

# Reviews of Recent Books



**The Pharmacologic Principles of Medical Practice**, fourth edition, by J. C. Krantz, Jr. and C. J. Carr, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1958, pp. 1,313, \$14.00.

Pharmacology is currently undergoing an unparalleled expansion. The vast numbers of new drugs, new types of therapeutic substances, and new concepts of drug action make this a most rapidly changing branch of medicine. Textbooks of pharmacology, therefore, are always in danger of being "out-of-date." The fourth edition of this well known text is remarkable for at least one reason; it contains adequate descriptions of many of the most recently introduced compounds. This would seem to be an important advantage. Another useful technic is the free use of common and trade names wherever a drug is more familiarly known by it.

The fourth edition contains many new drugs while others, no longer generally used, have been deleted. A number of full-page photographs of eminent workers in the field add to the general interest of the book. Good printing and a full index should be noted. This edition can be recommended as an exceptionally current standard text in clinical pharmacology. S. O. W.

**Clinical Gastroenterology** by Eddy D. Palmer, Paul H. Hoeber, Inc., New York, 1957, pp. 630, \$18.50.

This attractive book contains, in addition to chapters on diseases of the various portions of the gastrointestinal tract and its appendages, a short chapter on the spleen and one on gastrointestinal manifestations of certain far-removed diseases. Parasites are also discussed.

The introductory chapter is devoted to comprehensive gastroenterology in which the functional and emotional aspects of gastrointestinal disease in general are emphasized. In subsequent sections dealing with specific diseases, the psychosomatic and functional aspects of certain gastrointestinal diseases such as ulcerative colitis, peptic ulcer and irritable colon are very well covered; those dealing with achalasia, chronic gastritis, and regional enteritis, less so. No space is devoted to the psychosomatic aspects of nontropical and tropical sprue.

The book is extremely well written, readable, and contains much data which should be of value to all who deal with gastrointestinal problems. The author draws freely on a rich clinical personal experience and expresses personal opinions on controversial subjects. A brief list of pertinent references is included at the end of

each chapter. The 216 figures are excellent and informative; they consist of descriptive sketches, photographs of specimens, and reproductions of roentgenograms.

The book is highly recommended for general practitioners, internists, specialists in gastroenterology, and surgeons. It is also recommended to medical students as an excellent source of modern information on the clinical aspects of gastrointestinal diseases.

T. E. MACHELLA

**Diabetes as a Way of Life**, by T. S. Danowski. Coward-McCann, Inc., New York, 1957, pp. 177, \$3.50.

This guide for diabetic patients contains much practical information for their self-care. The material is presented in an attractive and readily comprehensible style. The contents cover the important details of dietary management utilizing the food exchange system and provide a thorough discussion of insulin therapy. The methods employed by the author are not always those recommended in other clinics but nevertheless are widely used in the care of diabetics. For example, the sterilization of the syringe by boiling rather than by alcohol or Zepharin is not always advised; under the section on surgery, the reversion to regular insulin during operation advocated by the author is not practised in all centers. The final chapter dealing with the life of the diabetic and the impact upon the individual and his family should be read by all those involved with this disease. A glossary of terms for the diabetic patient and a useful appendix containing detailed material on various subjects conclude this unique and informative manual.

C. R. SHUMAN

**Biochemistry and Human Metabolism**, by Burnham S. Walker, William C. Boyd, and Isaac Asimov. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1957, pp. 895, \$12.00.

This is the third edition of an excellent biochemistry textbook first published in 1952. Since the first edition was reviewed in this JOURNAL (1: 405, 1953), only the revisions will be discussed here. Large parts of the book have been rewritten, enlarged, and reorganized to bring the subject matter up-to-date and to make it clearer to the student. This is particularly true of the chapters on protein metabolism, heat and work, and infection. The bibliographies after each chapter and the index at the end of the book have been greatly enlarged helping to make the book valuable as a reference

text. New material has been introduced, such as the carbon cycle in photosynthesis, high-energy acyl-mercaptan bond, aldosterone, lipocic acid, chemotherapy, abnormal hemoglobin, and function of metallo-flavoenzymes.

