

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

POISONING

Poisoning. 2nd ed. Toxicology, symptoms, treatments. By J. M. Arena, B.S., M.D. Pp. xxv + 715. \$43.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1970.

This new edition has been completely revised and up-dated with most of the current literature on poisoning. Over 100 new items and tables (solvents, pneumoconioses, food poisoning, detergents, hypoglycaemic agents and many others) have been added to make this book more complete and useful.

The first chapter deals with general considerations such as prevention, diagnostic problems, certain pathological features and methods of treatment including exchange transfusions and dialysis. The last chapter deals with public safety education, first aid measures and everyday household hazards, and includes an impressive list of over 500 poison control centres in the USA.

The book is well printed and bound and has a good index; it is well worth acquiring.

T.G.S.

THE ALLERGIC CHILD

Practical Management of the Allergic Child. By V. J. Fontana, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.A.A. Pp. xii + 371. Illustrated. \$15.00. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1969.

An excellent book starting with the antigen-antibody reaction, showing how it affects the respiratory tract, bowel and skin. It discusses inhalant factors such as dust, animals and smoke which cause allergy. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of food allergy (milk, cereals, cocoa, eggs, etc.).

It is one of the best balanced books that I have seen, and, if read thoroughly, will help every reader to achieve more for his allergy patients than he has ever done before. However, it fails to show how to go about treating allergy step by step and if 10 - 20 case histories had been included the author could have shown how actual cases were treated so that the reader could gain confidence by seeing how the techniques are put into practice and how results could be achieved. I am sure that the author, Vincent Fontana, gets excellent results as his knowledge and understanding are very thorough.

I.K.

THE DERMIS

Advances in Biology of Skin. Vol. X: The dermis. Ed. by W. Montagna, J. P. Bentley and R. L. Dobson. Pp. xviii + 302. Illustrated. \$18.50. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1970.

Twenty-nine authors have contributed to this volume. The first chapter by Czirmai reviews the spatial organization and architecture of the dermis. This is followed by chapters covering the biology of collagen, elastic tissue, basement membrane and matrix substance. The clinical significance of these findings becomes obvious in the chapters dealing with the dermal response to carcinogens, the biological and biophysical aspects of ageing and the inflammatory reaction.

The high standard of investigative dermatology of other books in this series is maintained in the present volume.

F.P.S.

TUBERCULOSIS

XXth International Tuberculosis Conference. Under the auspices of the International Union against Tuberculosis and National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Association, New York, September 1969. Conference proceedings. Ed. by J. Holm. Pp. 397. £10.5.0. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica, 1970.

'Tuberculosis in the world today'—the title of the first paper—appropriately describes this volume. Subjects discussed range from priorities in a modern tuberculosis programme, organization, and training of personnel, to recent controlled trials of therapy, uses of rifampicin, aspergillosis in residual lesions, mycobacterial genetics and mechanisms of host resistance.

This collection of papers should be read by every practitioner engaged in tuberculosis control, but it is too expensive for acquisition except by specialists in the subject. A further disadvantage is that approximately one-quarter of the contributions are in French, without English summaries.

T.F.B.C.

NEUROSURGERY

Operative Neurosurgery. Vol. 2: Posterior fossa, spinal cord, and peripheral nerve disease. By L. G. Kempe. Pp. vii + 281. Illustrated. DM 176.00. Berlin and New York: Springer-Verlag, 1970.

This is a well-illustrated book which has been excellently produced in the established tradition of Springer-Verlag. The drawings are beautifully executed and show with great clarity exactly what has been set out to be illustrated without unnecessary detail. The text does not quite live up to the illustrations. It is a peculiar mixture of sound advice, mixed with omission of basic essentials. Sometimes the essential fact is eventually mentioned but then only pages later and not under the same heading. This is of no great concern to an experienced neurosurgeon but an inexperienced one may regard the text as complete and thus be led astray.

In some sections the instructions are frankly inadequate, as, for instance, on removal of acoustic neuromas. One could also dismiss quite a substantial amount of what is said on the subject of spinal cord trauma. Similarly the section of myelomeningocele is dealt with rather poorly. Throughout the text there is an irritating misuse of anatomical terminology. In summary, therefore, if one does not pay too much attention to the text, the book itself would be a pleasant one to browse through for an experienced neurosurgeon to give him a glimpse of what neurosurgery could be like, if things were perfect.

J.C. de V.

BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF MEDICINE

The Biological Basis of Medicine. Vols. 5 and 6. Ed. by E. E. and N. Bittar. Pp. xv + 548 and xv + 618. Approx. £7.0.0. ea. London: Academic Press, 1969.

