

diabetes in developing countries and migrant populations is addressed in the first chapter. The great majority of new cases of diabetes in the next 10 years are projected to occur in these groups. Thus, it is particularly important to consider how to prevent diabetes in these populations.

Considering the epidemiological data pointing to large increases in type 2 diabetes in the next decade and the rapid advances that have been made in understanding the genetic basis and pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes in the past decade, a comprehensive review of the potential for preventing diabetes is indeed timely. The editor has assembled an outstanding roster of contributors and has integrated diverse topics such as the molecular genetics and primary prevention of diabetes in a concise, readable whole which I highly recommend for readers with an interest in the area. For clinicians and others who care for persons with diabetes or who are at risk for diabetes, this book provides an up-to-date review. In addition, it will serve as a valuable resource for anyone planning or implementing primary prevention programmes. Because of the importance of nutrition and obesity in the development of diabetes and because of the broad scope of this book, it will be of particular interest to readers of the *British Journal of Nutrition*.

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*Regulation of Feed Intake*. D. van der Heide, E. A. Huisman, E. Kanis, J. W. M. Osse and M. W. A. Verstegen (editors). Wallingford: CABI Publishing, 1999. Pp. 232. £45 ISBN 0 85199 361 3

This book stems from the 5th Zodiac Symposium on the Regulation of Feed Intake, held in April 1998 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. My understanding is that both invited and original communications were presented at the Symposium, and that most of the presentations have resulted in chapters of this book. At first glance, it is rather difficult to distinguish which chapter falls into which category, and it is very hard to find a rationale for the order of the presentation of the chapters. As the book is divided into three broad parts, my expectation would have been that the review (invited papers) should set the tone and that the original communications follow them in each relevant part. However, this is not the case and as a result I found the structure of the book unsympathetic to the reader.

There are six review chapters that have resulted from the invited presentations, and nineteen from original communications. The latter are each, on average, three to four pages long and my expectation is therefore that most of them will appear in the future as fully refereed papers. For this reason I do not intend to review them individually. My general comment on them is that the vast majority deal with the regulation of food intake in ruminant animals. This to me is a clear reflection of the importance of the topic and the fact that many issues associated with it and its prediction are still unresolved in relation to these animals.

The existence of only six review chapters makes this book rather lightweight. This is not a reflection on the quality of these chapters, but of the rather narrow range they cover. Chapter 1 by Forbes, 'Natural Feeding Behaviour and Feed Selection' is a general introduction to the subject that sets out very nicely the scene for the chapters that follow. Chapter 4 by Steffens and Benthem is a very comprehensive qualitative review entitled 'Central Nervous Control of Nutrient Availability and Utilisation'. As most, if not all, of the information presented in it derives from animals that are in a steady state (i.e. rats), I would expect it to be of less relevance to readers interested in animals that are in a dynamic state (farm animals). A significant omission from this chapter is the lack of any attempt at synthesis or consideration of how the reported findings move us towards a quantitative framework of food intake regulation. I particularly enjoyed Chapter 10 by Luiting, 'Role of Genetic Variation in Feed Intake'. It is a very clear demonstration of the need to consider food intake in a multi-disciplinary fashion. Animal physiologists tend to ignore the fact that feed intake is a reflection of the animal's genotype, and hence subject to genetic variation. I strongly urge anyone who is even remotely interested in the general field of feed intake regulation to read it. Chapters 11 and 18 deal with the regulation of food intake in ruminants and they are both very successful demonstrations of our current failure to account adequately for such animals' feed intake. Chapter 11 by Faverdin and Bareille concentrates on the food intake of ruminants on high quality foods. My only minor criticism of this otherwise excellent chapter is that it is, like Chapter 4, rather qualitative. Chapter 18 by Tolkamp is a justifiably strong criticism of the existing theories of food intake in ruminants and why they have failed us. I consider the criticism very valuable, but I would like to have seen stronger suggestions of how to move forward in this chapter. The last review is the one by Schlect *et al.* (Chapter 19) 'Influence of the Environment on the Feed Intake of Cattle'. This is perhaps the weakest of the review chapters, since it is really too general to be useful.

The preface of the book states that information from studies on man, wild birds and fish is also presented in it alongside that from farm animals. I have found very little evidence in the book to support the claim. The book focuses on farm animals and ruminants in particular, and as a result it will be of relevance to those who are interested in these species. There is no real attempt to present a comparative approach to food intake regulations, and I consider this as a missed opportunity. As mentioned earlier, this book is a little too lightweight to justify its price, and as conference proceedings it certainly does not merit a hardback edition. Its major contribution lies in the identification of shortcomings in our understanding of the regulation of food intake, rather than representing a way forward.

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