

Reviews of Recent Books



Biochemistry of Nutrition (Biochemie der Ernährung), by K. Lang. Verlag Dr. Dietrich Steinkopff, Darmstadt, 1957, pp. 412, DM 54.

Professor Lang of the Physiochemistry Institute, Mainz University, is to be complimented for the concise presentation of basic biochemical information on carbohydrate, fat, cholesterol, protein, minerals, trace elements and vitamins. He has made ample use of charts (nine) and diagrams (twenty-four) throughout the discussion, and has compiled comprehensive data into 214 tables, which make the book a good source of reference. However, the discussion contains little information on experimental research in nutrition. The book would be useful to the German-speaking physician who wants a general orientation into the biochemistry of nutrition.

G. C. CHU

The Clinical Evaluation of New Drugs, edited by S. O. Waife and A. P. Shapiro. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York, 1959, pp. 223, \$7.50.

As a result of the recent tremendous advances in clinical therapeutics there has developed a whole new field of medical research—clinical investigation. This area of endeavor requires specialized knowledge of clinical trials of new drugs and familiarity with certain techniques, including design of experiments, suitable controls and clinical pharmacology. The wealth of papers on the evaluation of new drugs is proof enough that the clinical trial has come of age.

Heretofore the literature on the principles and practices of drug testing in man has been scattered in various journals. In this book fourteen distinguished investigators have written short but lucid essays which cover the subject from animal experiments to psychosomatic problems. Included are chapters on the training of investigators, the influence of the scientist on the experiment, ethics, publications, subjective responses and statistical design. About half the book is devoted to concrete problems faced in the field of nutrition and metabolism, cardiology, gastrointestinal diseases, neuropsychiatric, infectious and endocrine disorders, etc.

The chapters are well written and integrated so that the book can be read as a whole. There is no similar book on this important subject and the authors and editors should be congratulated for having so admirably accomplished the task before them—"improving the caliber of the clinical trial in order to define more accurately and rapidly the potential of new drugs." Everyone who studies new compounds in any branch of

medicine cannot but profit from this basic, useful and important contribution.

J. S.

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.

Clinical Disorders of Hydration and Acid-Base Equilibrium, 2nd edition, by Louis G. Welt, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1959, pp. 336, \$7.00.

The Heinz Handbook of Nutrition: A Comprehensive Treatise on Nutrition in Health and Disease, edited by Benjamin T. Burton, Blakiston Co., New York, 1959, pp. 439, \$5.75.

Gouty Arthritis and Gout. An Ancient Disease with Modern Interest, by Thomas E. Weiss and Albert Segaloff, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1959, pp. 221, \$7.50.

A Primer of Water, Electrolyte and Acid-Base Syndromes, by Emanuel Goldberger, Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1959, pp. 322, \$6.00.

A Guide to Antibiotic Therapy, by Henry Welch, Medical Encyclopedia, Inc., New York, 1959, pp. 69, \$3.00.

Medical Discoveries. Who and When, by J. E. Schmidt, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1959, pp. 555, \$14.75.

Antibiotic Therapy for Staphylococcal Diseases, edited by Henry Welch and Maxwell Finland, Medical Encyclopedia, Inc., New York, 1959, pp. 208, \$4.50.

Fermente. Hormone. Vitamine. Band I. Fermente, edited by Robert Ammon and Wilhelm Dirscherl, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1959, pp. 564, DM 81.60 (\$19.45).

Lymphocytes and Mast Cells, by Margaret Kelsall and Edward D. Crabb, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1959, pp. 399, \$8.00.

Protein and Amino Acid Nutrition, edited by Anthony A. Albanese, Academic Press, Inc., New York, 1959, pp. 604, \$16.00.

Evaluation of Protein Nutrition: A Report of the Food and Nutrition Board, Publication 711 of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, Washington, D. C., 1959, pp. 60, \$2.00.

The Megaloblastic Anemias, by Victor Herbert, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1959, pp. 162, \$6.00.