
BOOK REVIEWS

Blood Vessels and Lymphatics in Organ Systems edited by David I Abramson and Philip B Dobrin, Academic Press Inc, Orlando, Florida 33887, USA, 1984, pp. 721 + xx. Price \$89.00, £69.00.

This volume deals with both the general and the specific characteristics of blood vessels and lymphatics in organ systems, including such rarely described vascular networks as those in pineal, parathyroids, pancreas, adrenals, adipose tissue and special senses. Also the newly recognised functions of vascular endothelium are given special emphasis. Although the volume is intended as an advanced treatise, it does not present the exhaustive detailed information required by the specialist in any given field. Instead, it provides a structured, multidisciplinary approach to the broad field of vascular science, emphasizing both established and recent concepts.

The volume is divided into two major areas. The first consisting of four chapters, is devoted to general aspects of the arteries, veins, microcirculation and lymphatic channels. 'Morphologic and biochemical aspects of arteries and veins' deals with the structure of major arteries and veins and emphasizes both the similarities and distinctive differences between them. The section on 'Endothelium' highlights the recent findings that in addition to its acknowledged permeability and non thrombogenic functions, the vascular endothelium is an important synthetic site for many substances influencing the biology of the vessel wall.

Like all muscle types, vascular smooth muscle requires chemical energy to perform mechanical work. The processes involved in such energy transduction, the mechanical behaviour of relaxed and contracted blood vessels, the basic principles of hemodynamics used to study events in large arteries are presented in various chapters.

The second and the main segment, which is made up of seventeen chapters deals with the embryologic, morphologic, pathophysiologic and pathologic characteristics of blood and lymph circulation in each of the important organ systems.

In addition to orthodox concepts, promising, innovative and provocative but still unproved view points are presented. Attention is directed to future areas of investigation.

The volume will be of value to the graduate students and to the advanced research worker or clinician

seeking sources of information on recent advances in the diverse aspects of cardiovascular science.

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Indian Geoscience Abstracts (1975) Compiled by S. K. Kapoor, D. P. Singh, and D. K. Nag (published by Director General, Geological Survey of India, 27 Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta 700 016) 1984, pp. x + 327, Price : Rs. 36.55 (India), Foreign: £3.57, or \$11.00.

The *Indian Geoscience Abstracts* contains an annual collection of abstracts of earth science literature of India, appearing in journals, proceedings of seminars and conferences and similar publications, both of Indian and foreign origin. Articles of general nature of Indian earth scientists are also included. The publication appears in two sections: (a) Abstracts section arranged in 22 broad subject groups, (b) Index section, comprising a subject index containing three-level indexing terms set arranged alphabetically and an alphabetic author index. In subject index, an entry contains a set of three index terms and has the form:

Level one term – level two term
level three term/title/citation number.
