

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

BEHANDELING

The Modern Treatment Yearbook 1961. Ed. by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A., F.A.C.S. and F.R.A.C.S. Pp. ix + 310. Illustrated. R3.50 net. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1961.

Hierdie jaarlikse publikasie handhaaf sy standaard nogeens, om 'n breë oorsig te gee wat baie afdelings van medisyne

dek. Die verskillende artikels gee 'n goeie aanduiding van die nuutste behandeling, maar dit tref 'n mens dat die ou paai nog in baie opsigte as die beste geld, b.v. die oorsig in verband met aambeie. Dit tref 'n mens dat die boek, uiteraard geskryf is vir toestande in Engeland, waar, onder die Nasionale Gesondheidsdienste, die algemene praktisyn soms degenerer het tot 'n sorteer-beampte wat die pasiënte net na die regte spesialisie moet verwys, deur wie die eintlike behandeling da

onderneem word. Die boek bied vir hulle 'n goeie aanduiding wat gedoen kan word en lê die nodige klem op die ondersoekmetodes en die differensiële diagnoses.

Die hoofstuk oor stafilokokkale infeksie van die vel stel teleur, want net 'n paar antibiotikas word gemeld, en die waarde van 'n outogene vaksine word nie hoog geskat nie. Niks word gemeld van die kulture vir sensitiwiteitstoetse van die bakterieë nie, en laasgenoemde is dikwels nodig om 'n kwaadaardige stafilokokkale infeksie van die vel behoorlik te behandel.

I.S.S.

CHEMISTRY OF THE NORMAL AND THE FAILING HEART

Chemistry of Heart Failure. By William C. Holland, M.D., and Richard L. Klein, Ph.D. Pp. xiii + 116. 16 illustrations. R4.40. Springfield; Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1961.

In the foreseeable future the detailed chemistry of most biological processes, including muscle contraction, may be elucidated. But with all the chemistry known there will still be problems as to how the processes are effected and how the cellular organization is maintained.

In this monograph the authors carry the reader from the macroscopic through the microscopic, then to the molecular and submolecular level, in their attempt to explain the processes associated with contraction of the normal and the failing heart. They have introduced the concept of free energy.

A knowledge of physics and chemistry is required for the understanding of basic thermodynamic and chemical considerations of the normal and failing heart, and the latest information, supported by many references to the literature, is presented in this book. The mode of action of digitalis and the

ionic and metabolic events accompanying fibrillation are also discussed. Clinicians, cardiologists, chemists, and physicists will find valuable information in this concise monograph.

N.S.

SURGERY OF THE ANUS, RECTUM AND COLON

Surgery of the Anus, Rectum and Colon. By J. C. Goligher, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Illustrated. Pp. vii + 829. R16.80. London: Cassell, 1961.

In this well-produced and comprehensive book the anatomy is first reviewed in detail and there follow some 10 chapters on the minor ano-rectal conditions. While there must obviously be minor points of difference between surgeons here, nothing must detract from the wealth of detail and practical information so lucidly presented in this section.

In the chapters on carcinoma of the colon and rectum, Duke's superb work at St. Marks Hospital is extensively quoted, and all the problems from early diagnosis to final treatment are fully covered. Virtues of the valuable extended left hemi-colectomy and details of the technique are clearly set out. The treatment of carcinoma of the rectum in terms of sphincter-saving operations, in which Professor Goligher has extensive experience, is covered in great detail, and all the standard operations for carcinoma of the rectum are very adequately described and illustrated.

The surgical treatment of ulcerative colitis is well presented except that there is little discussion on restorative operations with avoidance of ileostomy. There is also a standard chapter on diverticulitis, stressing the case for earlier and more frequent one-stage surgery. Few surgeons in training and few young consultants, for whom this excellent book has especially been written, can afford to be without it.

A.B.