Book Reviews

R. Dils, J. Knudsen (Eds.): **Regulation of Fatty Acid and Glycerolipid Metabolism.** 11th Meeting Federation of European Biochemical Societies, Copenhagen 1977, Volume 46. Oxford: Pergamon Press 1978. Hardback, 120 pages, £ 9.90, US $ 17.60

In view of the importance of disturbances of lipid metabolism in uncontrolled diabetes for the origin of large vessel complications, it was a pleasure to read this volume. It reports the Session on 'Regulation of fatty acid and glycerolipid metabolism' at the FEBS Meeting in Copenhagen (1977). However, of the twelve chapters perhaps only four would be of direct interest to the diabetologist.

These are on the acute hormonal regulation of fatty acid synthesis and esterification in mammalian tissues, particularly the effects of insulin on pyruvate dehydrogenase, acetyl CoA carboxylase, and the esterification pathway in rat liver. There is a useful summary of the effects of insulin and glucagon on the short-term and long-term regulation of fatty acid synthesizing enzymes in rat liver using translational techniques to study the production of specific mRNA. Finally there are two interesting chapters on the disturbance of lipid metabolism in animal models of obesity (ob/ob mice). Many of these effects can be explained by the hyperinsulinaemia that develops in the obesity syndrome. Whether insulin resistance in the periphery or primary pancreatic abnormalities is responsible for the hyperinsulinaemia remains at present unresolved.

Thereafter there are several chapters that would be of interest to a lipid biochemist, namely on the role of lipids in membrane fusion, the conformation of phosphatidyl choline polar groups, lipid metabolism in yeast mutants, and the interaction of membrane lipids with proteins.

Although this book is not directly aimed for clinical diabetologists, there is still much of interest to be found in it.

D. J. Galton (London)

S. Baba, T. Kaneko, N. Yanaihara (Eds.): **Proinsulin, Insulin, C-Peptide.** Proceedings of the Symposium on Proinsulin, Insulin and C-Peptide, Tokushima 1978. Amsterdam-Oxford: Excerpta Medica 1979. Hardback, 468 pages, US $ 80.50

This is an informative series of papers from a symposium held in Japan in July 1978. The subjects extend from molecular biology of proinsulin synthesis, to chemical and physical characteristics of the molecules, mechanisms and control of secretion, and biological effects of insulin, clinical studies measuring C-peptide and proinsulin secretion in physiological investigations and in diabetes, new methods of isulin administration and insulin derivatives, animal and human islet tumours, insulin-like growth factors and pancreatic polypeptide. Forty five of the fifty eight papers are from Japan, demonstrating the considerable research interest in diabetes and insulin metabolism, ranging from chemists such as Dr Yanaihara, to clinical researchers such as Dr Kuzuya. The proceedings also include papers from invited speakers from Europe and the USA who have made particular contributions to this field. Many of the papers provide excellent summaries up to 1978.

R. C. Turner (Oxford)

Erratum

Diabetologia, Volume 18, No. 4 (April)/1980, Pages 323–328;
Paper: Whittaker/Taylor "Direct Effects of Rat Growth Hormone on Rat Islets of Langerhans in Tissue Culture".

On page 324 of the above mentioned paper, lines 5–8 of the 1st paragraph in the left-hand column were not printed correctly, due to a technical error. They should read: (Rat Pituitary Hormone Distribution Programme), Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A., and was reported to have a GH activity of 0,9 IU/mg in the hypophysectomised female rat body weight gain assay. The hormone was dissolved in 0.154 mol/l saline, sterilized .....