

## Book Review

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**Progress in Hemostasis and Thrombosis**, vol. 5  
Grune & Stratton, New York 1980  
298 pp.; US\$ 39.50  
ISBN 0-8089-1220-8

'Progress in hemostasis and thrombosis' can be measured not only by the accumulation of precise data on the structure of various clotting factors but even more so, as stated by the editor of this series, by the appearance of new disciplines, 'as if from outer space'. As in previous volumes, exotic new results are counter-balanced by more down-to-earth clinical matters. To the average hematologist and clinical pathologist the following topics may come from 'outer space', at least with respect to studies of hemostasis and thrombosis: vessel proteoglycans (reviewed by *T.N. Wight*) and biologically active peptides derived from the fifth component of complement (discussed by *I.M. Goldstein and H.D. Perez*). Platelet membrane glycoproteins (reviewed by *D.R. Phillips*), fibronectin (by *D.F. Mosher*) and  $\beta$ -thromboglobulin (by *K.L. Kaplan*) already have become more familiar matters. The last three chapters on the significance of abnormal preoperative hemostatic tests (by *E.J.W. Bowie and C.A. Owen*), the anatomical basis of purpura (by *C.S. Kitchens*) and human factor XIII (by *L. Lorand, M.S. Losowsky and K. Miloszewski*) serve to up-date our clinically oriented knowledge.

Personally, I would buy the present volume because of its chapters on blood vessel constituents, histological aspects of vascular purpura and a fascinating review on factor XIII which includes an up-dated and completed bibliography on every published case report. I was equally fascinated by the scholarly review on the complement system, especially the fifth component and its de-

rivatives. This particular chapter can serve as an outstanding example demonstrating how very complex information can be successfully transmitted to the uninitiated. In this respect, the reviews on membrane glycoproteins and fibronectin, as well as predominantly technical discussions of  $\beta$ -thromboglobulin measurements in various disease states, are somewhat less complete. Thus, a short discussion of the nomenclature of membrane glycoproteins in the corresponding chapter might have been helpful. I had high expectations in approaching the clinical chapter on preoperative screening for disorders of hemostasis. Unfortunately, the authors repeat much of what they already published several years ago. Accordingly, references have been up-dated only in part. Nevertheless, I heartily agree with the authors that a careful clinical evaluation before any surgical intervention is of utmost importance. If it comes, however, to employing suitable laboratory methods, the authors simply state that 'from a medico-legal point of view, it would be wise to perform screening tests in situations in which the majority of other physicians use them' (p. 183/184).

This fifth volume of *Progress in Hemostasis and Thrombosis*, as its predecessors, has been carefully edited. Many illustrations, including a few color plates on purpura, serve to emphasize certain concepts or experimental data. Among the numerous references the few 'personal communications' might be omitted. Furthermore, historical references should be more accurate and not simply referring to a whole textbook. Despite such rather unimportant shortcomings this volume is invaluable to both clinicians and investigators. Hopefully, this outstanding series of diversified and stimulating reviews related to thrombosis and hemostasis will continue to be published!

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