

REVIEWS

MANAGEMENT OF RENAL FAILURE

Introduction by Professor D. A. K. Black

Scientific Editor: Professor M. D. Milne

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With the increasing understanding of the mechanisms of renal failure and their complications and the establishment of renal dialysis and transplantation as recognised forms of treatment for patients with renal failure, a Symposium on the Management of Renal Failure under the able editorship of Professor Milne is timely, if not long overdue. The Symposium consists of contributions from eminent nephrologists from the United Kingdom and Australia, as well as urologists, bacteriologists and radiologists. The subjects range from the management of acute and chronic renal failure to the mechanisms and management of various complications of renal failure such as hypertension and anaemia. As stated in Professor Black's introduction: "no one can ignore the greatly increased survival rate from acute renal failure, and the possibility of continued life for those whose kidneys have totally failed from any cause"; it is therefore not surprising that no less than five papers were devoted to renal dialysis and transplantation. These papers gave very general and basic information on the subjects. Professor Francis O'Grady's contribution to this Symposium

was, as expected, "Antibiotics in Renal Failure". This paper should be of particular value to all physicians who are involved in the management of infection in patients with renal failure. It gave in some detail the basic mechanism of antibiotic activity and its relationship to changes in glomerular filtration rates. The article on Radiology in the Diagnosis of Renal Failure serves to emphasise the importance of defining the renal outlines and determining the renal sizes in the management of renal failure.

This Symposium on the Management of Renal Failure is therefore a very informative volume for all doctors who wish to know more about the management of renal failure but who do not have the time to read up. My only criticism is that leptospirosis was not listed as one of the important causes of acute renal failure in the tropics. This was mainly because the authors of the papers on Renal Failure in the Tropics had written of their experience in Africa rather than discussing the subject as a whole, involving all tropical areas.

Beatrice Chen

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IMMUNOLOGY FOR UNDERGRADUATES

By D. M. Weir

This book is a compilation of lecture material used by the author for medical students in Edinburgh University. It has 12 chapters covering all important aspects of immunology. The whole book could be read in a few hours time and any person with scientific background can get a fair idea of the state of our knowledge in this important field. It also has excellent diagrams which help

greatly in clarifying the mechanisms involved in various immune reactions. The text contains no references but suggestions for further reading are given at the end of individual chapters. The book will be very useful for the overworked medical student. It comes in paperback and costs \$5.55 only.

V. Zaman

INHERITED DISORDERS OF SULPHUR METABOLISM

Edited by Nina A. J. Carson and D. Noel Raine

Churchill Livingstone. Edinburgh & London 1971. Pp. 312. UK Price: £4.50

The contents of this book represent the proceedings of the Eighth Symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism held at Belfast in 1970. By concentrating on a single metabolic pathway it was possible to discuss new concepts and observations rather thoroughly.

The diseases covered include cystathioninuria, cystinuria (the prototype for inborn errors of membrane transport), cystinosis, and an excellent section on the genetic and biochemical aspects of homocystinuria. The existence of a mild form of this disease (one patient was initially diagnosed as Marfan's syndrome) would interest local paediatricians. While the majority of cases of homocystinuria are probably due to cystathionine synthase deficiency, the likelihood that N⁵-methyl-tetrahydrofolate methyltransferase may be deficient is a recent finding. Certainly many minor pathways

for the degradation of methionine must exist in man. This is hinted by the presence of unusual sulphur-containing amino acids in homocystinuric urine.

A surprising conclusion, contrary to all previous reports in the literature, by Perry (Vancouver), confirmed by Scriver (Montreal), is that congenital cystathioninuria, at least in the form which responds to large doses of pyridoxine, is a harmless disorder.

The book is up-to-date, informative and well-illustrated. A good biochemical background is provided by reviews on methionine and pyridoxine metabolism in mammals. One only wished that an index had been incorporated, which would have increased its usefulness as a handbook.

S. E. Aw

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ANOPHELINE MOSQUITOES OF MALAYA AND BORNEO

By J. A. Reid

Staples Printers Ltd., 1968. Pp. 520. Price: \$45

This book is by one who has considerable knowledge and experience of the Anophelines of South-east Asia. It is essentially a taxonomic treatise and is the result of Dr. Reid's 20 years (1940-1960) of painstaking investigation in Malaya while he was attached to the Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur and several years of research in the British Museum.

The book comprises seven sections and begins with the anatomy of the *Anopheles* mosquito. Chapters on classification and nomenclature follow. A systematic index to all known species, placed phylogenetically, is given and dichotomous keys to adults and immature stages are accompanied by generous illustrations. Detailed descriptions of individual species in all species groups are followed by notes on the taxonomic status, distribution, habits and vector status of each species group as well as individual species. The book ends with a section on the detailed biology of the Anophelines, covering the nature of species, life cycle and adult behaviour, host preference and transmission of disease.

An Appendix of 8 tables brings together a large body of data on the branching of pupal and larval hairs in the *An. hyrcanus*, *barbirostris*, *albotaeniatus*, *umbrosus* and *leucosphyrus* species groups, hitherto scattered through various publications. These collated data are of immense value to those studying new forms in these groups.

This work is by far the most complete, comprehensive and detailed, both in the systematics and biology of the Anophelines of Malaya and Borneo. It is particularly suited to experienced systematists of the group but should be equally helpful to medical entomologists, public health workers like doctors and public health inspectors and auxiliaries, and also to medical and biology research students working on the group. It is not only a classic reference book but is also a practical working guide for malaria control and allied fields. I strongly recommend it to these people.

Chan Kai Lok

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY OF HONG KONG (1st EDITION)

Published by the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong. Pp. 607. H.K. Price: \$90/-

This is a comprehensive book on medicine and medical services in Hong Kong, prepared in 1970.

Included in this book are essays on the historical development of scientific medicine and statistical data on various aspects of health in the territory, as well as an account of para-medical organisations.

The central part of this directory, however, is taken up by a list of medical practitioners in Hong Kong. Names, date of qualification, jobs, higher qualifications, present clinic addresses and

telephones are all given. Where appropriate, the names in Chinese (characters) are recorded. The Medical Registration Ordinance of Hong Kong is reproduced and only doctors registered under this Ordinance are included.

This publication reflects well on the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong—it fulfils a need and is well prepared.

Mah Guan Kong



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