

M. J. Gutmann: The Biphasic Effect of Environmental Influences on the Genesis and Course of Bronchial Asthma.

In Israel it has been observed that a considerable proportion of a previously healthy group of immigrants developed bronchial asthma in a relatively short time; it did not affect the whole ethnic group but only a part in a geographically well defined section of the country. In contrast to the age composition of asthmatics in the general population with preference of the very young ones, the age group between 20 and 30 is the most afflicted, and family involvement was very rare despite frequent intermarriages. A peculiar psychic attitude was observed symbolizing an "escapism into disease". The disease is suggestive of the "acquired" type of asthma.

Several years later it proved that this special group of immigrants almost completely integrated into the new conditions and that now their number and age composition corresponds to the asthmatics among the general population.

In contrast to this group, a remission of bronchial asthma for several years was reported in numerous inmates of concentration camps who had been suffering from asthma previously.

By use of the term "biphasic effect" the author stresses the reversed results of environmental influences on the genesis and course of bronchial asthma.

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Book Reviews-Buchbesprechungen-Livres Nouveaux

F. R. N. Gurd (Editor): Chemical Specificity in Biological Interactions. Harvard Memoirs No. 3, Academic Press, New York 1955. 234 pages. \$ 6.00.

This third volume of the "Memoirs of the Harvard University Laboratory of Physical Chemistry Related to Medicine and Public Health" is the outcome of a symposium organized by the laboratory, like previous volumes in the series ("Enzymes and Enzyme Systems, Their State in Nature" and "Blood Cells and Plasma Proteins, Their State in Nature").

The different chapters in the present volume give excellent reviews of particular fields but as a whole they do not present a sufficiently broad picture of the central theme of specificity. The articles include a general introduction by the late director of the laboratory, *E. J. Cohn*, and the following reviews: "The Effects of X-Ray and Other Radiation on Proteins and Living Tissues (by *S. Warren*), "Physical and Chemical Properties of the Steroids Related to Protein Binding" (by *R. B. Turner*), "Biochemical Problems of the Steroid Hormones" (by *T. F. Gallagher*), "Some Studies on the Active Principles of the Posterior Pituitary Gland" (by *V. du Vigneaud*), "The Influence of Ion-Exchange Chromatography upon our Concept of the Structure of Ribonucleic Acid" (by *W. E. Cohn*), "Special Problems in the Formation of Metal Complexes" (by *C. D. Coryell*), "Interactions of Metals with Small Molecules in Relation to Metal-Protein Complexes" (by *I. Schubert*), "The Specificity of Metal Complex Formation" (by *G. Schwarzenbach*) and "The Interaction of Proteins with Small Molecules and Ions" (by *G. Scatchard, W. L. Hughes Jr., F. R. N. Gurd and P. E. Wilcox*).

Adam Deutsch, Lund.

A. S. Wiener: Rh-Hr - Syllabus. Die Typen und ihre Anwendung. Übers. von *J. Lindemann*. G. Thieme, Stuttgart 1955. XII und 88 Seiten, 11 Abb., 22 Tab. DM 13,50.

Das vorliegende kleine Buch gibt einen außerordentlich klaren und erstaunlich vollständigen Überblick über das schwierige Gebiet der Serologie und Genetik der Rh-Hr-Typen, mit kurzen aber gut verständlichen methodologischen Anweisungen. Auch die Erythroblastosis foetalis, die Austauschtransfusion, die Bedeutung der hierhergehörenden Blutfaktoren bei Transfusionszwischenfällen und bei anthropologischen und gerichtsmedizinischen Untersuchungen wird besprochen. Auch die Autosensibilisierung wird kurz beleuchtet. Der Verfasser betont in seinem Vorwort, daß das vorliegende Buch als Einleitung zu seinen ausführlichen und unentbehrlichen Werken auf diesem Gebiet dienen soll. Dazu ist das Buch ausgezeichnet geeignet. Es vermittelt auch dem Nichtfachmann eine gute erste Orientierung, die das Verständnis der klinischen Literatur ermöglicht. Aus diesem Gesichtspunkt wäre es notwendig gewesen, die englische Nomenklatur (C-D-E-System) näher zu erklären und ihre Beziehung zu den amerikanischen Bezeichnungen in Form einer Tabelle klarzustellen.

Paul Kallós, Hälsingborg

H. K. Faber: The Pathogenesis of Poliomyelitis. Ch. C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. 1955. 157 pages. \$ 5.00.

This small, carefully written monograph presents the author's views on the mechanism involved by the initial viral infection and the pathways followed by the virus during invasion and excretion. He gives evidence to support his view that the virus is basically neurocytotropic and that its primary host in the living subject is the nerve cell alone. "Extraneural infection in poliomyelitis, if or when it occurs, must therefore be a late, secondary phenomenon, not a primary or early one."

This book is very worthwhile reading for those interested in poliomyelitis.

W. Kaufman, Bridgeport, Conn.

News Items - Nachrichten - Nouvelles

Change of Address

Dr. *David Harley*, Joint-Editor-in-Chief of the "International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology" is now at *144, Harley Street, London, W. 1.*

Universität Kiel

Die Medizinische Fakultät der Universität Kiel hat Dr. med. habil. *M. Werner*, Chefarzt der inneren Abteilung des Kreiskrankenhauses in Pinneberg, einen Lehrauftrag für das Gebiet der allergischen Krankheiten erteilt. Dr. *Werner* ist der zweite Lehrbeauftragte für allergische Krankheiten in Deutschland. Der Inhaber des ersten Lehrauftrages auf diesem Gebiet ist, wie erinnerlich, Prof. *K. Hansen*, Universität Hamburg.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Allergie- und Asthmaforschung

Am 21. und 22. Juni 1957 findet in *Dresden* ein *Symposium* der Gesellschaft für Allergie- und Asthmaforschung statt.