Diabetic neuropathy has only been the object of medical scientific study for the past two or three decades, yet an encyclopedia encompassing everything concerning diabetic neuropathy has already been published, thanks to F. Arnold Gries, who was able to bring together all the scientists, researchers, clinicians, diabetologists and neurologists necessary to achieve such ambitious project.

Its aim, which is also that of NEURODAIB, the diabetic neuropathy study group of the EASD (which Prof. Gries helped create and which most of the 63 authors adhere to) was to present a systematic review which covers both the physiology of the nervous system and the pathophysiology of the various forms of diabetic neuropathy.

Everything is in it from the chapters on the structure and function of the nervous system to the all-important socio-economic aspects and those on the quality of life, the epidemiology, pathophysiology and histology of diabetic neuropathy, with strong emphasis on the clinical and therapeutic aspects of this complication; as it was for a long time catalogued as “chronic” or “late” in diabetes, it in fact determines the functional and vital prognosis for a great many diabetic patients.

The work ends with the International Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of diabetic peripheral neuropathy, the result of an international consensus which furnishes the keys to “structured” care.

The difficulty of nosological classification for this pathology is well explained: this diabetic complication, which can lead to severe consequences such as myocardial ischemia or the diabetic foot syndrome, determines the quality of life and even the life expectancy of diabetic patients. We can therefore easily understand that its prevention is the major concern in the present day management of diabetes.

Each chapter is clearly presented as the writer is a “super-expert” in the subject with an impressive list of bibliographical references which inspire one to do more reading on the subject.

Considerable effort was required of the specialists in preparing this type of book. Each one wrote on his specific field of activity, while maintaining the team spirit needed for the general structure of a good “textbook”.

The texts and explanations are remarkably clear. In short, this is indispensable reading for any one who intends to specialize in diabetology, neurology or internal medicine, and a particularly useful tool for those who are already specialists.