

HARADA, M. AND HORIGUCHI, G.: *Bone and nutrition: experimental studies on changes of bone and bone marrow in hypoproteinemia*. Wakayama Med. Reports, 2, 1, May 1954, 7.

Hypoproteinemia was produced in rabbits by both of two methods—low protein diet and daily bleeding.

A marked fall in serum protein levels occurred in the feeding experiments but not in those rabbits which were bled. Bleeding stimulated the bone marrow but low protein diet caused collagenous marrows. The protein-starved rabbits showed thinning of epiphyseal cartilage and trabecular atrophy. Protein metabolism appears closely related to the osteogenic mechanism.

EDITORIAL

SUBTOTAL GASTRECTOMY FOR PEPTIC ULCER

Possibly all will agree that in persons under 50 years of age suffering from peptic ulcer which does not respond to ordinary medical treatment, the operation of subtotal gastrectomy has proved to be, on the whole, a quick and ready solution to the problem. Yet the high incidence of recurring (stomal) ulcer, the limited capacity of the stomach to hold food, the "dumping" syndrome and the not uncommon interference with general nutrition due to faulty absorption of vitamins, iron, fats and proteins, give rise to the serious question as to whether or not this mutilating operation actually is justifiable. In women, particularly, severe iron-deficiency anemia is prone to develop, requiring continued treatment. Neither has sufficient emphasis been placed upon the rather high incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis following the operation. This point was recently emphasized by Anderson, Gunn and Watt (1) who, following a series of 481 partial gastrectomies, found 16 persons developing tuberculosis, half of whom succumbed to the disease.

It is the internist, in particular, who ordinarily has

to deal with the unfavorable after-effects of the operation and many internists have become seriously impressed with the apparent fact that this operation not only frequently fails to cure the ulcer tendency, but often gives rise to the unfortunate effects just mentioned. There may eventually be a partial return to the less mutilating operation of gastro-jejunosomy with (or without) vagotomy.

The ungarnished truth is that as yet no cure for peptic ulcer really exists. Some cases respond well to medical regimes but tend to recur. We have a feeling that certain emotional characteristics of the ulcer people actually represent the fundamental stumbling block to the success of any form of treatment. It is not easy to alter human personality or rearrange the standard of values or the emotional reactions to ordinary events and interpersonal relationships. We suspect, however, that some form of psychotherapy will ultimately be found which may so change the individuals, even to the depths of their personalities, that the ulcer tendency may be permanently removed.

Anderson, C. D., Gunn, R. T. S., and Watt, J. D.: *Brit. Med. J.*, Feb. 26, 1955, 508.

BOOK REVIEWS

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF INTERNAL DISEASES: CLINICAL ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS OF SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS ON PATHOLOGICAL BASIS. Julius Bauer, M. D., F.A.C.P., Grune and Stratton, New York. 1955. \$15.00.

There is no question that Bauer has written an interesting and useful book. The approach to differential diagnosis is by (a) Leading symptoms and (2) Leading signs. In both sections of the book a given symptom or sign is analyzed with respect to the over-all clinical picture. The volume will serve the purpose of reminding the practicing physician of many things he has probably forgotten. It will serve as a valuable hand-book for current study when any group of signs or symptoms is met clinically that does not at once make sense. It would be difficult to see how a better treatise could have been written on diagnosis in 1,000 pages. Naturally, this is not a systematic practice of medicine and treatment has had to be omitted.

THE CARE OF YOUR SKIN. Herbert Lawrence, M. D., Little, Brown and Company, Boston, May 1955, \$2.50.

This is a special book, written for the laity, and dealing with the treatment of acne. A perusal of the volume suggests that it would be a safe and satisfactory one to hand to a patient suffering from this disturbing disease. Doctors desiring to have a supply may obtain the same at bookseller's discounts from the publishers.

MEDICAL PROGRESS. (A REVIEW OF MEDICAL ADVANCES DURING 1954). Morris Fishbein, M.D., Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York 1955, \$5.00.

The present is the third in a series of annual volumes of unusual value, because only what is regarded as *actual progress* is given space. In this way, these books