp. 411, \$8.50.

Cell Chemistry by D. Burk, Elsevier Press, Houston, 1954, pp. 359, \$7.50.

Vitamins and Hormones, edited by R. S. Harris, G. F. Marrian, and K. V. Thimann, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1953, pp. 356, \$8.50.

The Year Book of Endocrinology (1953-1954), edited by G. S. Gordon, Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1954, pp. 390, \$6.00.

Energy Metabolism and Nutrition by R. W. Swift and C. E. French, The Scarecrow Press, Washington, D. C., 1954, pp. 264, \$5.75.