

## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Malabsorption Syndromes.** WILLIAM W. SHINGLETON and WILLIAM B. DOBBINS III, with foreword by JULIAN M. RUFFIN. American Lectures in Living Chemistry, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1968, 165 pp., illus., \$7.50.

This book provides concise information about intestinal malabsorption. It is aimed at the practicing surgeon, internist, or gastroenterologist with the purpose of telling him what he needs to know in order to define and manage diseases characterized by intestinal malabsorption. This very readable book fulfills its aim very satisfactorily. Extensive bibliographies simplify exploration of specific facets in more detail, but the book itself will meet most practical needs.

Although the book is generally well written, it has more than its share of typographical errors, a few mistakes, and a few sections that appear hurriedly written. For example, on page 56, in discussing the dumping syndrome, the authors state that "Glaessner reported in 1940 on *hypoglycemic* shock in nine patients with dumping symptoms." Glaessner actually proposed a concept of *hyperglycemic* shock, a concept which has never been accepted by others. It was 1947 before Gilbert, Dunlop, Addersberg, and Hammaschlag described the late hypoglycemic component of the dumping syndrome. In the discussion of iron absorption, the recent work showing the control of iron absorption as a mechanism for iron homeostasis is ignored. The section on pancreatic physiology is also weak.

In general, the bibliographies are up-to-date and highly satisfactory. However, those for the sections on iron absorption, pancreatic physiology, and pancreatic insufficiency are not current, and omit important new concepts. Some references, for instance 20 and 21 for Chapter 6, are incorrectly cited.

In spite of these typographical and factual errors, this fine collaboration between a surgeon and a gastroenterologic internist, both well-established investigators in the field, will meet the needs of the practicing surgeon, internist, or gastroenterologist who wishes to have an adequate store of practical knowledge.

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