

# Book Reviews/Boekbesprekings

## Basic neurology

**Basic Neurology.** Ed. by J. Gilroy and P. L. Holliday. Pp. vii + 373. Illustrated. R27,90. London: Macmillan. 1982.

Textbooks on neurology vary from the large reference volume to the relatively short introduction to a complicated subject. Drs Gilroy and Holliday have attempted to steer a middle course by producing a compact book which will nevertheless include information on the rarer types of neurological problems which the student or trainee is

likely to encounter. Basics of neurology are contained in 2 opening chapters, the 1st on the neurological examination and the 2nd on the examination of the comatose patient. From then on the book proceeds in orderly fashion through the varieties of neurological disease and disorder and differs from some books on the subject by including a considerable amount of information on management and treatment. A lot of the information is included in useful tables, and the influence of computed axial tomography is shown by the numerous illustrations of computed tomograms. The authors have included certain key references for further reading, and the book as a whole gives promise of being popular with students and house doctors.

## Pathology of the heart

**The Pathology of the Heart.** By E. G. J. Olsen. Pp. ix + 402. Illustrated. R91,85. London: Macmillan. 1982.

This outstanding publication, written by an eminent cardiac pathologist, is now in its 2nd edition and is difficult to review without being too generous with superlatives. The author has contributed his vast experience in formulating a concise text which is surprisingly easy to read and which therefore cannot fail to captivate the reader. Beautiful and appropriate illustrations abound and the key references allow those interested to delve deeper into any specific topic. The book not only gives pathological descriptions of diseases affecting the heart, but provides lucid clinicopathological correlates which are essential to the understanding of disease, especially for the practising clinician. In addition, essential classifications are provided which are supported by aetiological concepts. Guidelines to therapeutic management, both medical and surgical, are frequently provided and make for a clearer understanding of the disease under discussion.

The work is divided into 4 parts dealing with the following: the normal heart and structural-functional changes (including degenerations and pigmentations); acquired conditions (myocardial infarction, rheumatic heart disease, infective endocarditis, myocarditis, pericarditis and pericardial effusions); congenital anomalies; miscellaneous conditions (cardiomyopathies, pulmonary hypertension, tumours of the heart and pericardium) and transplantation of the heart. A carefully constructed index proves to be a useful aid for quick localization of any specific consideration. Perhaps the most outstanding chapters are those concerning myocardial infarction, rheumatic heart disease, pulmonary hypertension, and the cardiomyopathies (Dr Olsen is currently Chairman of the Scientific Council on Cardiomyopathies of the International Society and Federation of Cardiology). Since all these diseases are rife among the various population groups of South Africa the reader will do well to get acquainted with the up-to-date knowledge provided in these chapters.

This publication can be unashamedly and highly recommended. It would seem that undergraduates and postgraduates alike, as well as paramedics, can only benefit from the clear, meticulous and stimulating presentations. The pathologist, cardiologist and physician should make every attempt to add this unique book to his or her library.

J. Przybojewski

## Disease and health care in South Africa

**Profile of Disease and Health Care in South Africa.** By H. C. J. van Rensburg and A. Mans. Pp. xvii + 319. R29,50. Pretoria: Academica Press. 1982.

This book was probably conceptualized because of the need for an authoritative publication on health data and disease epidemiology in southern Africa and it sets out to fulfil this need.

Although the tabulations and diagrams are extensive and good, the book suffers from a number of crippling disabilities: much of the data presented are out of date. Possibly more serious are the daring inferences drawn from and liberties taken with the stated data sources, some of these being presented in an emotive and unscientific style. It is a great pity that such an important contribution has been so inadequately presented.

G. S. Watermeyer

## Ambulatory medicine

**Principles of Ambulatory Medicine.** Ed. by L. R. Barker, J. R. Burton and P. D. Zieve. Pp. xiii + 1127. Illustrated. R78,-. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

Ambulatory medicine is defined as the management of patients who are neither bed-ridden nor in some kind of institution. In the USA it

is of course given not only by general practitioners but also by physicians with a postgraduate qualification in internal medicine.

The present book is a joint effort by teachers associated with Baltimore City Hospital and/or the Johns Hopkins Faculty of Medicine. They emphasize that ambulatory care differs from hospital care in three main respects: firstly, the doctor needs to know the probabilities with which disease conditions appear in the community or ethnic group, with which diagnostic tests yield correct results, and with which the disease will take a certain course. Secondly, he must realize that the patient makes most of the decisions and therefore needs education and information, and thirdly, he must involve himself much more in prevention of disease and disability.

