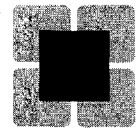

HERBERT P. WIEDEMANN, MD, EDITOR

HYPERTENSION RESEARCH: A MEMOIR 1920–1960

by Irvine H. Page
Pergamon Press

Irvine Page, MD, a pioneer in hypertension and director of research at the Cleveland Clinic for 21 years, has recorded for posterity "the flavor of a vigorous and highly successful era of scientific endeavor worthy of the best traditions of medicine." I highly recommend this book—for students considering a career in the sciences, for practicing physicians who should be aware of the people who have made important contributions in hypertension and influenced present-day diagnosis and management practices, and for researchers who may or may not know the problems of the developmental years of hypertension research.

The book is organized around Dr. Page's active years in research, between 1920 and 1960, when the field was "seeded and developed." The book deals with five distinct areas, although not necessarily in chronological order:

1. The early years, when hypertension was not even considered a disease and its magnitude and significance were completely unknown,
2. The people, most of whom were personally known to the author, who have contributed significantly to our present understanding of hypertension,
3. Important organizations that specialized in promoting hypertension,
4. Theories concerning the mechanisms of hypertension and the hemodynamic-neurohumoral linkages discovered during that era, and
5. The changes in treatment modalities over the past 65 years.

In the epilogue, Dr. Page compares the state of affairs as he sees it then and now. He bemoans the chaotic and hurried nature of present research and advises order and restraint to maintain standards of excellence.

Some readers may disagree with parts of this book. As the author admits, this is not "a balanced history of hypertension research," but a "memoir of his experiences, impressions, and perhaps unintended biases." Despite this shortcoming, the book is well worth reading, especially for those starting research in the cardiovascular field. The young investigator's time will be well invested by taking a fresh look at the people and the influences that have helped mold our understanding of hypertension. Perhaps by looking back, in the words of the author himself, today's researchers will "better understand the present and the future."

Dr. Page retired in 1967, internationally known for his work in hypertension, arteriosclerosis, and chemistry of the brain. His many awards include the Lasker, Phillips, Gould, Cornell, and Gairdner awards, as well as the Gold Heart of the American Heart Association and the Distinguished Service Award of the American Medical Association. The citation accompanying the Stouffer Prize, awarded in 1970, read: " . . . for his early recognition that hypertension is a disease and one amenable to treatment, leading him to achieve the first reversal of malignant hypertension; for his major role in the discovery of angiotensin and serotonin; for his many brilliant and imaginative studies clarifying the role of neuroendocrine systems in hypertension; for developing the thesis that hypertension is a disease of biological regulation dependent upon a complex mosaic of individual and interacting mechanisms. And not least, for his unparalleled statesmanship in medical science."

We owe Dr. Irvine Page a debt of gratitude for sharing his memoir with us.

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VASOPRESSION: CELLULAR AND INTEGRATIVE FUNCTIONS

by Allen W. Cowley, Jr., Jean-François Liard, and Dennis A. Ausiello
Raven Press

This book represents a compilation of presentations from the Second International Vasopressin Conference held at Smugglers' Notch, Vermont, in August 1987. For those with a serious interest in the field of vasopressin research, this volume should serve as a valuable reference source.

For a hormone system recognized some 50 years ago, it is intriguing to note the tremendous current research interest in its diverse physiologic functions and actions

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in animals and man. The availability of methods to accurately measure circulating levels of vasopressin has enabled progressive research and increased understanding of the many interactions and effects of this hormone in both normal and varied pathologic states.

Chapters deal with vasopressin receptor actions, effects on the kidney, and fluid-electrolyte disorders. Mechanisms of vasopressin release and actions in the central nervous system are addressed, as well as effects on cardiovascular function in animals and man.

The interdependence of vasopressin and other neurohormonal systems and the use of molecular techniques to evaluate vasopressin gene regulation raise many questions for future research. This volume will be of interest to any researcher or clinician with an interest in hormonal regulatory systems and their interactions.

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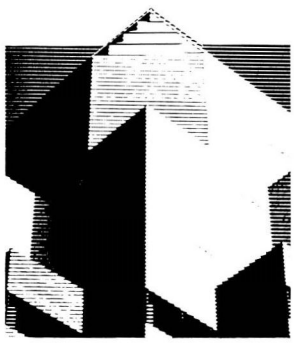

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