Volumes 5 and 6 complete the sextet by the Bittars on *The Biological Basis of Medicine*. As in the case of the preceding volumes, they consist of 'expert essays' on a selected variety of topics. Volume 5 is claimed to give comprehensive coverage on 4 topics—the nervous system; the liver and gall bladder; the alimentary tract; and the cancer cell.

This claim is met in respect of the first two titles. The opening contribution to the nervous system on the biochemistry of the brain tissue by Hertz (Copenhagen) emphasizes the limitations imposed by the complexity of the cellular structure of the brain in studying its metabolism, and appraises critically the experimental studies of whole brain, cortical slices and homogenates. This is followed by an interesting essay on the synaptosomes and on brain RNA and finally an excellent account of the biochemistry of mental illness. The liver is also very adequately covered, beginning with the correlation of structure with function, and there are excellent contributions on liver cell metabolism and on bilirubin metabolism. The last two topics are devoted to the bile acids and a comprehensive account of alcohol and the liver. The major sections on the alimentary tract and the cancer cell are limited in each case to only two aspects.

In volume 6 'Skin and Hair' is the opening title, followed by sections on the cardiovascular system, the lung and the kidney. There are 3 excellent essays on the biology of hair growth, keratin and the pigment cell. The section on the cardiovascular system has 6 highly selected topics: the ultrastructure and biophysics of smooth muscle, which is excellent, and the control of body fluid volume; those on the biology of hypertension and atherosclerosis, and the pathology of cerebral arteriosclerosis, cover well-worn ground. The metabolism of heart muscle in health and disease is an up-to-date critical account of present knowledge. In Mendelowitz's contribution on the biology of hypertension the role of catecholamines is much

overstressed. Of the 3 informative essays on the lung, the last was the most instructive. Under the rather banal title of 'Selected aspects of lung function' a discussion of the intrinsic metabolism of the lung is included.

The kidney section is limited to 3 contributions. The first concerns the nephron in health and disease and is a valuable contribution supported by a large number of, on the whole, informative and good-quality microphotographs of light and electron-microscope studies. The second essay on uraemic toxicity is an excellent survey of a very controversial field. Bergström and Bittar propose that the inhibition of Na transport is the primary defect in uraemia, but there is evidence to the contrary. The final section is a straightforward review of transplantation of the kidney up to the time of publication.

The text generally is faultless. The styles, not unexpectedly, are variable. The photographic reproductions are, in the main, good, but some of the small plates could with profit have been omitted. These volumes are very well produced and provide a useful reference text to the subjects discussed, and should be on the reference shelves of all medical libraries. The aim to cover the biological basis of medicine has been largely achieved in the 6 volumes of this series. A serious omission, in my opinion, is the lack of a reasoned consideration of the role of the porphyrins in health and disease. The porphyrins are, after all, the very stuff of life.

L.E.

RECONSTRUCTIVE ANATOMY

Reconstructive Anatomy. A method for the study of human structure. By M. Arnold, M.B., B.Ch. (Rand), F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Pp. xii + 529. Illustrated. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1968.

Past students and staff members of the Witwatersrand Medical School will long remember Dr M. ('Toby') Arnold's Saturday morning lectures on reconstructive anatomy in the Harveian Theatre. Week after week, the surgeon-anatomist, armed with white cotton gloves and a brilliant array of coloured chalks, would build up the regions of the body: first, bony background; then joints and ligaments; these followed by muscles and tendons, nerves and blood-vessels, fascia and serous membranes, viscera. As if magically, the body came to life, reconstructed on the bare bony framework, in a manner redolent of Ezekiel's vision.

Now, at last, Arnold's approach is presented in a book, characterized by lucid prose and admirably clear diagrams, backed by all the editorial experience and talents of no less a medical publisher than W. B. Saunders. A special feature of the book is a 30-page compilation of principles of anatomy, the morphological generalizations which bring method and design and sense to the 'cut and dried' body of anatomy. Sometimes controversial, often stimulating, always valuable, these principles constitute a grand finale to what must be regarded as one of the most important recent publications in macro-anatomy. The presentation of the subject and the section on principles make this an important source-book and study- and revision-manual for medical students, candidates for the primary Fellowship examination, teachers, surgeons and members of the medical profession in general.

P.V.T.

LABORATORY MANUAL

Illustrated Manual of Laboratory Diagnosis. Indications and interpretations. By R. D. Collins, M.D. Pp. xv + 299. Illustrated. £10.10.0. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1968.

The author has attempted, by means of over 200 coloured illustrations, to demonstrate the most helpful laboratory findings in a wide range of important disorders. The major part of the manual deals with biochemical states, discussing briefly the normal metabolism, what tests to order and what clinical applications are suggested by the test results. Some haematological conditions and infectious diseases are also dealt with in this fashion. There is finally a full tabulated laboratory 'work-up' of symptoms and diseases.