In the older edition the appendix contained chapters on colloids, isotopes, thermodynamics, and acid and base. These subjects, with the exception of the isotope section have now been incorporated into the main body of the book. Since this material is not used to any great extent in the biochemical discussion, it might have been better left in the appendix. However, this is but a minor criticism of a book which would make a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in the clinical aspects of biochemistry.

The authors are to be complimented for keeping this book so well up-to-date. MARGARET W. BATES

**Technique of Fluid Balance. Principles and Management of Water and Electrolyte Therapy**, by G. H. Tovey. Thomas, Springfield, 1957, pp. 100, \$2.50.

The significance of fluid and electrolyte balance in clinical medicine has become fully appreciated by practitioners as it has been by investigators for some years. The wide interest in this important phase of treatment is apparent when one considers the number of texts recently published dealing with the subject. While an understanding of the fundamental principles of biochemistry and physiology with respect to fluid balance is required for success in management, it is possible to provide the necessary details in a simple form easily applied to both elementary and complex problems. This small volume presents a succinct, yet adequate, discussion of the basic concepts of water and electrolyte metabolism. The classic description of salt and fluid depletion states are given in detail. A concise and practical outline for the control of fluid equilibrium and restoration of an established imbalance occupies the latter half of the monograph.

In discussing acid-base balance, sulfates and phosphates are described as acid anions. The accumulation of these anions in renal insufficiency or of keto-acids in diabetic coma displaces bicarbonate resulting in acidosis. However, current thought suggests that the accumulation of hydrogen ions in association with the anions which are not actually acidic causes the change in blood pH.

This monograph is of value to the practitioner for its

emphasis upon the clinical assessment of patient's history and objective findings. The management of parenteral fluid therapy when full laboratory control is unavailable seems entirely feasible with the methods outlined therein. C. R. SHUMAN

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 a more extensive review.

*Polyscience* by Frank H. Kelly, Vantage Press, New York, 1958, pp. 145, \$2.95.

*Low-Fat Cookery* by Evelyn S. Stead and Gloria K. Warren, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1956, pp. 184, \$3.95.

*Home Economics—Careers and Homemaking* by Olive A. Hall, Wiley, New York, 1958, pp. 301, \$4.25.

*Chemistry of Lipides as Related to Atherosclerosis*, compiled and edited by Irvine H. Page, Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1958, pp. 342, \$8.50.

*Food, Nutrition and Diet Therapy, ed. 2* by Marie V. Krause, Saunders, Philadelphia, 1957, pp. 621, \$3.00.

*Ciba Foundation Symposium on Chemistry and Biology of Mucopolysaccharides*, edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and M. O'Connor, Little, Brown, Boston, 1958, pp. 329, \$8.50.

*Neomycin. Its Nature and Practical Application*, edited by Selman A. Waksman, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1958, pp. 412, \$5.00.

*General Biochemistry, ed. 2* by Joseph S. Fruton and Sonia Simmonds, Wiley, New York, 1958, pp. 1,077, \$18.00.

*Die Dystrophie, Spätfolgen und Dauerschäden*, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1958, pp. 202, D.M. 19.60 (\$4.65).

*The Chemistry and Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis, ed. 3* by Esmond R. Long, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1958, pp. 450, \$12.00.

*Annual Review of Medicine (Vol. 9)*, edited by David A. Ryland, Annual Reviews, Inc., Palo Alto, pp. 530, \$7.00.

*Care of the Premature Infant* by Evelyn C. Lundeen and Ralph H. Kunstadter, Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1958, pp. 367, \$8.00.

*Clinical Enzymology*, edited by Gustav Martin, Little, Brown, Boston, 1958, pp. 241, \$3.00.

