

ter, namely by brief references to as much of the literature as possible with a minimum of interpretation or expression of an editorial position. Since there are no tabulations of data, diagrams, or formulas except in the chapter by Bronner, this is a difficult text to read and absorb. It does provide an extensive bibliography so that the reader can go to the primary sources to try to resolve the apparently contradictory results which are juxtaposed without definitive interpretation.

As is commonly the case in reviews of calcium and inorganic phosphate homeostasis, much more attention is given to calcium than to phosphate. The role of the kidney in the control of inorganic phosphate concentrations is only briefly reviewed, with no mention of the significance of defects of renal tubular reabsorption of phosphate as a major cause of hypophosphatemic rickets and osteomalacia. The more recent work on vitamin D and renal tubular reabsorption of phosphate is not included, so that the action of vitamin D on the kidney, which has now been confirmed, is left in doubt.

Bronner's chapter on calcium kinetics is a well-organized discussion which presents the physical and mathematical basis for the use of calcium isotopes in the estimation of the movement of calcium into and out of body compartments, particularly the skeleton. This technique has not been as productive in the explanation of clinical disorders of skeletal mineralization as had been hoped. In the past decade the most dramatic additions to our knowledge of the physiology of calcium and inorganic phosphate and of the control of bone mineralization have come from the more traditional biochemical and physiological investigations.

HAROLD E. HARRISON
Baltimore City Hospital,
Baltimore, Maryland

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