

Hormones in Blood: Edited by C. H. Gray and A. L. Bacharach. Academic Press, New York, 1961, pp. xviii + 655, \$20.

INVESTIGATIONS relating to the hormonal regulation of biological processes invariably require specific analytical procedures permitting determination of active substances in their native environment. The objective of "Hormones in Blood" to provide current, detailed information and critical analyses of available techniques for the determination of blood-borne hormones has been excellently fulfilled by all contributors. The text of each chapter also provides pertinent information regarding the chemistry, synthesis, storage, metabolism, and blood levels in normal and disease states of every major hormone, including neurohormones. Generally speaking, the organization of this volume is extraordinary, providing ready access to a vast quantity of data.

The introductory chapter is especially appealing since it brings the conflict between bioassay and chemical analysis into a proper evolutionary perspective. A vital role is thus assigned to bioassay procedures, particularly in measuring levels of hormones comprised of polypeptides and proteins. In a sense, the unequivocal superiority of chemical analyses has been questioned from a purely intellectual vantage point. Indeed, one cannot help but wonder whether H. H. Dale's comment that "the best bioassay is one that is no longer necessary" will ever come to fruition.

It is apparent that this book will prove of inestimable value to all workers investigating hormonal phenomena, regardless of their specific discipline.

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Annual Review of Pharmacology: vol. 2 (April 1962); pp. 477, incl. author and subject indices. Annual Reviews Inc., 231 Grant Avenue, Palo Alto, Calif., \$7.00.

THIS is the second volume of this series and it follows the well known pattern established for the sister sciences of pharmacology in "Annual Reviews". While Chauncey D. Leake contributes a "Review of Reviews" as a concluding chapter for the present volume, in general it is unprofitable to attempt a specific review of such a book. Topics include discussions of biochemical mechanisms of drug action, absorption, and excretion; parasite chemotherapy; renal and cardiovascular pharmacology; and effects of drugs on the autonomic and central nervous systems. In addition, three chapters are devoted to highlights of pharmacology in India, China, and middle Europe.

The contributors have referred to a great deal of pertinent work in their respective fields and have been surprisingly successful in retaining coherency and fluency. The achievement of these objectives in a short monograph based on an extensive bibliography is no easy task. As with other Annual Reviews the reader is assumed to be generally familiar with the background of the subject. In a rapidly advancing science such as pharmacology the book fills a real need which is not duplicated elsewhere.

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