

Book Reviews

The Modern Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus Including Practical Procedures and Precautionary Measures. By William S. Collens, B.S., M.D. and Louis C. Boas, A.B., M.D. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas, 1946.

Today it is not an easy task to write a book on the treatment of diabetes as there is so much about the etiology, pathology, treatment and complications that is controversial. The authors make that admission in the chapter on the Juvenile Diabetic when they say — "That there exists today no uniformity in the treatment of the Juvenile Diabetic." This statement may be applied to almost every other phase of diabetes, and diabetic coma. Certainly no unanimity of opinion exists, and yet good results are obtained by many. Consequently, the material in this comprehensive and well written book represents chiefly the authors' clinical experience, and whether or not others in the field would accept the view points is truly a matter of doubt. That does not seem to be the authors' concern, they merely go on presenting their work, and, no doubt if one follows the text closely he will treat a diabetic satisfactorily. This is the book's objective. However, the goal of any text is not so much the treatment of the disorder but the optimum treatment in the broadest sense of the word. Here the book does not render the best service, because some of the diet and insulin instructions are a bit complicated, formal and difficult to apply. Also, the authors make statements of opinion and belief with equal emphasis as they do facts, thus misleading the physician as to what is definitely known and what is conjectural.

In the chapter on Diagnosis there is an unfortunate

typographical error which states that the peak of the glucose tolerance curve should be no higher than 108 mg. per cent, and in all probability the authors meant that the blood sugar should not rise above 180 mg. per cent.

In general the book contains a good deal of excellent factual material, much of which cannot be found in standard text books on diabetes. The chapter on Avitaminosis, Vascular Diseases and Technique, are excellent, and the book will be found useful by those who accept the authors' ideas, for after all the physician's main aim is treating a diabetic satisfactorily; and with some application and study he can learn how to do that from the instructions given.

Peptic Ulcer. By I. W. Held, M.D., F.A.C.P., and A. Allen Goldbloom, M.D., F.A.C.P., pp. 382 (\$6.50), Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas, 1946.

This book portrays not only the *Diagnosis and Treatment of ulcer*, but furthermore it includes the etiology and pathology of the condition. The Bibliography is to be commended for its scope and real historical value. The chapters are well arranged, clearly written and the illustrations are excellent. The treatment consists of a modification of the Sippy method with indications for surgical intervention. Every Gastro-Enterologist appears to have his own modification, rarely any two alike.

The book should prove to be of great interest to the specialist in this field, and is recommended to the student of medicine, as well as to the general practitioner.

— H. W. Soper, M.D.

Abstracts of Current Literature

(Microfilm copies of papers may be obtained from the Medicofilm Service of the Army Medical Library at 25c per each complete article, not exceeding 25 pages in length—and 10c for each additional 10 pages or fraction thereof. Prepayment is not requested. Remittances may be made with subsequent orders and in such manner as found most convenient. Address—Medicofilm Service, Army Medical Library, Washington, D. C.)

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ALWALL, N.: *Hereditary nonhemolytic bilirubinemia*. (*Acta Med. Scand.*, v. 123, p. 560, 1946).

The subjects had an icterus without evidence of hemolytic anemia, biliary obstruction or abnormal liver biopsy specimens. The van den Bergh reaction was delayed direct and the urine bilirubinogen test was often positive. This type of bilirubinemia is probably hered-

itary and non-hemolytic and is more common than hitherto believed.

BANTELS, C. D. AND MANICUS-HANSEN, E.: *Ten years of serum therapy in appendicitis*. (*Acta Chirurg. Scand.*, v. 92, p. 1, 1945).

From 1921 to 1930 operations for acute appendicitis