Two chapters deal with vitamin-hormone interrelationships. "The Effect of B Vitamins on the Endocrinologic Aspects of Reproduction" deals with experimental aspects of this complex and relatively undeveloped subject. The second of these chapters, "Nutritional Therapy of Endocrine Disturbances," attempts to apply certain laboratory observations to man. While there seems to be little doubt that there is a definite relationship between nutritional status and hormonal balance, it is difficult to evaluate the clinical claims. Some workers have been unable to confirm the widespread usefulness of this technic, as indicated in the review.

The chapter on "The Thyroid and Diabetes" presents a review of the available experimental data and discusses the practical aspects of the interactions of these glands.

Another section deals with "The Protein Anabolic Effects of Steroid Hormones." It seems well established that these substances do exert an effect on nitrogen retention and protein synthesis. Whether these interesting observations will have practical usefulness, except in certain endocrine states, seems to merit further investigation.

The final chapter describes "Methods of Bioassay of Animal Hormones" and deals especially with the anterior pituitary and adrenal cortical substances. For those attempting such determinations this chapter should prove most useful.

In general, the presentations are well chosen and carefully written, and most are critically evaluated. The defects are minor and more than compensated by the wealth of information presented.

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Medical biochemistry. (2nd ed.) Mark R. Everett. New York-London: Paul B. Hoeber, 1946. Pp. xii + 767. $7.00.

While the author's main objective in writing the first edition was to provide a readable text for medical students, the second edition "was undertaken to provide accurate modern information for students and others who regard the book as a convenient reference volume." This change in objective was effected without substantial change in the arrangement, scope, or nature of the contents.

The subject matter is arranged in an interesting, although somewhat unusual, manner. The first two chapters are devoted to acid-base relations, colloids, enzymes, and energy metabolism. Following the subject of digestion, the chemistry, metabolism, and pathology of the lipides, carbohydrates, proteins, inorganic substances, vitamins, and hormones are treated in order. The author has covered the material in these chapters in an adequate manner without making the volume encyclopedic. He has incorporated in the new edition most of the recent developments in biochemistry, such as the antibiotics, Rh factor, dicumarol, phosphorylation, etc., and has expanded such topics as anoxia, plasma proteins, vitamins, muscle diseases, hypertensive factors, and ketogenesis.

The usual historical approach characteristic of most writers in this field has intentionally been eliminated, and the author has "avoided unnecessary speculations and argumentative considerations." However, he has placed at the end of each chapter a well-arranged bibliography of selected modern reviews. Although the book contains many tables and some diagrams, it is lacking in illustrations and color plates. Generally, each topic is preceded by an interesting literary quotation. A comprehensive index and a separate index to the tables and diagrams are included.

Students and workers interested in the various aspects of biochemistry will find this book a helpful addition to their library.

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Penicillin in syphilis. Joseph Earle Moore. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1947. Pp. x + 319. (Illustrated.) $5.00.

This supplement to *The modern treatment of syphilis* which has appeared in monographic form deals with the use of penicillin, either alone or combined with other therapeutic agents, in the treatment of the various manifestations of syphilis. To those who possess or will possess the parent volume this small book will prove a welcome and valuable addition. Except for an interesting discussion of reinfection and superinfection, there is no new knowledge in this monograph concerning other forms of treatment or the fundamental biology of syphilis.

The first eight chapters are devoted to a discussion of the pharmacology, toxicity, and mechanism of the action of penicillin and to other basic considerations. The majority of these chapters, while containing much that is important and fundamental, have little worth in the practical management of the patient. To the specialist, and to the experimentalist, they are of great and long-lasting value.

The remaining chapters deal with the use of penicillin in the management of syphilis in the human being, and one small chapter is devoted to treatment with streptomycin. The material is taken largely from the reports of the many civilian clinics and laboratories and installations of the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service cooperating in the organized nationwide study of penicillin in the treatment of syphilis.

As Moore admits, much of the material presented may be outdated by the time of publication, particularly as this material applies to the treatment of the patient who has syphilis. The basic considerations remain the same, but dosage schedules are being revised constantly. It seems unfortunate, then, that only three pages are devoted to the present-day treatment of early syphilis while many more pages are used to discuss obsolete dosage schedules which, while of experimental and historical interest, are of little value in the practical management of the patient.

The knowledge to date indicates that penicillin is of value in the treatment of certain of the late forms of syphilis. Beyond that, little may be said. For this reason, the chapters on latent and cardiovascular syphilis are justifiably short. Those chapters on penicillin in neurosyphilis, prenatal syphilis, and syphilis in pregnancy are incomplete but contain many worth-while practical aspects of treatment and observation. The true status of treatment of syphilis with penicillin and concrete deductions from its use cannot be made for several or more years, as Moore has recognized in the introduction.

The bibliography is complete up to October 1946. Many important articles since that date have appeared in the more prominent medical journals, and to these the readers of this volume should have easy access.