The book starts with a refreshing chapter on general characteristics of ambulatory care, and goes on to discuss various aspects of care and its special features in different age groups (paediatrics is excluded). From there it goes on to psychiatric and behavioural problems, including the various addictions (courses to stop smoking in the USA range in cost from \$0 to \$450!), the sexual disorders, and the psychological aspects of death and dying.

The book then discusses the somatic disorders, system by system, with emphasis on commoner conditions and their management. Surgery and gynaecology are rightly allotted little space, as are selected eye and ear problems. The book ends with short sections on the skin, teeth and oral cavity, and feet.

One good feature of the book is the many helpful tables, and another is the cross-referencing to avoid unnecessary repetition. Incidentally, references at the end of each chapter are confined to a few key citations. In spite of the multitude of contributors, there is a good degree of uniformity and the book as a whole is easy to read. It is well worth considering for any family doctor's library.

## Accident surgery

**Topical Reviews in Accident Surgery,** vol. 2. Ed. by N. Tubbs and P. S. London. Pp. ix + 258. Illustrated. £18,50. London: Wright PSG. 1982.

The importance of emergency and accident medical care has only been properly realized in recent years. Two types of doctor are involved — the general practitioner and the specialist in emergency surgery. The present volume is addressed in part to both of these people. An international team of specialists has produced a remarkably lively series of reviews on selected topics, including the prevention of injury in road accidents, the resistance of the patient to injury and his acute metabolic responses, various aspects of the treatment of fractures and ligament injuries, management of high-velocity and other missile injuries, computed axial tomography scanning for head injuries and the training of the student in accidents and emergencies. All of these contributions are well worth reading and all have a practical application, even the more remote essays on changes in the immunity of the subject after injury and his acute metabolic responses.

Anyone who has to treat injuries will find something of importance in this collection of well-edited and well-illustrated essays.

## Care of the injured patient

**Early Care of the Injured Patient.** 3rd ed. Ed. by A. J. Walt, L. F. Peltier, B. A. Pruitt jun, D. D. Trunkey and R. F. Wilson. Pp. xv + 413. Illustrated. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

This book was commissioned by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons and edited by Professor Alexander Walt, with 26 other distinguished contributors. There has been a substantial revision since the 2nd edition in 1976. The 25 chapters cover all the important aspects of trauma, starting with general management, shock, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, wound care, and infection. Most of the remainder of the book is devoted to regional injuries. The therapy and operations described are evidently widely accepted in the USA.

The information on autotransfusion of blood and the use of blood components is timely. Silver sulphadiazine cream is still the preferred treatment for burns. The effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for clostridial infections is stated to be 'unproven'. There is very practical advice in the chapter on abdominal injuries, but surprisingly cholecystectomy after ligation of the hepatic artery for severe hepatic bleeding is not mentioned. Ligation of the internal iliac artery for severe pelvic bleeding is not advised. The chapter on genito-urinary injuries is lavishly illustrated. Both extra- and intra-peritoneal ruptures of the bladder are treated by closure of the rupture, cystostomy through an uninjured area of the bladder and drainage, which may be extraperitoneal drainage or by an indwelling urethral catheter. In the section on head injuries, prophylactic antibiotics are advocated for cerebrospinal fluid rhinorrhoea and otorrhea. Not all will agree that every wound of the neck which penetrates the platysma requires surgical exploration. Re-implantation of the hand, or parts thereof, is fully discussed. Approximately one-fifth of the book is devoted to fractures.

In summary, this is an excellent book, full of sound advice for practising surgeons, to whom it is wholeheartedly recommended.

A. E. Wilkinson

## Paediatric therapy

**Current Pediatric Therapy.** 10th ed. By S. S. Gellis and B. M. Kagan. Pp. xxxviii + 776. R94,25. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

The appearance of the 10th edition of *Current Pediatric Therapy* in 18 years is a tribute to the continuing editorship of Sydney S. Gellis and Benjamin M. Kagan. There are over 300 contributors, of whom I noted at least half-a-dozen ex-South Africans. The neonatal section has been quadrupled in size since the last edition, and new articles have appeared on neonatal ascites, the fetal alcohol syndrome, and preparation of the neonate for transfer between institutions. Attention has again been focused on adolescence, with new articles on sexually transmitted diseases, homosexual behaviour and the toxic shock syndrome. I was pleased to note that phimosis is regarded as normal in infants and little boys and separation of the adherent foreskin is now regarded as unnecessary before 6 - 8 years. I was astonished to find the battered child syndrome described in a single paragraph under 'Miscellaneous dermatoses', but later found a more extensive discussion under 'Child abuse and neglect'. Drug doses are sometimes given in mg/kg of body-weight and less often in mg/m<sup>2</sup> of body surface area. There is no discussion on the relative merits of the two methods. I wonder when authors will standardize on this most fundamental issue?

