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**Current Diagnosis and Treatment. M. A. Krupp and M. J. Chatton, editors. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, Calif. 1973. 996 pages. \$12.00**

Donald Wright  
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## BOOK REVIEWS

cusses methods of evaluating the microcirculation and the collateral circulation and techniques for producing chronic coronary insufficiency. This section is very valuable to those who are interested in methods for measuring coronary flow and should be known by all pharmacologists and cardiovascular investigators. This section is an excellent source of reference material.

The fourth section covers clinical methods for assessment of the therapeutic value of anti-anginal medications. It constitutes a review of various methods used clinically with a good discussion of their strong and weak points. This section would be of considerable value to clinical cardiologists and, again, is an excellent source for references.

The final section in the book covers hemodynamic data available on a large series of pharmacologic agents which have been recommended for treatment of angina pectoris. This section is the real strength of the book and clearly is the one to which the author has devoted most of his attention. It is an excellent reference source for a large number of pharmacologic agents. The data is presented in an objective fashion. There is a tendency for the authors to emphasize certain compounds, perhaps more than they deserve, but this is always a matter of opinion and cannot be criticized severely.

In general the book is easily read. There are minor errors in translation which do not significantly influence the sense of the book. Clearly its strong point is the large mass of carefully referenced material which makes it possible for the reader to find the original sources of data. The author has done a remarkable job of presenting literature from many different countries and presenting it in a readable fashion.

GEORGE G. ROWE  
Department of Medicine  
University of Wisconsin  
Medical Center  
Madison, Wisconsin

**The Role of Chromosomes in Cancer Biology.**  
P. C. Koller. Springer-Verlag, New York.  
1972. 122 pages. \$15.50.

This brief volume, one of the monographs in the series "Recent Results in Cancer Research," succinctly reviews the pertinence of cytogenetic observations to our knowledge of the origin of neoplasia. Unfortunately most observations in this field are purely phe-

nomenological and provide little insight into the fundamental defect or even the pathogenesis of tumor growth. However, three types of observations are particularly interesting: (1) the great intercellular diversity and changeability of chromosome makeup within single tumors, which helps conceptually to explain the great adaptability of neoplastic cells and may partially account for the ready emergence of lines resistant to therapeutic agents in affected patients; (2) the apparent association of some premalignant conditions such as Fanconi's anemia with a high rate of chromosome breakage; and (3) those few tumors, chronic myelogenous leukemia, and perhaps, meningioma, in which apparently consistent specific deletions of chromosomal material occur. While it seems likely now that classical cytogenetics has relatively little new to offer basic research in neoplasia, the application of recently discovered chromosome staining techniques may unmask some hitherto unsuspected specific (or ubiquitous) chromosomal abnormalities associated with malignancies. Otherwise this field is likely to become somewhat of a research "backwater" in fundamental investigation of neoplasia.

The volume at hand is a brief review of most of the work in this field through 1971. It would serve both as a useful introduction and as a ready reference, although, unfortunately, not all the investigations of human tumors have been summarized. But that might take a volume of twice the size.

ERNEST B. HOOK  
Birth Defects Institute of  
New York State  
Albany Medical College  
Albany, New York

**Current Diagnosis and Treatment. M. A. Krupp and M. J. Chatton, editors.** Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, Calif. 1973. 996 pages. \$12.00.

In comparing the present 1973 edition of this work with the 1972 volume which I previously reviewed, I find much the same strengths and weaknesses. In general the sections on infectious disease, toxic agents, and "unusual disease" (in the average United States practice) continue to be particularly excellent and sufficient in themselves to justify acquisition of the book by all active physicians. I continue to be amazed by the uniform ability of the authors and editors to apply reasoned medical judgment to complex and controversial

medical subjects so as to provide an operationally sound approach in virtually every area they discuss. Relative to this, the choice of literature citations remains uniformly impressive and greatly enhances the value of the book.

As a teaching clinician, however, I still am disturbed by the lack of a sound physiologic basis for treating the diseases of disordered physiology, which comprise the bulk of the problems which beset us all. A common example would be hepatic cirrhosis with portal hypertension and ascites. In such a situation an "obvious" therapy—diuretic drugs—is fraught with danger and clinical pitfalls, which, nevertheless, can be prevented or effectively managed if one understands the underlying physiologic mechanisms and the manner in which the disease process and one's therapy affects them. My experiences in directing the clinical care of patients by students and house officers have led me to the conviction that in most situations a sound "mechanism" approach is the only one which leads to thoughtful and effective medical decisions. This, of course, holds true for physicians at *all* levels of training and experience. Every time we have tried to use a "cookbook" or "protocol" approach for routine clinical care, we have been rewarded with disaster.

I can see no reason why the literary clarity and sound medical judgment of this volume's authors could not be applied to the addition at the head of each section of a succinct comprehensive discussion of the established pertinent physiology. For example, a largely diagrammatic presentation of the mechanisms controlling blood pressure with an accompanying brief text would render the evaluation, therapy, and follow-up of all classes of hypertensive patients quite clear and allow for appropriate individualization. The same is true for congestive heart failure, respiratory failure, maldigestion/absorption problems, and so forth. In my field the evaluation of problems of steroid or sex hormones and their therapy or the management of diabetes mellitus is likewise reasonably firmly based on physiology and must be managed by application of these basic principles. I might point out that the new section on immunologic disorders makes a commendable start in this direction and the chapter on medical genetics does this particularly well. Further supplementation of the already excellent tables and graphs would allow the presentation with increased clarity of much valuable data now contained in the text.

In summary, this volume has many great strengths that, I believe, make it a particularly valuable fixture of any physician's desk. It is unusually comprehensive and up to date with superbly well chosen references to reward the more inquisitive reader. However, in my opinion it will not be a complete work until it is given a sound mechanistic basis in critical areas, as I have tried to indicate. This task should be well within the impressive talents of the book's creators.

DONALD WRIGHT  
Endocrinology Division  
Department of Medicine  
Albany Medical College  
Albany, New York

### BOOKS RECEIVED

- Cephalosporins And Penicillins.** Chemistry and Biology. E. H. Flynn. Academic Press, New York. 1972. 752 pages. \$25.00.
- Role Of Membranes In Metabolic Regulation.** M. A. Mehlman, R. W. H. Hanson, editors. Academic Press, New York. 1972. 427 pages. \$12.50.
- Fetal Pharmacology.** L. O. Boreus, editor. Raven Press, New York. 1973. 487 pages. \$21.50.
- Spontaneous Hypertension: Its Pathogenesis And Complications.** K. Okamoto, editor. Springer-Verlag, New York. 1972. 266 pages. \$24.80.
- Modern Inhalation Anesthetics.** Maynard B. Chenoweth, editor. Springer-Verlag, New York and Berlin. 1972. 591 pages. \$62.80.
- Advances In Cyclic Nucleotide Research, Vol. 1—Physiology and Pharmacology of Cyclic AMP.** P. Greengard, R. Paoletti, and G. A. Robison, editors. Raven Press, New York. 1972. 610 pages. \$29.50.
- Advances In Cyclic Nucleotide Research, Vol. 2—New Assay Methods for Cyclic Nucleotides.** P. Greengard, R. Paoletti, and G. A. Robison, editors. Raven Press, New York. 1972. 144 pages. \$12.50.
- Metabolic Transport.** Lowell E. Hokin, editor. Academic Press, New York. 1972. 704 pages. \$35.00.