

Acknowledgements.

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BOOK REVIEW

Erkrankungen des Lymphsystems – Grundlagen, Diagnostik, Therapie
1971, 250 pp. 83 ill. DM 84,- (Baden-Baden, Brüssel: Gerhard Witzstrock)

This book is the third monograph on lymphatics, its disorders and diseases by Professor *Földi*. It summarises the up to date knowledge and experience of a quarter of a century of original clinical and experimental studies and advances by this world wide known pioneer.

The first chapters are devoted to the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the lymphatic system. New and original aspects are displayed and the many relationships of this universal circulatory organ are described, from clinical forms to the level of the electron microscope.

In a second part, the diagnostic procedures (radiological, isotopes, biopsies, pharmacodiagnostics), for lymphvessels and for lymphnodes, are demonstrated by *M. Collard*, including indications, contra-indications, results, complications.

A principal section of the book is devoted to a new chapter in medicine: the lymphostatic diseases. Formerly, lymphstasis was considered to occur only within the subcutaneous tissues of the extremities. Experimentally and clinically, the author is proving the existence of a variety of lymphostatic disorders of the central nervous system, the thoracic and abdominal organs and the clinical and physiological aspects are described.

The multiple types of lymphedema, chylous reflux and ascites, chylothorax, lymphcirculation in venous disorders, the syndrome of yellow fingernails, the diagnostic and therapeutic possibilities of thoracic duct cannulation are treated in the following chapters.

In a final, concise chapter, *M. Servelle* summarises his personal experiences in lymphatic surgery, which he claims as uniformly good.

Throughout the book, multiple tables, many instructive schematic drawings, black and white as well as colored photographs of a uniformly perfect quality, profusely illustrate and clarify the well written text.

Certainly, this book is a classic in its field.

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ABSTRACT

Mesenteric Lymphatics in Regional Enteritis

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The authors report a technique for differentiating normal bowel from that involved with regional enteritis using visualized lymphatics after injecting sky blue beneath the serosa of the bowel. The site of injection is into the normal bowel as close as possible to the diseased area.

In the normal patient, the subserosal and mesenteric lymphatics become visible immediately, and within 30 to 45 seconds the dye reaches the regional lymph nodes. In abnormal conditions, the dye forms irregular puddles and the subserosal and mesenteric lymphatics do not fill or the dye spreads in a spider-like fashion beneath the serosa, and the subserosal lymphatics will fill slowly. The injections are repeated until the first pattern is found. The repeated injections are done 6 to 8 inches proximal to the first injection. This point is used for bowel resection.

Because lymphatic obstruction seems an important factor in the pathogenesis of regional enteritis, the patency of subserosal and mesenteric lymphatics was selected as an objective means to determine normal bowel. The test has been used in 6 patients age 13 to 41. Four patients had a total of six previous operations and indications for abdominal re-examination were partial obstruction in two, enterocutaneous fistula in one, and intractable pain and diarrhea in another. The two other patients were subjected to surgery for the first time because of abdominal masses and partial intestinal obstruction. Five of the patients have been followed up for seven months to one year, four of these were asymptomatic, the fifth who had four previous operations was treated with Azathioprine because of rapid progression of the disease. He remained free of symptoms. The last patient was lost to follow up.

P. Ruben Koehler, M.D.