

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

VECTORCARDIOGRAPHY

Textbook of Vectorcardiography. By R. J. Kennedy, M.D., F.A.C.P., P. Varriale, M.D., F.A.C.P. and J. C. Alfenito, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xi + 401. Illustrated. \$17.50. New York: Harper & Row. 1970.

The authors have succeeded in avoiding complex theory and technicalities, presenting in a simple manner the essential facts about clinical vectorcardiography. The spatial vector is not considered; the oscilloscopic direct planar vectors are analysed and the electrocardiograms then interpreted on a vectorial basis. Thinking in terms of vectors is certainly essential for the electrocardiologist.

The text explains the normal and abnormal vectorcardiogram and electrocardiogram in simple terms. The book contains numerous figures of vector loops photographed from the screen in various clinical disorders. A teaching atlas in the last chapter is of great value.

The book is highly recommended for the student and clinician.

G.P.H.

ELEMENTÊRE ANATOMIE EN FISILOGIE

Basic Concepts of Anatomy and Physiology. A programmed study. Under the direction of W. B. Dean, G. E. Farrar, jr, M.D. and A. J. Zoldos. Pp. vi + 346. £4.13. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1970.

Hierdie handboek is bedoel vir persone wat 'n elementêre kennis nodig het van anatomie en fisiologie. Die materiaal word aangebied as 'n geprogrammeerde selfonderrig. Dit is essensieel dat 'n deeglike begrip vooraf verkry word van hoe om dié tipe handboek te gebruik. Die inhoud is verdeel in 9 hoofstukke, waarvan die eerste 3 handel oor basiese biologiese begrippe, die menslike sel en weefsels. Hoofstuk 4 word gewy aan vel, spiere en skelet, en daaropvolgend die verskillende sisteme. Afgesien van feite wat ingevul moet word deur die student self, word daar ook van lyntekeninge gebruik gemaak as alternatiewe studiemetode.

T.M.

ADOLESCENCE

The Psychopathology of Adolescence. Ed. by J. Zubin, Ph.D. and A. M. Freedman, M.D. Pp. ix + 342. \$15.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

The proceedings are in 4 sections: ecological factors in adolescence; development and learning aspects of adolescence; psychophysiological, genetic and internal environmental aspects of adolescence; and psychopathology of adolescence.

There are 17 papers, each followed by a discussion. Of particular interest are a historical survey on the revolt of youth by G. Rosen and 'Eating disorders in adolescence' by Hilde Bruch. All the contributions stimulate thought and raise doubts about the validity of theories of social maturation. It is seldom realized that the concept of adolescence is relatively modern; even Freud gave it little attention. Can it be defined by any biological, temporal or psychological criteria, and its limits determined? In some cultures and in periods of achievement in European history, childhood and youth were scarcely separated from adulthood, with its independence and responsibilities.

The bibliography is extensive. The book is likely to appeal to academic and research workers rather than clinicians.

R.E.H.

PAIN AND EMOTION

Pain and Emotion. By R. Trigg. Pp. viii + 193. R4.40. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1970.

According to the publishers, this author is a philosopher who draws on recent medical research and case histories of patients. He is presumably not a physician.

The book has the form of an academic thesis. It is over-documented and mainly a dialectic about the meaning of concepts of pain and suffering and the expressions used to describe them. Some of the material is old-fashioned and important modern work on the physiology and pharmacology of pain, such as central pain and sensory epilepsy, have been overlooked.

In discussing clinical conditions he is sometimes in error. For example, he analyses asymbolia for pain as described by a patient whose case was published by me, but ignores the coincidental aphasia. In referring to some research of mine on pain thresholds, he fails to realize that as the subjects were cases of psychiatric illness, their responses were not representative of normal subjects. His assumptions about masochism and about pain-perception after prefrontal leucotomy are neither theoretically nor clinically sound. The book does not clarify the problem of the meaning of pain in human subjects.

R.E.H.

MAKROSKOPIESE ANATOMIE

Anatomical Techniques. 2nd ed. Deur D. H. Tompsett, B.Sc., Ph.D. Pp. xviii + 283. Geïllustreerd. £5.00. Edinburgh en Londen: E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

Die boek is by uitstek 'n dokumentêre samevatting van die verskillende tegnieke en metodes vir die preserving en hantering van museum-preparate wat voorberei is met die oog op die onderwys in makroskopiese anatomie. As handleiding kan dit ook sterk aanbeveel word by alle departemente van geneeskunde wat aktief gemoeid is met museum-preparaat voorbereiding.

Die boek is keurig gedruk en maak ruim gebruik van toepaslike illustrasies om die waarde van 'n bepaalde tegniek te beklemtoon.

L.M.J.

TEORIE VAN REUK

Molecular Basis of Odor. Deur J. E. Amoore. Pp. xiii + 200. Geïllustreer. \$16.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Deur die formulering en eksperimentele staving van die stereochemiese teorie van reuk poog die skrywer om reuknavorsing op 'n wetenskaplike grondslag te plaas. Die fisiologiese agtergrond van reuk, metodes van bepaling van reuksensitiwiteit, die basiese reuke en die chemiese reaksies wat tot waarneming lei, word ook bespreek. Ten spyte van gevorderde tegnieke toegepas, is die kernfeite van reuknavorsing eenvoudig uiteengesit. Die boek sal nuttig wees vir werkers in fisiologie, biofisika, lugbesoedeling, voedseltegnologie en geneeskunde.

M.G.L.

NON-COMMUNICATING CHILDREN

Non-Communicating Children. By L. Minski, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. and M. J. Sheppard, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. ix + 188. Illustrated. R5.00. London and Durban: Butterworth. 1970.

The Belmont Hospital, Surrey, caters for children whose primary handicap is non-communication. The book abounds with facts and figures derived from 474 case histories in this hospital. The children have been classified as subnormal, deaf, aphasic, brain-damaged, psychotic, autistic and emotionally disturbed.

A large section is devoted to the psychotic group and the findings hint at a hereditary basis for the condition. Causes of non-communication are listed briefly. The last two chapters provide useful information for workers in the field, especially the description of behaviour modification by operant conditioning. Pictures and tables provide further interest for the reader.

L.L.