

Book Reviews

CHARLES S. DAVIDSON, EDITOR

Books reviewed may relate to the liver indirectly as, for example, those concerning biochemistry or molecular biology, in addition to those specifically hepatological in orientation. Some reviews will be in depth, others "Briefly Noted". Books received but not reviewed will be listed from time to time as a "thank you" to the publishers.

The Liver Annual/4. Edited by I. M. Arias, M. Frenkel and J. H. P. Wilson. 511 pp. + xii. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1984. \$70.00.

Actually, *The Liver Annual/4* is an updated version of progress in liver diseases, both basic and clinical. It comprises 13 chapters by eminent authorities who admirably maintain the high standard of previous editions. Zuckerman, in his chapter on viral hepatitis, calls attention to the fact that from observations reported so far, the epidemic form of non-A, non-B hepatitis is caused by a distinct virus or viruses behaving like hepatitis A and that chronic liver disease related to hepatitis B virus can occur in the absence of serological markers of infection as demonstrated by the presence of hepatitis B surface and core antigens in the liver of some such patients. Infection with B hepatitis virus is a frequent event in patients with alcoholic liver disease.

In an excellent review of portal hypertension, Telfer Reynolds points out the waning enthusiasm for portal-systemic shunt surgery and the increasing enthusiasm for endoscopic sclerotherapy for variceal hemorrhage with further evaluation required to compare the efficacy of paravariceal and intravariceal injection. The value of propranolol in diminishing the incidence of variceal bleeding also requires further evaluation.

Important excerpts can be made from remaining chapters depending on the reviewer's main interests. All in all, the book belongs in all medical libraries and should prove a boon to those particularly interested in liver disease.

LEON SCHIFF
University of Miami

Alcoholic Liver Disease: Pathobiology, Epidemiology, and Clinical Aspects. Edited by Pauline Hall. 352 pp. London: Edward Arnold, 1985.

This short but potent book consists of 14 chapters, each reviewing a very specific area divided into Pathobiology (4 chapters), Epidemiology (6 chapters) and clinical

aspects (4 chapters). Half of the authors are not commonly featured in writings on this subject and present a fresh point of view. In the pathogenesis, a thorough and provocative chapter from the pathological evidence by Pauline Hall and a review of the immunological changes by Roderick N. M. MacSween and Robert S. Anthony are both valuable and provide a great deal of information not available in other reviews. The section on epidemiology covers patterns of alcohol beverage consumption, liver disease prevalence, clinical presentations and other factors such as hepatitis B in major regions of the world. Articles from Australia, Continental Europe, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States are presented, and the differences from one region to another are both interesting and informative. Thus, classical alcoholic hepatitis is uncommon in parts of Europe and Japan. Some of the papers present data on prognostic factors, etiological relationship to drinking habits and the effect of economic changes on alcohol consumption and choice of beverage; these papers contain a wealth of information differing between countries. One wishes there were more information on the socialist countries, for the alcohol consumption in them seems the highest in any population. Clinical aspects cover clinical features, rational management, treatment of alcoholism and prevention of alcoholic liver disease. Each presentation is good.

This book is the best single source of the current status of alcoholic liver disease that I have seen. The facets are covered in detail, are amply referenced with an extensive bibliography, avoid substantial overlap and read rather well. The illustrations are clear, there are many tables and line drawings and the majority of the papers are presented specifically for this text and are not rewrites of multipublished presentations as often dominates this field. The book is highly recommended to all medical libraries. It is a welcome addition to the literature of alcoholic liver disease.

FRANK L. IBER
Baltimore VA Hospital

Hepatology: A Festschrift for Hans Popper. Edited by Harold Brunner and Heribert Thaler (Falk Symposium No. 39). 382 pp. + xix. New York: Raven Press, 1985.

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the Falk Symposium in October, 1983 will agree that it was a memorable, stimulating and altogether happy occasion.