PROLOGUE

The modern trends in the elucidation of the physiologic, pharmacologic and pathologic problems of the myocardium are to rely increasingly upon the techniques of biochemistry and biophysics. Myocardial metabolism may be simplified into the closely associated processes of:

(a) the production of energy by the breakdown of carbohydrates and lipid substrates.

(b) the utilization of energy by the interaction of the contractile proteins.

It is not yet possible to define fully, the molecular and sub-molecular events subsisting in the cardiac contraction, and therefore descriptions of the influence of various physiologic, pharmacologic and pathologic factors remain incomplete.