BOOK REVIEWS


Formal communication and free discussion of various phases of the hypertension problem by thirty-three distinguished experimentalists and clinical investigators are contained in this monograph. While the viewpoints of a still larger number of active workers in the field are lacking, the reader will gain a good survey of current aspects of the problem.

Only a few years ago it was hoped that successful production of hypertension in animals would at least give us bearings in solving the problem of essential hypertension. Now that the feat has been accomplished by a number of methods the question arises which, if any, of the experimental mechanisms operate in clinical forms of high blood pressure. Discussion of this problem recurred throughout the sessions with the general conclusion that there are different types of human hypertension not yet identified by current terminologies and that multiple mechanisms probably operate in most. The view that the malignant phase with eye-ground changes is but a direct consequence of pre-existing hypertension came under a good deal of criticism.

The possible neurogenic, humoral and endocrine factors that can be concerned are surveyed from different angles by Page, Govaerts, Helmer, von Euler, Genest, Etienne-Martin, Bing, McMichael and Pickering. The electrolyte aspects are covered in papers by Braun-Menendez, Ledingham and Martini. Paton offers a clear statement of the basic mechanisms by which ganglion blocking agents operate, and Gaddum analyzes the action of antagonists to 5-hydroxytryptamine. Jimenez-Diaz reviews the evidence that norepinephrine is secreted by arterial walls and Heymans feels that changes in the state of tension of the sino-aortic walls should be considered as a possible etiologic factor.

The monograph is a welcome addition to numerous current symposia and conferences on one of the most important circulatory problems that still awaits solution.


The Institute for Cardiovascular Research at Royat was founded through the inspiration of Prof. Ch. Laubrey and Dr. D. Routier and was completed in 1946 through the activities of the late M. Bertrand, Mayor of Royat.

This, the first volume of experimental studies by Prof. Jourdan and his staff, is appropriately dedicated to all who, by their wise counsels, their creative efforts and persevering activities, have made operation of the institution possible.

The present volume contains, in addition to 19 reprints of cardiovascular studies published between 1947 and 1949, a comprehensive thesis of 171 pages by J. Heyraud on nodal rhythm and the effects of extrinsic cardiac nerves upon such rhythmic activity.

Periodic collections such as this bring to other lands cognizance of able work which otherwise is easily overlooked, neglected, or disregarded.

Old Advice is Still Good

"Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others; but that would be only in the less important arguments, and the meaner sort of books, else distilled books are like common distilled waters, flashy (insipid) things. Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man." Bacon's Essays, 1625.
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