This manual gives an unusual approach to the effective use of the modern laboratory in clinical diagnosis and would be useful to the busy general practitioner. Unfortunately, it is expensive.

T.P.S.M.

PULMONÈRE ARTERIOVEENEUSE FISTULA

Pulmonary Arteriovenous Fistula. A case-finding study and clinico-laboratory analysis of 27 cases. Deur H. Sluiter-Eringa en H. J. Sluiter. Pp xi + 126. Geillustreer. Hfl. 44,00. Nederland: Royal Vangorcum. 1969.

Hierdie boek is 'n baie volledige uiteensetting van die literatuur en die persoonlike ondervinding van die skrywers met pulmonêre arterioveeneuse fistula. Die skrywers was in die unieke posisie om 18 lede van een familie met pulmonêre arterioveeneuse fistula te bestudeer. Hierdie metodiese studie wat oor 15 jaar gestrek het, is prysenswaardig.

Hierdie boek bestaan dan uit 'n volledige bespreking van die literatuur in verband met dié onderwerp en die gevalbespreking van meeste van die gevalle wat deur die skrywers ondersoek was. Die diagnose, spesiale ondersoek, prognose en behandeling van die toestand word in fyn besonderhede bespreek en die boek sal sekerlik nog vir 'n lang tyd dien as 'n naslaanwerk op die gebied.

M.A.d.K.

KLINIESE NOTERING

Medical Records, Medical Education, and Patient Care. The problem-oriented record as a basic tool. Deur L. L. Weed, M.D. Pp. x + 273. Geillustreer. \$9.95. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1969.

Hierdie boek lewer 'n weldeurdagte pleidooi vir 'n nuwe benadering in die notering van kliniese gegewens van pasiënte. Kliniese notering moet probleem-georiënteerd wees, en nie slegs 'n algemene bespreking van die pasiënt se simptome, tekens en behandeling nie. Die voorgestelde rekordstelsel bevat die volgende vier basiese elemente, nl. die data-basis, die probleemlys, die voorlopige beplanning en die opvolgnotas. Alle probleme in die probleemlys word genommer, en alle opvolgnotas wat op 'n spesifieke probleem betrekking het, behou daardie nommer. Hierdie stelsel het veral betrekking op pasiënte in hospitale, veral ook met die oog op mediese opleiding, maar 'n hoofstuk word gewy aan die toepassing van die stelsel in die algemene praktyk. Die inskakeling van hierdie stelsel by 'n rekenoutomaat sisteem word bespreek. Verlaasgenoemde meer en meer in gebruik kom, is dit medici se verantwoordelikheid om 'n rekordstelsel te gebruik wat maklik na 'n rekenoutomaat sisteem oorgedra kan word.

Die beginsels van rekordsisteme soos in hierdie boek beskryf kan met baie vrug toegepas word, nie slegs deur individuele praktisyns nie, maar veral deur hoofde van departemente in opleidingshospitale.

G.J.P.

VIOLENCE AND THE BRAIN

Violence and the Brain. By V. H. Mark, M.D. and F. R. Ervin, M.D. Pp. xiv + 170. Illustrated. \$6.95. New York: Harper & Row. 1970.

The American authors of this book (a neurosurgeon and a psychiatrist) claim that ours is an age of unprecedented violence. The cause of this is ill understood but is by no means purely sociological and psychological. In some cases some habitually violent people are suffering from cerebral dysfunction or structural brain disease. The authors appeal for medical and lay support for the establishment of an institution for investigating individuals who manifest the 'dyscontrol syndrome'. They cite some intriguing work on stereotactic surgery of the temporal lobes as one facet of this work. This is a most readable and interesting book.

F.R.A.

DIE CHIRURGIESE BEROEP

Der Beruf des Chirurgen. Deur W. Müller-Osten. Pp. xii + 253. DM 28,-. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1970.

Die skrywer is bekommerd oor die huidige posisie van die chirurgiese beroep en die skynbare gebrek aan gekoördineerde pogings om die toekoms daarvan te verseker.

Met tipiese Duitse deeglikheid behandel hy alle denkbare aspekte van die chirurgiese praktyk, insluitende die opleiding van die chirurg vanaf sy skooldae tot sy finale erkenning as chirurg.

Vir chirurgie wat in die voortbestaan van hulle beroep in 'n veranderende wêreld belangtel is hierdie uiteensetting baie prikkelend en selfs die beoefenaars van meer rustige beroepe sal bepaalde hoofstukke interessant vind.

J.K.B.