

Book Reviews

Biological Mineralization and Demineralization. Ed.: Nancollas GH (Life Sciences Research Report 23. Ed.: Bernhard S), approx. \$ 20.80. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1982, 403 pp

Dahlem Konferenzen, Berlin, was founded in 1974 and organizes workshops on topics of Life Sciences and the field of Physicochemistry. The task is to promote the interdisciplinary exchange of scientific information and ideas, to stimulate international cooperation in research, and to develop and test different models conducive to more effective scientific meetings.

The report of the workshop in Berlin 1981, October 18–23, demonstrates impressively the actual knowledge and open questions about the mechanisms of formation of minerals in biological systems, nucleation and crystal growth, and phase transformations. The workshop was concerned not only with normal and pathological mineralization in vertebrates but also with interesting problems involved in the formation of intracellular deposits of calcium oxalate in plants and the role of calcium carbonate in the formation of mollusc and avian shells. Especially emphasized were the role of matrix and the ways in which the matrix components might control mineralization. In dealing with abnormal and pathological mineralization, the workshop concentrated on urolithiasis, gout and pseudogout, and the mechanisms of dental caries formation. Directions for future research are highlighted.

This volume should especially appeal all people engaged in basic research of normal and abnormal biological mineralization and demineralization. Furthermore clinicians actively engaged in the treatment of pathological mineralization.

The Editors

Varicocele and Male Infertility Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Therapy. Eds.: Jecht EW, Zeitler E. 98 figs. Soft cover DM 98,—; approx. US \$ 45.70. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1982, 211 pp

Varicocele is found to be the causative factor in 20% of cases of male infertility. This monograph highlights the complex clinical problem by approaching it from various angles: pathophysiology, diagnosis, endocrinology, immunology and therapy.

Special attention is devoted to the identification of so-called subclinical forms of varicocele. These can only be isolated through the diagnostic use of additional apparatus. A thorough evaluation is made by Doppler examination, sonography and thermography. Percutaneous catheter phlebography will diagnose venous reflux in the internal spermatic vein in its various degrees. The frequent vascular anomalies need to be taken into consideration in the management. With the aid of phlebography one can frequently document reflux in the right spermatic vein (~70%) which generally escapes detection in a clinical examination.

In the discussion of the surgical management of varicocele special emphasis is placed upon the indispensable preoperative phlebographic assessment in recurrent cases. Particular attention is given to a discussion of non-operative forms of treatment such as sclerotherapy and embolisation of the spermatic vein. The method of transfemoral occlusion of a varicocele with a balloon catheter or spiral (Gianturco) is found to be as effective as the injection techniques; however it calls for considerable experience in angiographic procedures.

The book can be thoroughly recommended to both urologists and colleagues with a special interest in andrology. The Editors

Renal Sonography. Weil FS, Bihr E, Rohmer P, Zeltner F. 207 figs., approx. 3 tables. DM 128,—; \$ 51.20. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1981, 180 pp

This is an extremely well produced book with excellent illustrations. The Foreword suggests the book is aimed as a guide to beginners in both providing and using an ultrasound service.

The book starts with a section on the anatomy of the kidney related to the sonographic appearances, followed by a valuable section on the anatomy of the kidney as part of the retroperitoneum. This section is then followed by a brief section on technique and the different types of instrumentation available for ultrasound examination. The Introduction is followed by a series of chapters devoted to common renal problems, hydronephrosis, renal cysts, renal tumours, evaluation of tumour extension, infections and inflammatory processes. There are further sections dealing with congenital anomalies and anatomical variations, vascular lesions and the transplanted kidney, renal failure, renal trauma, adrenals, and the lower urinary tract. Interposed amongst these sections there is a chapter on differential diagnosis and diagnostic pathways.

This book is a very idiosyncratic as may be judged by the chapter titled Hunchbacks, Dwarfs and Giants, and this is reinforced by its approach seen in the chapter on Differential Diagnosis and Diagnostic Pathways. Readers in the United Kingdom will be surprised to see that these flow pathways start with the assumption that ultrasound has been performed then move on to other examinations which may include the I.V.U. This approach is entirely consistent but reflects an availability of high quality ultrasound examinations which does not exist in all countries.

The fact that the authors are French may be responsible for the charm and individuality of the syntax and the vocabulary used, although sometimes this is confusing.

This is an enjoyable book to read and those with an interest in ultrasound of the renal tract will certainly enjoy it. It is well laid out and its individual opinions are likely to be interesting contrasts to the reader's practice. It is not however an introduction to potential users of ultrasound in the renal tract unless they follow its very individual approach to the place of ultrasound in the investigation of patients with renal tract problems.

The Editors