

# Reviews of Recent Books



**Cholesterol**, by David Kritchevsky. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1958, pp. 291, \$9.75.

Concise and accurate reviews are an asset in any field of research but are almost essential in that of atherosclerosis and lipid metabolism where so much has been written. Cholesterol occupies a key position in the study of atherosclerosis and Dr. Kritchevsky's monograph will find many eager readers, particularly when it is known how packed with information it is.

The book is divided into seven chapters, dealing with the chemistry, biosynthesis, adsorption and transport, and metabolism of cholesterol, with cholesterol in disease, the blood cholesterol, and analytical techniques. It is difficult to understand why a separate chapter has been devoted to the blood cholesterol, as the information it contains might more logically have been incorporated into the chapters dealing with cholesterol metabolism in health and disease. There are detailed appendices on the physical constants of cholesterol and many of its compounds and derivatives and on the cholesterol content of human and animal tissues and of foods.

The style is admirably concise, and the book is easy to read. One of its most valuable features is the list of references at the end of each chapter. A total of 2086 sources of information is listed. There are few typographical errors and the printing and binding are good.

Dr. Kritchevsky is to be congratulated on writing what for many interested in atherosclerosis and lipid metabolism will probably be the "book of the year" as well as an amazingly compact and permanently useful reference book.

G. WALKER

**Food Habits and Nutrient Intakes in a Siamese Rice Village: Studies in Bang Chan, 1952-1954**, by Hazel M. Hauck, Saovanees Sudsaneh, and Jane R. Hanks. Cornell Thailand Project, Interim Reports Series Number 4, Data Paper Number 29, Southeast Asia Program, Department of Far Eastern Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., May, 1958.

This study of food habits and nutrient intakes in a Siamese rice village was a part of the Cornell Thailand project, which is under the auspices of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of Cornell University. The dietary studies were made during a period from September, 1952, through May, 1954.

The data can be divided into two general categories: (1) qualitative information obtained from observation of the field party, interviews with mothers, and records of food eaten for 24 hours by grade-school children and

(2) quantitative information provided by a weighed dietary study of eleven families.

The sections of the report concerning the community, social factors affecting nutritional level, the Buddhist priesthood, and general descriptions are very interesting. The quantitative family studies are thoroughly documented.

Although reproductions of photographs are expensive, it is too bad a few pictures could not have been included. The sample of eleven families, or 3 per cent of the families in the area representing 69 persons or 4 per cent of the population, for four nonconsecutive days during the year may be questioned as not being sufficient to produce a pattern of food intake. However, the quantitative material was supplemented with other data to make it meaningful. The reviewer appreciates the amount of time and effort which the field workers expended to secure the information. The report is well organized and is interesting as well as informative.

MARTHA F. TRULSON

## BOOKS RECEIVED

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.

*Annual Review of Medicine, Volume 10, 1959*, edited by David A. Rytand, Annual Reviews, Inc., Palo Alto, Calif., 1959, pp. 448, \$7.00.

*Conférence Internationale sur L'Influence des Conditions de Vie et de Travail sur la Santé, L'Association Médicale Internationale pour L'Étude des Conditions de Vie et de la Santé*, Vienna, pp. 607, \$6.00.

*Hypertension: The First Hahnemann Symposium on Hypertensive Disease*, edited by John H. Moyer, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1959, pp. 790, \$14.00.

*A Textbook of Medicine*, edited by Russell L. Cecil and Robert F. Loeb, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1959, pp. 1,665, \$16.50.

*The Year Book of Endocrinology (1958-59 Year Book Series)*, edited by Gilbert S. Gordon, Year Book Publishers, 1959, Chicago, pp. 384, \$7.50.

*Blood Groups, May 1959 issue of the British Medical Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 2*, The British Council, London, pp. 86, \$3.25.

*Low-Fat Diet: Reasons, Rules and Recipes*, by Roy L. Swank and Aagot Grimsgaard, University of Oregon Books, Eugene, 1959, pp. 143, \$2.50.