BOOK REVIEW

International Symposium on Mammary Cancer.


This volume consists of 87 papers on mammary cancer and closely related topics contributed by representatives of eighteen countries in five continents in the old Italian hill town, Perugia.

In his characteristically wise and felicitous manner, the opening speaker, Alexander Haddow, pointed out that Tintoretto depicted the female breast as the source and origin of the Milky Way and that, in the same way, the breast can be regarded as the fountain of cancer lore. Its physiology and pathology embrace every aspect of oncology as in a microcosm. The discussions at the Conference included both clinical and laboratory studies of cancer of the breast and revealed the intense activity in many laboratories throughout the world to understand and to control this noble and fascinating neoplasm.

It is obviously impossible even to summarize the wealth of new material contained in this volume. There is a fascinating paper by Oettl and Higginson on the incidence of mammary cancer in the Bantu which revealed a high incidence of gynecomastia in the Bantu male, its lack of influence on male mammary cancer, and the relatively low incidence of cancer of the breast in the female. Bielschowsky described his new NZY strain of mice with pituitary enlargement leading to the stimulation of luteotrophin-producing tumors and to mammary cancer; gonadectomy reduced the incidence both of mammary tumors and of pituitary enlargement. Foulds, and George and Eva Klein discuss dependency and progression in experimental mammary cancer. O.) lists some similarities and differences in human and murine mammary cancer. In a masterful way Illingworth summarizes the endocrine treatment of clinical mammary cancer. These are only a few of the interesting topics.

All workers in the field of mammary cancer are indebted to the University of Perugia and to Professor Lucio Severi for publishing this important volume which is a gold mine of information about cancer.

CHARLES HUGGINS
Dept. of Surgery
University of Chicago

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