care in grave situations. These comments are not usually found in print and help put the pathology into perspective for people not directly involved in patient care.

Next, a section describes recently developed methods for detecting consumption coagulopathies using solid-phase, and immunological techniques and following the kinetics of radiolabelled materials \emph{in vivo}. For example, Schmer’s chapter illustrates in detail new ways to approach detection of plasminogen using radiolabelled substrates attached to agarose beads, allowing simple separation of radioactive peptides at the end of the incubation. More generalized discussions of detection of fibrinogen degradation products, carrier states of hemophilia, and heparin effect on platelet survival with artificial valves complete this section.

Two therapy chapters describe early results of Stanford’s home care program for hemophiliacs and includes Deutsch’s brief but comprehensive chapter on circulating anticoagulants—incidence, detailed assays for detection, immunological properties, management, and usefulness of purified inhibitors for detecting carriers of hemophilia.

The concluding section deals with development of biocompatible materials, discussing engineering problems in meeting physiological requirements for flexibility and size, and possible chemical modifications of a number of materials for \emph{in vivo} and \emph{in vitro} uses. In particular, the chapter by Hoffman and Schmer is a lucid introduction into methods for developing affinity chromatography materials.

Overall, this book might be most useful for the clinical pathologist, as it demonstrates the adaptability of solid phase techniques to clinical assays and discusses some of the clinical problems to which these assays are addressed. While several procedures are presented in detail, most assays are specifically described elsewhere, and the material included here acts as supplementary material to more complete texts.

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THE BENZODIAZEPINES. MONOGRAPHS OF THE MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL RESEARCH. Edited by S. Garrattini, E. Mussini and L. O. Randall. Raven Press, New York, 1973. xxi, 685 pp. $35.00.

At a time in human history where \textit{Lancet} can predict the total tranquillization of America by the millenium, any addition to our knowledge of the sedative-anti-anxiety drugs is welcome. “The Benzodiazepines,” a monograph of the Mario Negri Institute for pharmacological research, edited by S. Garrattini, E. Mussini and L. O. Randall, is a welcome and needed contribution to information about these seemingly ubiquitous compounds. Librium and Valium are household words—or at least they should be in a society where as many as 30\% of the population takes tranquillizers. These drugs have provided great wealth for Hoffman–LaRoche, the Swiss pharmaceutical firm, and are the most widely prescribed drugs in this and other countries. The book contains a series of occasionally well written, often authoritative, research reports on various aspects of benzodiazepine pharmacology. In that respect it will be the standard reference work on these compounds.

The information presented is fascinating for what it does \emph{not} contain. We still don’t know how the drugs work as sedative-anti-anxiety agents. We find that sophis-
ticated research techniques frequently show us that these drugs don’t work at all! Gottshalk et al. fail to show that anxiety is more decreased by Librium than by a placebo. This, despite the fact that a large (25 mg) single dose of Librium was used and the tests for anxiety are some of the most sensitive available.

Why then are these drugs so popular? Certainly not because they may increase hostility in man as DeMascio suggests? It is clear to any physician who has prescribed benzodiazepines that they do work, and sometimes remarkably. We do not as yet have reasonable guidelines for the use of the benzodiazepines or reasons for selecting them over the many sedative drugs available. In one attempt at defining this, Hollister presents his oft published and useful opinions on the clinical use of the benzodiazepines and other antianxiety drugs in clinical practice in this volume.

The book consists of about forty research articles by a horde of authorities. It, therefore, suffers from spotty writing and equally spotty reliability. If, however, one uses it wisely it can be a useful reference for the specialist. There is the expected lack of consistency in the quality of papers presented at a symposium and to a certain extent the book does a disservice to the literature by presenting yet another monograph collection derived from a meeting. The references in this type of volume are frequently lost since they are not adequately indexed individually. Fortunately, most of the authors, as part of a great tradition, have or will publish the same results elsewhere.

In summary, this is a useful reference book for specialists on a topic which needs much light. It does not, however, answer the really important questions or contain a single authoritative overview of the subject.

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THE SOUNDS OF THE DISEASED HEART. By Aldo Luisado. Warren H. Green, St. Louis, 1973. x, 391 pp. $25.50.

This is a comprehensive text on phonocardiography for the general internist, cardiologist, and medical student. A basic knowledge of cardiac auscultation is a prerequisite to reading this text. The book is divided into three sections: part one is on systemic phonocardiography, part two on clinical phonocardiography, and three, on borderline conditions. The genesis of heart sounds is discussed fully and illustrated beautifully, with very comprehensive, graphic tracings. Apex cardiography, a subject often included in the discussions, is an added bonus. The importance of using major non-invasive techniques, i.e., the stethoscope and the phonocardiograph is underlined.

Views are aired on concepts of the origins of heart sounds based on experimentation. Many of the conclusions are related to the author’s own experiences and studies. The author reminds us throughout the book that the cause of the first heart sound excludes valvular closure but rather stresses the “exclusive importance” of the left ventricle. A chapter is devoted to the dynamic interpretation of cardiovascular murmurs. The effect of amyl nitrite and other medications on heart sounds or murmurs is discussed in each section of the book, relating to each valvular disease. A chapter on the disturbance of heart rate is especially useful to the reader.