BOOK REVIEW


This is a concise and scholarly review of metabolic bone disease from the point of view of the clinician. The text is clear and readable and is brought to life by quotations from case histories of historical interest. Metabolic bone disease can be a confusing subject: renal disease causes hyperparathyroidism and hyperparathyroidism causes renal disease; rickets due to lack of vitamin D causes aminoaciduria and primary renal diseases with aminoaciduria cause rickets; widening of osteoid seams in the bones may result from both lack of, or excess of, vitamin D: one is grateful for Dr. Fourman’s expert guidance in this jungle of cause and effect. It is at first surprising, then a pleasure, to realize that the author holds one’s attention and makes his points almost entirely without illustrations. Some may find this a drawback.

The three subdivisions of the book, cover, first, aspects of the physiology of bone and calcium metabolism, secondly, the primary disorders of bone and calcium metabolism, and thirdly, the results of renal disease upon bone and its minerals. The methods for commonly-used diagnostic tests are summarized in an appendix. Starting with any one feature, such as nephrocalcinosis or hypercalcaemia, the reader will find a useful list of differential diagnoses to guide him in further investigations. From the point of view of readers of the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, one chapter, that on the various acute and chronic articular complications of metabolic bone diseases, has yet to be written. However, that is a minor grumble. The most valuable feature of this book will be as a source of references for further reading. There are an enormous number of references (they fill 75 pages, as opposed to 206 pages of text) and the titles of articles quoted are given in full. The book can be warmly recommended.

A. ST. J. DIXON.

GAI RDNER FOUNDATION

Awards totalling $30,000 for work in arthritis and heart disease have been made during 1960 to four American and two British medical scientists.

United States of America

Dr. John H. Gibbon, Jr., Professor of Surgery and Director of Surgical Research, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, for his use of an artificial heart for the surgical correction of a heart defect in humans.

Dr. William F. Hamilton, Professor of Physiology, University of Georgia School of Medicine, for his work in the use of dyes injected into the blood stream to determine blood flow and distribution in heart disease.

Dr. Karl Meyer, Dean of Medicine, Columbia University, New York, for his contributions to modern concepts of the chemical structure and functions of the so-called binding substance of connective tissue.

Dr. Arnold R. Rich, Baxley Professor Emeritus of Pathology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, for his investigations into the allergic responses to drugs.

Great Britain

Dr. John McMichael, Professor of Medicine, University of London, for his application of the technique of cardiac catheterization.

Dr. Joshua H. Burn, retired Professor of Pharmacology, Oxford University, for contributions to knowledge of the action of drugs in cardiovascular disease.