

the standard of presentation and content. However, this unavoidable disadvantage is more than offset by the authority with which the majority of the authors are able to discuss their subjects. The contributors are drawn from widely differing disciplines such as biochemistry, zoology, clinical medicine, pathology, physiology, pharmacology, dietetics and haematology. The final result is that of a holistic review of a vast subject. The symposium is divided into different sections including environment and heredity, the problem of the infarcted muscle, the anatomical, physiological and pathological factors affecting the coronary arteries and myocardium, blood coagulation, and the various systemic factors affecting the heart.

Stimulating papers abound. Gregg's review on the development of collateral coronary circulation places many current attempts at treatment in perspective. The chapter on the role of nicotine in myocardial infarction is probably the best review on this controversial subject to date—surely we tend to be too lenient in letting our ischaemic patients continue to smoke. The sections on coagulation cover many aspects of the process, and raise many problems.

It is interesting to note the trends in thought concerning the aetiology of atheroma. Even in the U.S. there tends to be an increasing bias towards the theory of intravascular thrombosis, the abnormal lipid metabolism acting by increasing the tendency to the intravascular clotting.

The list of references at the end of each chapter is comprehensive and from this aspect alone this book serves a useful function.

The conveners of this symposium deserve our gratitude—they have produced not only a valuable work of reference but an integrator of knowledge on a subject all too important but nevertheless subjected all too frequently to conjecture and confused thought.

### Endogenous Inflammation of the Uveal Tract

ALAN C. WOODS, M.D. Pp. xviii + 531, illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1961. 152s.

The late Alan C. Woods, an outstanding ophthalmologist, was Professor of Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Ophthalmologist-in-Chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. An authority on uveitis, his researches on this subject continued throughout his life and his writings brought order out of chaos. He classified the terminology by introducing the terms 'granulomatous' and 'non-granulomatous' to describe the two aetiological distinct forms of clinical uveitis.

The book contains chapters on basic clinical symptomatology, classification, pathogenesis and problems of diagnosis. Rarer forms of uveitis, clinical syndromes and disputed entities are discussed and full details given of specific and non-specific forms of therapy. The advances in this subject have been rapid and this authoritative work will meet the demand for an up-to-date textbook. This volume is an outstanding contribution to ophthalmic literature. Well illustrated with numerous colour plates and figures, it is a model of clarity. The extensive bibliography covers the relevant literature. This classic will rightly take its place in every ophthalmic library.

### The Psychological Basis of Medical Practice

Edited by HAROLD I. LIEF, VICTOR F. LIEF and NINA R. LIEF, with 52 authors. Pp. xvi + 572. New York, Evanston and London, Hoeber Medical Division: Harper and Row. 1963. \$12.50. 94s.

The editors state that this book is primarily addressed to the medical student and to the physician who is not a psychiatrist and it is designed to provide 'a comprehensive approach to the psychological considerations in health and disease'. However, they believe that the volume should also be of interest to the psychologist, the psychiatrist and others working in the field of mental health.

It will be agreed that authors who set out to heighten awareness of the role of psychological factors in disease processes by providing a concise yet comprehensive source of related information for general use are facing a difficult task in view of the vast literature in this field. Unfortunately, this book does not overcome these difficulties. For the most part it is a dull and unbalanced production. Should, for instance, the clinician be interested in the psychiatric aspects of coronary artery disease, he will find that the considerable literature on this subject is dismissed in half a page; yet an account of training for 'detached concern' in medical students extends to 24 pages. Again, hyperthyroidism receives only scant attention in two pages, yet the clinician would probably be more interested in emotion and disorders of the thyroid gland than in, for example, 'Operant Conditioning and Behaviour', which is judged to merit 15 pages. Such disproportionate treatment might be understandable if adequate references were given, but again the book is lacking in this respect.

This volume is unlikely to appeal to those for whom it is primarily written. Furthermore, an audience more sophisticated in relation to psychological disorders, such as psychiatrists, will find neither text nor references rewarding.

### Comprehensive Biochemistry

Volume 10: 'Sterols, Bile Acids and Steroids'. Edited by MARCEL FLORKIN and ELMER H. STOTZ. Pp. xii + 209. Amsterdam, London and New York: Elsevier Publishing Co. 1963. 55s.

The series of volumes making up 'Comprehensive Biochemistry' is planned to provide a complete advanced treatise not only on classical 'metabolic' biochemistry, but also on its physical and chemical background. The volume under review is part of Section II of the whole series, dealing with chemistry of biological compounds.

A brief introductory chapter by D. Kritchevsky deals with general configurational problems and with the chemistry of cholesterol and of related compounds, including plant sterols and vitamin D. Biochemical matters are not discussed. G. A. D. Haslewood summarizes the chemistry of bile salts and comments briefly on their functions.

G. I. Fujimoto and R. W. Ledeen give a short account of the androgens, covering their general properties and methods of isolation. P. A. Katzmann and W. H. Elliott provide a thorough description of the natural oestrogens, dealing with their structure, chemical reactions of the rings, separation procedures and in outline with their determination. Half the book is taken up with H. J. Ringold and A. Bowers' account of the chemistry of the adrenocortical hormones, both natural and synthetic. Their structures and reactions are described and the processes for their synthesis (triumphs of organic and microbiological techniques) given in detail. Relations of structure to function are stated, but physiological and biochemical processes only outlined. J. A. Zderic deals with progestational compounds, their synthesis and the development of new compounds with altered activity.

The book will be valuable to active workers in the chemistry of steroids and essential to those concerned