

# Reviews of Recent Books



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

The editors are to be congratulated for the speed and skill with which they have documented this informative symposium. The book contains many fine illustrations and charts to complement the text.

The initial part of the symposium is devoted to the clinical manifestations and etiology of hypertension. The latter part of the book is oriented to treatment of hypertension by medical and surgical means. The clinical pharmacodynamics and therapeutic use of drugs are presented. The panel discussions that follow the presentation of various subjects are lively and informative. The members of the panels are competent men who have contributed to the knowledge in the areas discussed.

This book should be of great interest and value not only to those who treat hypertension but also to those who are interested in investigation. O. M. HELMER

**Long Term Illness: Management of the Chronically Ill Patient**, edited by Michael G. Wohl. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1959, pp. 748, \$17.00.

There was a time, not long ago, when the physician was chiefly concerned with the acutely ill patient. As a result of the recent revolution in medical science, spearheaded by the conquest of many infections and nutritional diseases and by advances in public health and preventive medicine, the complexion of medical practice has changed. Today the physician finds that more and more of his work involves the patient with a long term illness. The problems which the chronicity introduces alter the complexion of medical management.

This book is a comprehensive survey of this modern approach. The seventy-nine authors cover the field from alcoholism to cerebral palsy, from obesity to leprosy. Following a section on general principles, including such subjects as home care, rehabilitation and multiphasic screening, there is a systematic coverage of diseases of various organ systems. Emphasis is on management and, in general, the recommendations are orthodox time-tested procedures. Particularly helpful are chapters on the care of the patient with malignant disease (and all that *that* means), chronic deafness and blindness and emotional illnesses requiring continued treatment. For example the latter chapter answers the practical question "How do I get the patient to go

to a psychiatrist?" The editor, Wohl, writes on obesity and Goodhart on nutrition in chronic diseases. Although traditional topics are treated, the emphasis here, as elsewhere in the book, is on the problems raised by reason of long standing disorders.

That chronic illness is not a monopoly of the aged is indicated by Merritt and Davison in a chapter on chronic diseases in childhood. As C. D. Leake says in his introduction to the book, the medical management of patients with long term ailments directly affects the welfare of about one-eighth of our population.

By stressing chronic illness, rather than "geriatrics" with which it is still erroneously confused, the authors have performed a valuable service. This fine book is notable proof of their valiant efforts. S. O. W.

**Haematology.** *British Medical Bulletin*, vol. 15, No. 1, January 1959. The British Council, London, pp. 1-88, \$3.25.

The *British Medical Bulletin* is a quarterly published by an agency of the British Government. Each issue is devoted to a single topic and the articles are refreshingly short, clear and current. Their traditional high quality is reflected in the January 1959 number on hematology. Professor L. J. Witts of Oxford is the editor, and the contributors are all prominent British investigators. The sum total is an excellent review of the most salient aspects of fundamental hematology.

Readers of this Journal may be especially interested in Callender's paper on iron absorption, Mollin's on radioactive vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and Girdwood's on folic acid. Equally significant is Ingram's report on the genetics of abnormal hemoglobins—a big step forward in understanding of "molecular disease." Indeed all the articles may be commended. Perhaps the best description may be found in Witt's introduction. "It is a story which can be read with equal interest by those who are engaged in the treatment of patients and those who enjoy seeing nature so brilliantly put to the question." R. S. W.

**Blood Groups,** *British Medical Bulletin*, vol. 15, No. 2, May 1959. The British Council, London, pp. 89-174, \$3.25.

This is the second of two issues of the *British Medical Bulletin* which deal with hematology. Like the first, this is an authoritative and succinct summary for the non-specialist, as well as for geneticists, anthropologists and biologists in general.

The inheritance of blood groups is discussed by Race and Sanger and the significance of blood groups in genetic linkage by Lawler and Renwick. Mourant, the editor of this volume, presents an interesting account of blood groups and anthropology and the evidence that blood groups are affected by natural selection is presented by Sheppard. The general biologist will find these articles informative as well as those on animal and human blood groups by Joysey and on hemagglutinins in seeds by Bird. Medically oriented readers will be interested in the discussion of the factors determining the relative importance of different blood group antibodies by Mollison, the antiglobulin reaction by Coombs and Roberts and the adsorption of blood group substances on to red cells by the Sneaths. Hemolytic disease of the newborn is discussed by Roberts and its treatment by Walker. The biochemistry of human blood group substances is reviewed by Morgan and Watkins.

All the articles are brief; they are written clearly and are accompanied by instructive diagrams. The authors

are all well known for their understanding and contributions to the field. This is a most valuable compendium.

M. M. WINTROBE

**Year Book of Endocrinology, 1958-1959**, edited by G. S. Gordon. The Year Book Publishers, Chicago, 1959, pp. 384, \$7.50.

The *Year Book of Endocrinology* for 1958-1959 contains well written condensations of the more important papers on clinical endocrinology published during 1958. Some of the original illustrations are reproduced and there are numerous brief but valuable editorial comments.

Dr. Gordon's enthusiastic introduction shows that endocrinologically-speaking we live in exciting times. His book is invaluable to those who wish to keep abreast of recent work but lack the time or opportunity to peruse the numerous journals through which the original papers are scattered.

G. WALKER

