

are hereditary factors subject to alterations, and may they be transmitted to offspring in the altered condition; (2) what degree of randomness may be shown to underly evolution and the alterations of hereditary factors; (3) are the acquired or the altered hereditary traits "useful" or "fit" to the organism concerned; (4) the existence of a regulating factor (mutation and selection).

The third, final part draws practical conclusions.

This book represents a serious and strict, methodical approach to a very delicate subject.

Rheumatology - An Annual Review, Vol. 2: Population Studies and Genetics

Edited by J. Rotstein (New York), S. Karger - Basel 1969. Bound volume with cover; 18 x 24 cm; vi+132 pages; 15 illustrations; 45 tables; Subject Index. Price Frs. 35.00 (US \$ 8.40).

A collection of four extensive surveys: (1) The epidemiology and genetics of rheumatoid arthritis (by J. S. Lawrence, Manchester); (2) Familial aggregation and twin studies in Still's disease (by B.M. Ansell et al, Taplow, Maidenhead); (3) Genetic polymorphism of human gammaglobulins (by E. G. Franklin and H. H. Fudenberg, New York); and (4) Blood groups and their secretion in rheumatic fever (by L. E. Glynn and E. J. Holborow, Taplow, Maidenhead).

An authoritative summarization of genetic and population aspects of rheumatic disease, including a new biochemical approach on its relations to blood groups, this book represents a source of extensive information and reference for further work.

Ergebnisse der Bluttransfusionsforschung - Volume X. (Results of Research on Blood Transfusion - Volume X.

Proceedings of the 13. *Tagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Bluttransfusion* held in Graz on May 15-18, 1968. Edited by L.P. Holländer and M. Matthes (Basel and Freiburg). Bibliotheca Haematologica, No. 32. S. Karger - Basel, New York 1969. Bound volume with cover; 18 x 24 cm; VIII+348 pages with numerous tables and illustrations. Price Frs. 79.00 (US \$ 19.00).

This book of proceedings of the 13th Meeting of the German Society for Blood Transfusion is divided into the following sections: (1) Polymorphism of plasma-proteins (genetic regulation of the biosynthesis of proteins; antigenic structure of human immunoglobulins, of lipoproteins; polymorphism of Gc-proteins, of isoenzymes; etc.); (2) Prophylaxis and therapy of the hemolytic disease (studies on the amniotic fluid; intrauterine transfusion; anti-D application; etc.); (3) Automatization and documentation in the blood transfusion center; (4) Epidemiology and prevention in blood transfusion service; (5) Acquired defects of homeostasis (troubles of coagulation, etc.).

It will certainly be of interest to hematologists, as well as to the practical doctor. Its value, however, finds some limitations in the exclusive use of the German language, in the absence of even short summaries to the numerous papers, and in the absence of a subject index.

Bradykinin and Related Kinins Cardiovascular, Biochemical and Neural Action

Edited by F. Sicuteri, M. Rocha e Silva, and Nathan Back. Plenum Press - New York and London 1970. Volume 8 in the series «Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology». Bound volume with cover; 17 x 26 cm; xxv+651 pages; numerous tables, graphs and black-and-white illustrations. Author and Subject Index. Price US \$ 27.50.

Here are the Proceedings of an International Symposium on the Cardiovascular and Neural Actions of Bradykinin and Related Kinins, held at Castel di Poggio, Fiesole (Florence), Italy, on July 21-25, 1969.

The papers presented deal with the biochemistry and the metabolism of bradykinin and its analogues; the pharmacological, biochemical and pathological significance of these chemical mediators is investigated.

The book points out the various fields of action of kinins, more particularly cardiovascular, biochemical and neural ones, but it also includes valuable information on many other related topics.