BOOK REVIEWS

Normale und Pathologische Entwicklung des Menschenlichen Herzens. Klaus Goerttler, Kiel. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 123 pages, 54 illustrations. (Normal and Developmental Anatomy of the Human Heart) $6.30.

The advent of cardiac surgery has enhanced the interest in the study of the genesis of cardiac malformations. This requires an increased awareness on the part of the clinician and the investigator and thus justifies this type of endeavour, once doomed to perfunctory academic attention.

The author handles the morphological aspects of the developmental anatomy of the heart in normal and pathological conditions with competence, and illustrates his text with attractive drawings and cross sections. He divides the teratology of congenital cardiac anomalies into three main groups according to their time of occurrence during fetal life. The first group covers all alterations originating during the primary period of development of the embryo. It comprises all bilateral modification of symmetry, i.e. complete visceral inversions. The second group comprises defects arising from failure of rotation around the major axis constituted by the auricles-sinus and bulbus arteriosus. This includes defective septal formations and transpositions of major vessels. The third group covers all anomalies that appear after septal formation has taken place, and comprises Ebstein Anomaly, Tetralogy of Fallot, Lutembacher Syndrome, etc. This subject is well handled, but the author is distinctly at a loss when he tries to tackle etiological problems that are probably premature at the actual stage of our embryological knowledge. Surprisingly little emphasis is placed on the role played by maternal disease on the vascular abnormalities or the fetus, a lack which is difficult to account for in a study of this kind. The treatment of the pertinent literature is also surprisingly meager.

Therapeutic Heat. Edited by Sidney Licht. Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, New Haven, Conn. Second volume of Physical Medicine Library, 1958. xii + 466 pages, illustrated. $12.00.

It is surprising as well as refreshing to encounter a monograph devoted to heat at a time when there is considerable interest in hypothermia. The chapters on physics of heat and physiology of heat and cold would be helpful to those who are preparing to investigate temperature regulation. The discussion of physiology of heat is excellent and is generously documented by 187 references. The chapter on thermometry is well written and leaves the reader wanting for some space devoted to thermal methods for measuring blood flow. The discussion of therapeutic heat in vascular disease can also be expanded to devote more space to explanations for a number of recommendations (like short-wave diathermy for pulmonary infarct). Dr. Licht and his 22 collaborators would probably hesitate to accept these suggestions. It would mean that the next edition of this volume will have to be tripled in size to afford a reasonable balance of subjects that concern the physical-medicine specialists. It is of course possible that a future volume of this series of the Physical Medicine Library might be devoted to Therapeutic Cold or Hypothermia, and extensive coverage of the cardiovascular system would be expected.

Clinical Enzymology. Gustav J. Martin, Sc.D., editor. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1958. 241 pages, 5 illustrations, 3 tables, 2 plates. $7.50.

Recent advances in our knowledge of the metabolic and enzymatic aspects of disease have led to an increased understanding of the often pronounced changes in metabolism and enzyme composition of tissues that appear in a great number of diseases. Dr. Martin and collaborators have discussed in this interesting and provocative monograph two areas of medicine which are an outgrowth of our greater knowledge of pathological metabolism. These are the use of enzyme assays as diagnostic tools, and the utilization of enzyme preparations in therapy.

The reviewer cannot escape the conclusion that the diagnostic use of enzyme assays has in many cases been placed on a sound scientific basis, while this can in no way be said for the administration of enzyme preparations for therapeutic purposes. Great practical and theoretical obstacles are involved in parenteral enzyme therapy. To what extent these obstacles may be overcome only the future can tell. The book reviewed here presents the state of the field in a broad and philosophical manner and from an optimistic point of view.

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