

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

STUDY OF THE SPINE

Anatomico-Roentgenographic Studies of the Spine. By L. A. Hadley, M.D. Pp. ix + 545. Illustrated. \$26.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

In this superbly illustrated descriptive atlas of spinal abnormalities, over 900 radiographs are presented and correlated with illustrations of the actual anatomical condition. In many instances the gross anatomical specimen is illustrated, and in others microscopical sections, suitably enlarged, are integrated with the radiographic anatomy. The accompanying text is lucid, and after seeing the text, one finds that this is an easy way of digesting the many new facts presented, and of correlating the roentgen image with the morbid anatomy.

Over 30 years of effort went into the production of this work. In various instances serial studies of patients extending over many years are presented, showing, for instance, certain anatomical effects of trauma and their progression. What was originally intended as an atlas, developed into a comprehensive study of the spine, commencing with the embryology and congenital errors, and continuing with chapters on the spinal curvatures, intervertebral discs, vertebral arteries, changes in bone texture, spondylitis, spondylolisthesis, dysplasias, tumours, etc.

This volume can be recommended without hesitation to radiologists, neurosurgeons, orthopaedic specialists and others dealing with the spine and its abnormalities. The lucid presentation of whiplash and other spinal injuries should also be of considerable assistance to those interested in forensic medicine.

A.D.K.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

A History of Electrocardiography. By G. E. Burch, M.D. and N. P. DePasquale, M.D. Pp. 309. Illustrated. \$10.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1964.

This is more than a mere compilation of accounts of the lives and achievements of pioneer electrocardiographers: it is a critical study of developments from the early 19th century through 1901, when Einthoven developed the string galvanometer electrocardiograph, to the 1930s when Pardee, Mann, Wilson, Craib, Lewis and many others made their contributions. A pleasant feature is correspondence from still living authorities describing their purposeful or serendipitous discoveries in electro-physiology of cardiac muscle. The book is a well-illustrated, readable, lively and valuable contribution to the history of medicine.

G.A.E.

MEDIESE ILLUSTRASIES

Medical Illustration. By W. E. Loechel. Pp. xiii + 341. \$14.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Soos dit 'n boek betaam wat oor die onderwerp van mediese illustrasies handel het die uitgewer daarin geslaag om hier met 'n pragtig geïllustreerde, goedversorgde boek voor die dag te kom. Die tekeninge is verteenwoordigend van die beste kunstenaars op hierdie gebied. Nietemin belig elke tekening 'n besondere stelling wat die skrywer wil tuisbring. Die manuskrip is só geskryf dat iedereen, of hy nou 'n kunsaanleg het of nie, dit kan verstaan.

Dit is 'n boek wat met vrag gelees kan word, nie alleen deur diegene wat artikels aan 'n mediese tydskrif voorlê nie, maar ook deur lektore wat hul lesings met diagramme, kaarte en skyfies toelig. Dan bevat dit ook waardevolle wenke vir diegene wat uitstallings met 'n mediese tema reël.

In die geheel beskou ek dit as 'n baie geslaagde boek.

J.J. v. H.

RECREATION FOR THE AGED

Recreation in Gerontology. By C. Lucas, Ed.D., A.C.S.W., L.M.R.S.H. Pp. xi + 177. Illustrated. \$6.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

This is a very practical, largely matter-of-fact manual on organizing and conducting various recreational activities which have proved helpful to aged persons. The recreational programmes provided have been successfully used by volunteer workers in day-centres, clubs and institutions. Both healthy and ailing individuals were catered for, sometimes with exceptionally good results.

Methods of establishing, administering and running such centres include: the selection and function of leaders and helpers; organizing special 'programmes', e.g. trips, fashion shows, etc.; advice on the conducting of group meetings and the application of arts and crafts.

Great emphasis is laid on the necessity of keeping up good communication between the aged centre and the community. Nothing is said of individual problems and needs, nor their handling, beyond e.g. organizing a birthday party. This is a very real lacuna, in my opinion, as it is precisely the 'difficult participant' who requires skilled handling. A chapter along these lines, in future editions, could safely replace the extant chapter on 'The philosophy of recreation in gerontology'—with no philosophy, and very little gerontology.

A.H.B.