LECTURES ON THE THYROID

This book is written by a well-known authority on thyroid function who, before his retirement from active participation in the work at the Thyroid Clinic of the Massachusetts General Hospital, had contributed greatly to the advancement of knowledge on this aspect of endocrine disease.

These lectures deal briefly with the integration of endocrine function, the formation and structure of the thyroid hormone, the use of hormones, drugs and radiation in treatment. The fourth lecture is an interesting discussion by the author on the perplexing problem of the aetiology of Graves' disease. Finally the fifth lecture on the need for iodine concludes the series.

Written essentially for lecture-audiences, the material touches briefly on some of the still unsolved problems of thyroid function. It correlates the adaptation syndrome of Selye with some of the mechanisms of thyroid disease.

The problem of the functioning and non-functioning adenoma is discussed. The author, having found a malignant nodule in a thyroid gland of a patient suffering from Graves' disease, who had been treated with radioiodine, agrees that nodular goitres should be treated by surgical measures.

Much emphasis is placed on the involvement of lymphoid tissue in Graves' disease and that 'lymphoid high lights keep appearing first in one place and then in another in the overall picture.'

This interesting and well-written collection of five lectures on various aspects of thyroid function is well worth perusal by all those interested in thyroid disease.

T.L.

PULMONARY CIRCULATION AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION

This slim volume contains the collected papers and discussions of a group of medical men whose prime interest lies in the lungs—it is the record of a conference on applied pulmonary physiology held at the University of St. Andrews in September 1955. It contains a great deal of information but the main purpose of this publication will be to stimulate interest in a subject which only recently has had attention paid to it; a subject which must interest all concerned with the treatment of chest diseases. Investigative procedures that are designed to elucidate the intricacies of pulmonary haemodynamics and pulmonary gas exchanges appear extremely complicated to the practising clinician. Higher mathematics there must be; the translation of variables of a natural phenomenon into figures which must then be equated with clinical states is a concept which is no longer futuristic. How now to act for the patient's good is not yet established, time and further work will tell us.

This little book does well to outline what the leaders in this field are doing and thinking. Furthermore the balance between calculus and clinical judgement is stressed in a particularly sensible communication from Dr. Robert Coope. This book is recommended.

L.L.B.

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