The 10th edition of *Current Pediatric Therapy* is full of good things and should be in every paediatrician's library.

P. Catzel

## Interventional radiology

**Selected Techniques in Interventional Radiology**, vol. 19 (Saunders Monographs in Clinical Radiology). By S. Kadir, S. L. Kaufman, K. H. Barth and R. I. White jun. Pp. xi + 216. Illustrated. R76,75. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

As expected, this book is a useful addition to the Saunders monograph series. Written by radiologists from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, it lives up to the high standards set by this institution. The book does not set out to be a comprehensive text of interventional procedures and is noticeably lacking in chapters concerning interventional urological techniques, abdominal fluid-collection drainage procedures, and the multiple and varied biopsy techniques. Comprehensive chapters concerning gastrointestinal bleeding, embolotherapy, biliary interventional procedures and transluminal angioplasty are, however, included. The text is easily readable, logically set out and enforced with relevant diagrams and pictures. It will be of interest to any doctor practising interventional radiological procedures.

E. P. Harries-Jones

## Internal medicine

**Clinical Topics in Internal Medicine.** Ed. by G. M. Tisi and H. M. Ranney. Pp. xii + 173. Illustrated. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

The medical school of the University of California at San Diego is a comparatively recent school which does not teach basic sciences separately but integrates them into the clinical course. Each year it holds a postgraduate course on current topics in internal medicine. The present volume is a selection from the lectures given, and all of the topics discussed are both timely and of considerable wide interest to doctors. In cardiology, therefore, the two advances discussed are the current status of the exercise ECG and the use of radionuclide techniques in the diagnosis of coronary heart disease, while in pulmonary disease the topics discussed are inhalation therapy and the treatment of asthma at various stages.

There are chapters on the newer antibiotics, the classification and treatment of hyperlipidaemia, thyroid studies with their use and abuse, the solution of gallstones, the management of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, primary glomerulonephritis, the laboratory diagnosis of rheumatic disease, the diagnosis and treatment of depression and the principles of topical steroid treatment in skin diseases. Each chapter is well documented and appropriately illustrated.

## Human malformation

**Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation: Genetic Embryologic and Clinical Aspects** (Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics, vol. vii). 3rd ed. By W. David and M. D. Smith. Pp. xvii + 653. Illustrated. R78,55. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

Every paediatrician, dysmorphologist and medical geneticist will be familiar with the previous editions of M. Dave Smith's classic monograph *Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation*, and there is little doubt that this book is pre-eminent among diagnostic reference works.

The new edition is unchanged in format, but much fresh material has been added and more than 300 syndromes are now depicted and described. A succinct review of the clinical stigmata, natural history and aetiology is given for each disorder, together with relevant references. Additional chapters are devoted to basic information which is of practical value in the clinical situation, and an appendix contains lists of anomalies which facilitates differential diagnosis.

Dave Smith had many friends in South Africa, and his illness, which ultimately proved to be fatal, was diagnosed a few days before he was due to revisit the Cape. This monograph represents a fitting memorial to the acknowledged doyen of dysmorphologists.

P. Beighton

## Plastic surgery

**The Patient and the Plastic Surgeon.** By R. M. Goldwyn. Pp. xiii + 255. Boston: Little, Brown. 1981.

Plastic surgery is a very sensitive area of surgery in general, and much more is demanded of the competent plastic surgeon than technical skill. Patients range from those seeking revision of a comparatively small scar to those requiring extensive reconstruction after major operations for cancer. Dr Goldwyn of Harvard has much experience of plastic surgery, and this book is a distillation of the wisdom he has accumulated and the scholarship he has imbibed.

The book is filled with compassion tempered with understanding and common sense. Although it is primarily designed for the plastic surgeon, particularly the beginner, it can be read with profit by any doctor in other specialties, as Dr Goldwyn discusses in considerable detail many facets of the doctor-patient relationship. His views on the initial consultation, for example, could be read with profit by any medical student. Most of the book is not concerned with technicalities but with those aspects of the doctor-patient relationship which apply particularly to various fields of plastic and cosmetic surgery. The book is very well written indeed, and Dr Goldwyn is obviously a man gifted with imagination and insight. This is highly recommended reading, not only for plastic surgeons but for almost anyone who has to treat patients.

