

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

RESEARCH INTO GYNAECOLOGY

Fortschritte der Gebrutshilfe und Gynäkologie. Vol. 50. Biochemische Forschungsergebnisse bei der Gestation und am Corpus luteum. Ed. by A. Reist. Pp. vii + 171. Illustrated. SFr79,00. Basel and London: S. Karger. 1973.

This book is basically meant for the research worker. It has 2 sections—one dealing with glucose, lactate and pyruvate in pregnancy and at birth, and the other dealing with aminopeptidases, amino acid, amidases and neuraminidases as constituents in the catabolic enzyme systems in the corpus luteum.

In the first section the metabolic changes leading to acidosis as a result of anaerobic glycolysis are beautifully depicted, and also explained is postpartum hypoglycaemia in the newborn as a result of the utilisation of the fetal glycogen reserves. The cause of intra-uterine death of fetuses born to mothers who have chronic placental insufficiency due to lack of glycogen reserves in the myocardium is also clearly defined.

The second section describes the activity of neuraminidases and their catabolic activity towards gonadotrophic hormones, explaining the possible local limitations of the gonadotrophic actions on the target organ, the ovary.

G.W.E.R.

DREAMS OF SIGMUND FREUD

De Man met de Glazen Hoed. Biografisch essay over de dromen van Sigmund Freud. By Professor Dr E. Verbeek. Pp. 309. R12,23. Nijkerk: Callenbach. 1973. Obtainable from Verenigde Protestantse Uitgewers, Cape Town.

Professor Dr E. Verbeek has for the first time given the world an insight into Freud's personal dreams as far as they are known today. For those psychiatrists who are ardent Freudian analysts this book is an absolute 'must', bearing in mind that the reader should be fluent in both Dutch and German.

Although the majority of analysts are usually familiar with Freud's method of dream interpretation, this book throws light on the personality of Freud himself by the careful and extremely erudite analysis of his personal dreams. In no way has Professor Verbeek pulled any punches in his criticism, which inevitably had to follow the careful analysis. This makes his work outstanding.

C.G.A.S.

VERSORGING VAN SWAKSINNIGES

Dwalen door de Doolhof. Wegwijzer in die zwakzinnigen-sorg. Deur P. S. Vreugdenhil-Verhave. Pp. 222. R6,30. Nijkerk: G. F. Callenbach. 1973. Verkrygbaar van Verenigde Protestantse Uitgewers, Kaapstad.

Hierdie boekie wil 'n 'wegwyser vir die swaksinnige sorg' in Nederland wees. Dit is geskryf deur 'n vrou wat uit 'n gesin met 4 broers kom, waarvan een debiel was. Sy self het ook 4 seuns met een dogtertjie wat 'n mongooltjie is. Die boek gee 'n oorsig van die voorsienings wat in Nederland vir die swaksinniges beskikbaar is. Die gesinsproblematiek wat so 'n kind meebring, in watter land ook al, word interessant en insiggewend geskets. Verskillende opvoedingsmoontlikhede binne en buite die gesin word genoem, soos bv. pleegouers, inrigtingsversorging, ens. Ook skets sy die moontlikhede wat bestaan vir werkverskaffing. Ten slotte wys sy op die belangrike taak wat die kerk kan verrig met betrekking tot die versorging van swaksinniges. Sy eindig met 'n interessante literatuurlys.

Alhoewel die boekie nie altyd genoeg wetenskaplik en analities gefundeerd is nie, spreek dit tog tot 'n mens en is dit van belang vir geneesher, verpleegsters, maatskaplike werksters en onderwysers wat met swaksinnigheid in aanraking kom.

A.S.

AGE CHANGES

Age Changes in the Neuromuscular System. By E. Gutmann and V. Hanzlikova. Pp. viii + 195. Illustrated. £6,50. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1972.

In keeping with the growing interest in the problems of ageing, there has been a remarkable increase in the scientific studies done. Although the decrease in function of the neuromuscular system of old people is a prominent feature, this has been only briefly studied and the reports have been too anecdotal to be of value. The workers have looked mainly at the disease processes and the pathological changes until now.

The present authors, however, have set out to show and explain the basic changes in the neuromuscular system during ageing. Their approach is synthetic, using the structural, biochemical and physiological information that is available in the present scientific literature. They not only bring forward evidence of the progressive decline of the nerve and muscle cells, but evaluate the specificity of these changes and relate them to the decrease in efficiency of motor function, which is such a prominent part of the picture of old age. They propose a concept of a progressive decline in the trophic function of the motor neurone in old age as a major factor in the involution of the senile muscle. They also discuss the possibility of the prevention of this decline.

D.G.

PATHOLOGY

General Pathology. 4th ed. By J. B. Walter, T.D., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.Path. and M. S. Israel, M.B., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.Path., D.C.P. Pp. x + 681. Illustrated. £10,00. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1974.

General Pathology, through the various previous editions, has established itself as one of the foremost books on this subject. The 4th edition is another notable advance in this established tradition. The new format, supported by many illustrations, makes the book easy to read, and there have been considerable additions to the text. While this book will be of value to practitioners in almost any discipline of medicine, it is recommended particularly as a textbook for postgraduates preparing themselves for higher examinations and as a reference book for undergraduate medical students.

C.J.U.

HERKENNINGSMEGANISME VAN LEUKOSIETE

Chemotaxis and Inflammation. By P. C. Wilkinson, M.D. Pp. vi + 214. Illustrated. £4,00. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1974.

Leukosietchemotakse is vandag weer na etlike dekades 'n aktiewe belangstellingsfront, met veral biochemici, fisici en selbioloë as nuwe terreinverkenner. Hierdie monografie hersien nie alleen die belangrike werk en konsepte van die verlede nie, maar veral die molekulêre herkenningsmeganisme van leukosiete en ook die sel-spesifieke chemotakse van die verskillende tipes leukosiete. Die endogene chemotaktiese faktore, t.w. komplement, sitotoksien as gevolg van beskadigde proteïene, immuunkomplekse en geaktiveerde ensieme-kaskades, word doeltreffend hersien en stimulerend saamgevat. Die kliniese afwykings geassosieer met defekte chemotakse word bespreek, en die tegnieke (by uitsteking die skrywer se wysiging van Boyden se tegniek) word volledig uiteengesit.

Die elektron- en ligmikroskopiese foto's is van hoë gehalte, en die lyndiagramme duidelik en altyd bydraend en ter sake tot die teks.

In 'n sekere sin is dié monografie bedoel vir die spesialis, maar dan nie van 'n spesifieke spesialiteit nie. Dit handel oor 'n baie fundamentele *in vitro* verskynsel gekoppel aan die universeel belangrike inflammatoriese proses en immuunweerbaarheid, maar sy *in vivo* belang vereis nog diepgaande, multidissiplinêre studie.

H.P.W.