

Diabetic Angiopathy. J. E. Tooke (ed), Arnold (Co-published in the USA by Oxford University Press Inc., New York, 1999), £ 75.

It was a pleasure to read and be allowed to review this excellent book of 300 pages. The book is divided into four parts: background, pathogenesis of arterial disease in diabetes, pathogenesis of diabetic microangiopathy and organ specific vascular changes. There are 25 contributors including a delightful introduction by H. Keen which ends by stating that "the contributors provide an expert and detailed map of our knowledge to date and guidelines to the interesting and important areas of developing thought and experiment for those who travel this road". The book, of course, is affected by delays between completion of chapters and publication, and it is frustrating at times to enjoy a chapter which includes 1999 references and then skip to another chapter for expansion of a specific point, only to find that this chapter has either no references past 1996 or more usually, 1997.

The chapters are very well written and edited. Some chapters have been written by well known experts in the field and some by authors who, although they have contributed very little to the literature, obviously have a broad and in-depth knowledge of their subject. Some chapters give very balanced

overviews of their subject keeping speculation as to what might be our final understanding of the subject to a minimum, while others go to great lengths to persuade us of the validity of their particular hypothesis. This variety holds the reader's attention and interest.

It is difficult to pick out particular chapters for criticism, as this would reflect my own personal interest, but I would certainly recommend the chapter on insulin resistance and arterial disease in diabetes by J. Yudkin and the chapter on pathophysiological framework for the pathogenesis of microangiopathy by the editor. It is difficult for me, however, to stop there as all the chapters were of much interest to me personally. Some chapters have excellent diagrams which I am sure will travel with many lecturers. The references are very extensive and well chosen.

I would strongly recommend this book not only to the practising physician who wishes to refresh his background knowledge prior to analysing recent publications but also to the PhD and MD student who is starting a career in diabetes care and is confronted with the appalling vascular complications of diabetes.

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