## The ageing lumbar spine

**The Aging Lumbar Spine.** By S. W. Wiesel, P. Bernini and R. H. Rothman. Pp. 257. Illustrated. R69,55. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

The 'ageing' and not the 'aged' lumbar spine is the subject of this publication. The process of ageing commences in the 3rd decade and is progressive. Physical changes taking place in the lumbar vertebrae of the different age groups are illustrated and described. Nine well-chosen chapters are followed by an appendix of spinal terms, the latter published by permission of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and compiled with the aid of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine.

Modalities of examination, standard and most sophisticated, occupy some 40 pages, with emphasis throughout on accurate diagnosis, and on the painstaking effort required of the earnest surgeon. An algorithm, here defined as 'a set of rules for solving a particular problem in a finite number of steps', merits special attention. The system, if faithfully followed, would separate the surgical from the medical case; the procedure, although time-consuming, is rewarding to surgeon and patient alike. In the USA no fewer than 300 000 laminectomies for disc lesions are performed per annum, and 45 000 of these fail. Most of the failures could be avoided by application of the algorithm and correct diagnosis.

Salvage surgery after failure of one operation has a 50% chance of success. Any subsequent procedure is likely to harm rather than help. The diagnosis of the 'failed back' is classified into mechanical and the non-mechanical groups. The mechanical groups include postoperative recurrence of herniated disc, postoperative spinal stenosis and postoperative spinal instability. The non-mechanical are postoperative arachnoiditis, psychosocial disturbances and medical diseases, of which the latter group are non-operative.

Surgical techniques are outlined and illustrated, and although the book is directed primarily at the orthopaedic surgeon and neurosurgeon it should be read by physicians and general practitioners too. It also offers the postgraduate student a very informative guide.

G. F. Dommis

## Postoperative complications of intracranial neurological surgery

**Postoperative Complications of Intracranial Neurological Surgery.** By N. H. Horwitz and H. V. Rizzoli. Pp. xi + 472. Illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

This excellent book is the 1st volume of a new expanded edition of the 1967 publication *Postoperative Complications in Neurosurgical Practice: Recognition, Prevention and Management*. This 1st volume deals with problems related to intracranial surgery and is to be followed by a companion volume covering extracranial neurosurgical procedures.

The 7 chapters cover neurosurgical procedures in general — those for intracranial neoplasms, aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations, head injuries, pain, infection and congenital and acquired defects.

Although the title refers to postoperative complications, problems relating to any stage of the patient's stay and neurosurgical operation are dealt with. Problems are discussed under subheadings, listing specific procedures and conditions and discussing them chronologically with case reports to illustrate a point; there is therefore in-depth discussion of the condition rather than just a listing of possible complications. There is a very comprehensive reference list at the end of each chapter (over 700 references for intracranial neoplasms alone).

Good pre-operative planning, adherence to meticulous technique and awareness of possible complications should decrease the incidence of 'disagreeable occurrences' and make them less of an unpleasant surprise when they do occur. This book certainly provides comprehensive but concise information and I recommend it highly to every neurosurgeon and trainee. The 2nd volume can be looked forward to.

C. F. Kieck

## Inflammation and infection

**Current Topics in Inflammation and Infection** (International Academy of Pathology Monograph). Ed. by G. Majno, R. S. Cotran and N. Kaufman. Pp. xi + 242. Illustrated. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

The present monograph in the series of *Monographs in Pathology* is based on presentations at a course entitled 'The inflammatory process in infectious diseases' given in 1981 by the International Academy of Pathology. Those contributing come from a variety of American medical schools and the topics discussed include highlights of the history of inflammation and infection, recent advances in the knowledge of the endothelium and inflammation, newer chemical mediators of inflammation, chemotaxis, pathways of tissue injury during inflammation, with special reference to certain enzymes, activation of the human neutrophil, the role of bacterial adherence in infection, examples of pyogenic infections, legionnaires' disease, persistent viral infections, viral hepatitis, rickettsial diseases and the diagnostic features of three very unusual infections. Obviously the book is particularly directed to pathologists, and especially to those with an interest in the processes of infection.

