

BOOK REVIEW

ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

(BERNE, JUNE 7TH—10TH, 1960, SPONSARED BY CIBA)

PUBLISHED BY SPRINGER-VERLAG, BERLIN-GOTTINGEN. HEIDELBERG 1960.

pp. VIII + 388 AND 81 FIGURES.

The book is an outcome of a symposium organised by CIBA, Basle, at an international level. The keynote of the symposium is that thirty eight specialists from twelve different countries, working in the field of hypertension could meet and freely exchange their ideas in a cordial atmosphere. In the twenty two chapters that the book has been divided, various aspects like the theory of hypertension, its inheritance, its nature, the possible role of salt intake in its development, the renal hemodynamics, water and electrolyte excretion, adrenocortical function and the renal pressor mechanisms in experimental hypertension and the significance of hyperaldosteronuria have been dealt with. On the therapeutic side the role of salt restriction, pharmacology of new hypotensive drugs were discussed. The results of surgical therapy (sympathectomy and adrenalectomy) also formed no less important a section. The papers presented and the discussions that followed showed that how difficult it is to correlate the different factors with hypertension. At the same time it has given a problem that whether it is right to translate the results obtained by animal experiments to human pathology. Dr. Gross has correctly pointed out that, "..... to be cautious in assuming that mechanisms or changes demonstrable in this animal are of comparable importance or indeed involved at all in the human disease". He used rat as an experimental animal for his study. Nothing less has been talked about the prevention and treatment of hypertension. Review of the pharmacological work done indicate that useful progress has been done in the study of the choice of a drug for hypertension. It is indicated that in saluretics, guanethidine and bretylium one may find a important drug for the treatment of hypertension. The book is a wealth of information on the subject of essential hypertension and its therapy. The book is a valuable addition to the library.

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