

unvermeidlichen Verzögerungen, die Literatur nur bis 1956 berücksichtigt werden konnte; es ist aber erstaunlich, dass viele Autoren die weitere Entwicklung richtig vorhersahen.

Das vorliegende Werk stellt eine wesentliche Bereicherung der auf diesem Gebiet vorhandenen Literatur dar.

H. MICHL (Wien)

Advances in Clinical Chemistry, Vol. 1, edited by H. SOBOTKA AND C. P. STEWART.
Academic Press Inc., New York, 1958, 398 pp., price \$ 10.

Contents

Plasma Iron, by W. N. M. RAMSAY

The Assessment of the Tubular Function of the Kidneys, by B. JOSEPHSON AND J. EK

Protein-Bound Iodine, by A. L. CHANEY

Blood Plasma Levels of Radioactive Iodine-131 in the Diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism, by S. SILVER

Determination of Individual Adrenocortical Steroids, by R. NEHER

The 5-Hydroxyindoles, by C. E. DALGLIESH

Paper Electrophoresis of Proteins and Protein-Bound Substances in Clinical Investigations, by J. A. OWEN

Composition of Body Fluids in Childhood, by B. JOSEPHSON

The Clinical Significance of Alterations in Transaminase Activities of Serum and Other Body Fluids, by F. WROBLEWSKI.

In most chapters chromatographic methods are discussed in relation to the topics dealt with, especially in those by NEHER and DALGLIESH. The reviewer will confine himself, however, to the chapter by OWEN (Melbourne) on the clinical application of paper electrophoresis. From a critical evaluation of about 400 papers OWEN concludes that "the diagnostic value of paper electrophoresis of serum or urinary proteins is severely limited by the occurrence of similar changes in a number of diseases", also "A normal electrophoretic pattern... does not exclude the presence of disease". These are conclusions with which the reviewer heartily agrees.

They seem, however, in some contradiction with a remark concerning the use of visual examination of the electropherograms: "... that visual inspection is subject to considerable error and therefore unsuitable for precise work or for most serial studies". For there appears no need for a greater precision in the quantitative evaluation than that of the biological variation. A large number of results for numerous diseases is well discussed, also such topics as lipids and carbohydrates and the abnormal haemoglobins etc... The review should be very valuable for clinical workers. Some illustrations of electropherograms could have increased its value as a handbook.

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