## Radiology of the ear, nose and throat

**Radiology of the Ear, Nose and Throat.** By G. E. Valvassori, G. D. Potter, W. N. Hanafee, B. L. Carter and R. A. Buckingham. Pp. viii + 342. Illustrated. R194,30. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

Reading this book leads to the conclusion that it will fill a definite gap in the radiological literature in an excellent manner. The authors have divided the book into 5 parts. Part I covers the temporal bone, part II the paranasal sinuses and facial bones, part III is a special section on computed tomography, part IV deals with the pharynx and larynx, and part V deals with sialography.

The content is up to date and comprehensive. The numerous illustrations and explanatory line drawings are of a high standard, and printing is on paper of superior quality. Much attention is given to the various radiographic and radiological techniques available today, as well as the normal radiological anatomy. Descriptions and illustrations of the abnormal are excellent, and a practical approach is evident throughout the text. At the end of each section there is a list of references for further reading and a very satisfactory index is provided at the end of the book.

Radiologists, otorhinolaryngologists, ophthalmologists and neurosurgeons will find this an excellent book to read and to keep handy for reference purposes.

F. C. Steenkamp

## Neuropathology of parasitic infections

**Neuropathology of Parasitic Infections.** By W. J. Brown and M. Voge. Pp. 240. Illustrated. R15,-. Oxford: Oxford Medical Publishers. 1982.

This 240-page book describes the neuropathology of all the parasitic infections known to affect man. As very many of these are encountered throughout Africa, it should command a wide readership on this continent.

The text is lucid, readable and generously illustrated with good black-and-white photographs. Detailed clinical histories capture readers' attention, as does the eminently sensible and informed practical advice on diagnostic tests and management. The succinct account of epidemiology and geographical distribution is of value. Each chapter is accompanied by numerous references.

The book is of interest and value not only to neuropathologists (a woefully small group in Africa) but also to neurologists, neurosurgeons, ophthalmologists and all members of health teams.

F. Ames

## Cardiac disease

**Herzkrankheiten: Pathophysiologie, Diagnostik, Therapie.** 2nd ed. By H. Roskamm and H. Reindell. Pp. xxxiii + 1543. Illustrated. DM 278,-. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1982.

This huge book is West Germany's answer to the American reference works on cardiology (by Braunwald, etc.). Over 1 500 pages of the text, over 1 000 pictures, thousands of references to articles in English and German, and weighing over 3 kg, this is a mammoth compendium of cardiology with contributions from all over the Federal Republic and beyond.

The 1st edition 4 years ago was an instant success, but such is the pace of cardiological research that large sections of the book have had to be rewritten. Throughout, emphasis is on function rather than morbid anatomy. The book will serve mainly as a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to cardiology for physicians and as a work of reference for general practitioners. It is beautifully presented and a lovely addition to the library of any German-reading doctor with an interest in cardiac disease.

## Speech, language and hearing

**Review of Speech, Language and Hearing**, vols 1, 2 and 3. By N. J. Lass, L. V. McReynolds, J. L. Northern and D. E. Yoder. Illustrated. R36,20 each. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

This book, which consists of 3 volumes, was found to be comprehensive and current, with contributors of outstanding reputation. Volume 1 focuses on the normal processes involved in communica-

tive functions. The 13 chapters include a wide range of topics covering neuro-anatomical features, neurophysiological mechanisms and processes, anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism, speech perception, neuropsychological models of language and auditory linguistic processing, and a final chapter dealing with issues in child language acquisition.

Volume 2 provides an in-depth view of the pathologies of speech and language and covers a wide range of topics in this area. It includes a total of 23 chapters which deal with both general topics related to understanding communication disorders, their diagnosis and remediation and topics which deal specifically with the nature, assessment and remediation of phonation, resonance disorders, articulation, prosody, stuttering, aphasia in adults, language and learning problems. Specific issues related to these disorders are also discussed, such as articulation and hearing impairment, sociolinguistics and communication disorders, language processing and reading deficiencies, problems of mathematics in children with language disorders, and an overview of augmentative communication.

The 12 chapters of volume 3 cover hearing disorders, several aspects of audiologic assessment (both basic and diagnostic), hearing aids, hearing screening and otologic and audiologic treatment of the hearing-impaired.

The topics address a number of current issues and reflect an integration of contemporary literature and research. The subject matter is covered in a fair amount of depth, often offering an interesting and holistic approach to the topic. It is a comprehensive reference book for students and graduates in speech, language and hearing pathology, and associated professionals.

**D. Mowrer**  
**G. James**  
**M. Mentis**