

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

DIABETES

On Diabetes Mellitus. Selected topics for students and clinicians. By W. P. U. Jackson, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. Pp. xvi + 393. Illustrated. \$12.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

To one who year after year has to plough through the morass of contemporary teachings and writings about diabetes, this book is particularly refreshing. The whole field is at present,

in regard to publications and thought, being pervaded by what our American colleagues call 'the cleaners'. There are so many differences in old and indeed in some recent monographs that it is not my intention to labour readers by recounting them. As I have said elsewhere, the years 1961 - 1965 may be called the 'Age of re-thinking in diabetes'. Unwittingly Dr. Jackson, in his first textbook, has appointed himself the official Sybil of this age.

In his book Dr. Jackson has accomplished the remarkable

task of presenting to the reader the discussions on and solutions to a very large number of practical problems, and at the same time he has infiltrated into his discussions an incredible amount of basic information which is presented in such a light as to be readily acceptable to any one, whether experienced diabetologists or early clinical students. The book should be in the library of every doctor in South Africa.

Diabetes is an extremely important illness: there are approximately 1,000,000 potential diabetics in the Republic and the disease involves almost every system, structure and metabolic process in the body. The publication of this comprehensive book on diabetes must therefore be looked upon as a very important event.

My warm enthusiasm for this book does not mean that I accept all the author's views uncritically. It would, however, be out of place to enlarge here on unimportant detail in the face of the great significance of the publication as a whole. Dr. Jackson has long been known to a wide circle of readers as an outstanding research worker. It is my considered opinion that the publication of this book will be an important landmark by which to gauge his growing stature.

G.D.C.

MICTURITION CYSTO-URETHROGRAPHY

Urethral Lesions in Infancy and Childhood. Studied by micturition cysto-urethrography. By E. H. Burrows, M.B., Ch.B.(Cape Town), M.Rad., D.M.R.D.(Liverpool). Pp. xi + 112. Illustrated. \$5.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

This book is based on the experience of nearly 1,000 cysto-urethrograms. It lays down guide lines for the interpretation

of the X-ray pictures obtained by taking 'spot films' in the oblique view during micturition and shows a large number of illustrative photographs. There is no doubt that this kind of new approach to examination of the lower part of the renal tract is likely to be much used in future since it is a simple procedure, requires relatively simple apparatus, is apparently usable at any age and is not dependent on the child's capacity to concentrate and excrete an opaque substance as in excretion pyelograms.

Dr. Burrows' book is very valuable as a guide on how to perform the examination and read the answers. All paediatricians and urologists will find it of great value in their work.

F.J.F.

VERTEBRAL MANIPULATION

Vertebral Manipulation. By G. D. Maitland, A.U.A. Pp. viii + 146. Illustrated. R3.75. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1964.

The author details the examination of the spine from the occiput to the sacrum. The mobilization and manipulative techniques most often used are clearly described and it is stressed that minimum force should be used to gain maximum improvement. In the final chapter of the book, treatment techniques are associated with patients' signs and symptoms rather than with diagnoses.

Mr. Maitland is a chartered physiotherapist and states that all treatments as described in his book are only carried out by physiotherapists on the referral of a doctor.

M.D.O.