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BOOK REVIEWS

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Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease. *Maude E. Abbott, B.A., M.D., FRCP (Canada)*, Facsimile of Original Edition, 1936. New York, American Heart Association, Inc., 1954. 25 plates and descriptions, 62 pages. \$5.00.

Libraries, investigators, surgeons, practitioners and students of medicine alike will welcome this excellent reprinting of Maude Abbott's classical monograph, long out of print. Some will welcome it for its valuable material alone; others for its historical and sentimental appeal as well.

Our knowledge of congenital cardiac defects can be traced back to Aristotle (4th century B.C.) and was advanced through the ages by many illustrious men. It remained for Maude Abbott (1869-1940) to bridge the gap between the older, descriptive studies and the newer ontogenetic and phylogenetic approaches. Basic science taught us the evolutionary changes that the human heart and large vessels undergo before they reach their postnatal state and enabled us to understand why nature occasionally misses the mark. Maude Abbott's enthusiastic studies, epitomized in her famous *Atlas*, have provided the impetus for subsequent developments, which, in turn, led to the astounding surgical developments of the past two decades.

Reprinting of *The Atlas* was undertaken largely at the suggestion and encouragement of Dr. William W. Francis of the Osler Library, McGill University, Montreal, and with the kind permission of the Executors of Doctor Abbott's Estate. The splendid reprinting was done by Peter F. Mallon, Inc., Long Island City, N. Y. The American Heart Association is to be congratulated in again making this *Atlas* available at a very nominal price.

Shock and Circulatory Homeostasis. *Edited By Harold D. Green.* New York, Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, 1954, 229 pages, 61 illustrations. \$3.50.

The current volume represents the third in a series of multidisciplinary discussions concerning problems relating to shock and circulatory control. As pointed out by Fremont-Smith, these sessions and their report "do not wish to compete with formal scientific meetings".

The first section deals with Korean experiences of The Surgical Research Team of the Medical Corps U. S. Army. The presentation of cardiovascular responses to injury proved disappointing to the Reviewer as regards the new factual material presented, the often dubious physiologic conclusions drawn, and the rambling, often irrelevant, discussions evoked.

The second section presents in excellent perspective the growing list of cardiovascular reflexes that have been identified as regulators of the circulation and it should prove a valuable review for

those who have had difficulty in keeping abreast of recent developments. The admirable presentation by Dawes and the diversified critical remarks of conferees should serve to inhibit a perhaps too general trend in applying basic experimental discoveries to the interpretation and treatment of circulatory conditions in man.

The third section brings into focus the oft neglected fact that, in the last analysis, we must understand from direct evidence what is going on in the peripheral vascular beds. Dr. Alexander poses the two questions around which his presentation and the related discussions centered. 1. Where is the blood that does not return to the heart in states of shock? 2. How does it get lost? Two chief aspects were considered: 1) the distensibility characteristics of the venous side of the vascular bed, and its importance for distribution of blood volume, and 2) the possibility that local mechanisms may autonomously regulate peripheral resistance. The manner in which reflexes influence these peripheral mechanisms remains an important field for future study.

Verhandlungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kreislaufforschung, Vol. 20. *Rudolf Thauer, Ed.* Darmstadt, Steinkopff, 1954. 408 pages, 323 illustrations, 48 Marks.

This volume contains the complete papers and discussions of cardiovascular problems from the 20th session of this organization in Bad Nauheim, April 22-24, 1954.

Thirty-nine papers were presented as parts of symposia on I. Acquired Valvular Lesions (Referate by Wiggers, Grosse-Brockhoff, Blumberger, Derr-Düsseldorf, Bayer); II. Endocarditis (Referate by Böhmig, Klein, Hegglin, Wuhrmann, Fellingner) and III. Phonocardiography (Referate by Trendelenburg, Schütz, Maass, Weber, Holldack).

The papers on acquired valvular lesions cover the hemodynamics and compensatory cardiac reactions, with especial stress on mitral stenosis, diagnostic criteria, preoperative evaluation, etc.

A discussion of the pathology and bacteriology of endocarditis is followed by papers dealing with modern studies of clinical cases.

The registration of heart sounds is discussed from viewpoints of physics, instrumentation, physiology and its increasing clinical importance. This section represents one of the most complete surveys of this important subject in recent years. Unfortunately, the reviews and reports of progress are limited to those made in Germany and do not take cognizance of important developments in the United States of America and Argentina.

The volume contains a useful list of members of the German Society for Cardiovascular Research and their addresses.