

Book Reviews

Renal Transport of Organic Substances. Eds: R. Greger, F. Lang, S. Silbernagl. approx. 34.50 \$, DM 74,—. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York 1981, 314 pp

The editors have set out to review the current state of knowledge and understanding of renal tubular physiology with special reference to organic molecules. The chapters by individual authors are well planned and there is a logical progression of subjects with little repetition.

There is an introductory section covering various aspects of tubular metabolism, structure and function, with good chapters by Windhager reviewing the experimental methods used to study renal tubular function, and Frömter, the driving forces behind transmembranous transport. Thereafter, the transport of individual organic substances, including drugs, is described. Each separate chapter is laid out so that a summary of previous work is given with extensive references, and newer information is critically reviewed.

All these chapters are well constructed, but particularly enjoyable are the reviews of renal glutamine and ammonia handling by Ross and Lowry, amino acid and oligopeptide transport by Silbernagl and the renal handling of urate and oxalate by Lang and Greger respectively.

This book achieves its purpose of giving a well referenced, informative, critical review of tubular transport of organic substances. Its appeal to nephrologists is obvious, but it will also interest urologists who seek a reference to current thinking on this subject.

The Editors

The Ureter, 2nd Edition. Ed.: H. Bergman. 760 Figures, DM 173,—, \$ 78.70. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York 1981, 780 pp.

It is a measure of the expansion of interest in the ureter that "The Ureter" has come to a second edition so soon. The new edition has 35 chapters from 52 contributors, all but one being American, and it runs to almost 800 pages. It is well produced, attractively laid out

and, for this sort of book not unduly expensive. Being a multi-author book it is not easy to read, but my main impression is the lack of a firm editorial hand. Without this, the policy that "invited authors were given the widest latitude" results in some unjustifiable repetition of material. There are three accounts of ureteric development, two of which are entirely superfluous to the excellent opening chapter. Ureteric histology is clearly discussed in Chapter 2, but the next chapter reduplicates much of this material whilst adding little of value. Ureteric pathology is covered badly in Chapter 5, well in Chapter 10 and then partially repeated in Chapter 13. A diagram in Chapter 13 actually reappears in Chapter 15! Apart from repetition this lack of editorial firmness is manifest in other ways – is five pages on the aetiology of urinary calculus relevant in a book on the ureter? And how can eightythree pages (over 10% of the book) on radiographic examination of the ureter be justified? There is little poor quality material, although the section on ureteric physiology is a curious example of anecdotal non-information, but too much space has been allotted to information of questionable worth. For example a section on retrocaval ureter is merely a vehicle for eight case reports and two chapters on medico-legal aspects of ureteric surgery and a chapter on the preparation of the patient for operation seems overprodigal.

However, much of this book is excellent. An elegant and comprehensive discussion of the effects of drugs on the ureter, a chapter on the clinical application of hydrodynamics, an essay on radical versus conservative therapy, surveys of ureteric endoscopy, replacement, splinting and auto-transplantation and a gem on obstruction at the ureteropelvic junction all reward the reader. The bibliography is encyclopaedic and covers British as well as American literature, a point of great value to the researcher.

The foreword to this book suggests that it is a portable minilibrary of essays which is essential reading for those undertaking urological training. With more enthusiastic use of the editorial scissors the library could have been more concise and of better value. It is a book to have in the departmental library for reference, but I would hesitate to recommend it as essential reading either to a urological trainee or a urological research worker.

The Editors

Announcements

November 17–20, 1982

Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany

Medica '82, 14. International Congress and Exhibition, Diagnostic – Therapeutic – Technical

Information: Dr. med. R.-D. Berensmann, Dt. Ges. zur Förderung der Med. Diagnostik e. V., Jahnstr. 32, D-7000 Stuttgart 70, Federal Republic of Germany

November 18–20, 1982

Bombay, India

Hormone Receptors in Growth and Reproduction

Information: Scientific Secretary B. B. Saxena, Cornell University, Medical College, 1300 York Ave., New York, NY 10021, USA

November 19, 1982

Gent, Belgium

Postgraduate Course on Urethral Reconstructive Surgery

Information: Prof. Dr. W. A. de Sy, Academical Hospital, University of Ghent, De Pintelaan 185, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

April 7–9, 1983

Vienna, Austria

9. Joint Conference of the Austrian Society for Urology and the Assembly of Urologists

Information: Prof. Dr. G. Gasser, c/o Wiener Medizinische Akademie, Alser Str. 4, A-1090, Austria, Tel.: (0222) 427165, Telegram: MEDACAD Vienna

May 20–22, 1983

Athens, Greece

Athenian Days of Urology

Main topic: "What's new in Urology", With the participation of Professors: J. M. Gil-Vernet (Barcelona), W. Gregoir (Brussels), R. Küss (Paris), F. Lund (Copenhagen), G. Mayor (Zürich) and G. Rutishauser (Basel)

Information: Prof. C. Dimopoulos, University of Athens, Urological Department, "Laikon" Hospital, Goudi, Athens, Greece. Tel.: 7 u. 80. 175