

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE

Psychological Medicine. Ed. by Prof. M. Shepherd. Subscription £4.20 per year. London: British Medical Association.

The appearance of a new British journal of psychiatry is an unusual and welcome event, for the existing few have been groaning under the load of material waiting to be published for many years.

This new journal is sponsored by the British Medical Association and edited by Prof. Michael Shepherd with a distinguished editorial committee. It is intended primarily for the publication of original research in clinical psychiatry and appears to be fairly catholic in its coverage, dealing with biological, psychological and social science contributions where these are relative to psychiatry.

The title, is both descriptive and appropriate and the type and format of the new journal most pleasing. The reproductions are of good quality and the paper is good so that the journal is a pleasure to hold and read. If the first issue of November 1970 is indicative of things to come, it is clear that we have a notable accession to the existing literature and a fitting companion to its two famous but older siblings, the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*.

L.S.G.

MEDICAL GENETICS

Progress in Medical Genetics. Vol. VII. Ed. by A. G. Steinberg, Ph.D. and A. G. Bearn, M.D. Pp. xi + 243. Illustrated. £7.50. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1970.

The current volume in this series bears cogent testimony to the fact that genetics is the most rapidly advancing, deeply probing and all-embracing of the biological sciences. Among the milestones of note in genetics is the hybridization of mammalian somatic cells, and this subject and its implications are well reviewed. The doyen of biochemical genetics, David Yi-Yung Hsia, gives a timely and consolidating commentary on phenylketonuria and its several variants. The hereditary complement and alpha₁-antitrypsin defects (relating respectively to the antigen-antibody reaction and possible aetiology of emphysema) are discussed. The haptoglobin types constitute a puzzling polymorphism, well presented in this book. A large number of disorders affecting the kidney or produced by the kidneys, are presented and the spectrum ranges from hereditary nephritis, through angiokeratoma corporis diffusum, the aminoacidurias and other tubular defects to the predisposition to calculi.

Finally, I was delighted to find a chapter devoted to the sociological implications of genetics. One is reminded that parenthood is a privilege and not a right.

I.F.A.

PAIN

Pain and Suffering. Selected aspects. Ed. by B. L. Crue, jnr, M.D. Pp. xvi + 205. Illustrated. \$12.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Ten of the 17 contributions deal with the surgical relief of pain in malignant disease and trigeminal neuralgia, the remainder with the neurophysiology of pain, and other topics.

The chapters are concise and clear, with splendid illustrations and relevant bibliography. Each contributor discusses some technique or other aspect of which he has made a study.

There are references to central pain as a form of sensory epilepsy and to experimental studies of muscle pain. The symposium shows how much progress has been made in the understanding of pain and its relief. It will interest the general as well as the specialist reader.

R.E.H.

LOW VISION PATIENTS

The Low Vision Patient. Clinical experience with adults and children. By E. E. Faye, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii + 237. \$9.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

The care of the low-vision patient is not only ophthalmology—it is also psychology and rehabilitation. This aspect of visual aid prescribing has not received sufficient attention in this country.

The blind are well cared for and the average optical defect is easily corrected by spectacles, but the low vision patient falls in a special category.

This book gives detailed information on the methods employed in a clinic started by Behrens in 1953 and reviews the results in 6 000 patients. Especially interesting is the section on the visually handicapped child and the approach to treatment, emphasis being on the maximum use of the available vision in education.

Although somewhat verbose and drawn out, with a redundancy of subheadings, this book should be read by all who are interested in this type of visual care.

J.G.L.

NERVE CONNECTIONS

The Formation of Nerve Connections. A consideration of neural specificity modulation and comparable phenomena. By R. M. Gaze. Pp. viii + 288. Illustrated. £4.00. London: Academic Press. 1970.

This book attempts to explain the mechanisms involved in the formation of nerve connections during development and regeneration. The author discusses neuromuscular connections, cutaneous sensory innervations, retinotectal projections and certain intracentral connections with the visual system, based mainly on experiments on fishes, amphibians and their larvae. Each chapter, after a historical approach, presents and discusses the newer researches. The work is useful for neurobiological research workers but somewhat outside the scope of the medical field.

P.v.M.

DERMATOLOGY

An Introduction to the Biology of the Skin. Ed. by R. H. Champion, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Camb.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), T. Gillman, D.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. (Wits.), F.C. Path., A. J. Rook, M.A., M.D. (Camb.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.) and R. T. Sims, M.A. (Camb.), M.D., B.Sc. (Lond.). Pp. x + 450. Illustrated. £4.25. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1970. Obtainable from Westdene Services, Johannesburg.

A justly popular feature of British dermatology is a course of lectures, given annually since 1963 in Cambridge, on the biology of the skin, relating normal structure and function to common pathological problems. The course was intended for those embarking on their training in dermatology, but people past this stage have found it edifying.

The collected papers deserve to be widely adopted as a set book for trainee dermatologists.

J.M.

ORTOPEDIE

The Ruminations of an Orthopaedic Surgeon. Deur G. Perkins, M.C., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 188. Geillustreer. R3.00. Londen en Durban: Butterworth. 1970.

'n Kostelike boekie saamgestel deur 'n oorspronklike en logiese denker. Op pittige wyse, deurspek met pragtige humor, stel hy aan die leser sy sienswyses en ervarings ten opsigte van die alledaagse probleme wat elke ortopediese chirurg gedurende sy loopbaan teëkom.

Daar is wel heelwat aanvegbare stellings, maar juis daarin lê die waarde van die boekie. Dit stem naamlik die leser tot oorspronklike en logiese denke en waarneming.

Elke ortopedies chirurg behoort hierdie boekie te lees en weer te lees!

I.S.d.W.

FIBROBLASTIC DISORDERS

The Differential Diagnosis of Fibroblastic Disorders. By D. H. Mackenzie, M.A., M.D., F.R.C. Path. Pp. ix + 167. Illustrated. £2.75. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1970. Obtainable from Westdene Services, Johannesburg.

This is an excellent book. The fibrous tissue tumours and tumorous condition of fibroblastic or mesenchymal derivation are admirably discussed from a histopathological point of view, as well as from a differential diagnostic standpoint. Treatment is discussed after each condition described. It is enlightening to find that a forthright thesis of the plasticity of mesenchyme is put forward in such a way as to break down the concepts usually found where divisions of basically related tissues are too strictly adhered to.

Particularly valuable for the pathologist is the lucid differentiation of the fibromatoses in their various forms. Fasciitis is fully described and differentiated from sarcoma, with which it is often confused. Keloids and hypertrophic scars are differentiated. Pseudosarcomatous lesions of the skin and subcutaneous tissues are admirably discussed. Finally, a salutary chapter is devoted to discussion of fibrosarcoma and related histiocytic malignant conditions, with which many of the preceding conditions in this book are often confused.

D.M.d.V.

IMMUNOLOGY

A Primer of Immunology. By F. A. Ward, L.R.C.P.I., M.C. Path. Pp. xiv + 130. R4.20. London and Durban: Butterworth. 1970.

The facts of immunology relating to the diagnosis and prevention of disease are very briefly summarized in this small book. The subjects dealt with include the various aspects of allergy, immunohaematology and auto-allergic diseases. This work will prove useful for easy consultation by medical students and medical technicians in regard to the essentials of each subject. To doctors the book may be of use quickly to refresh their memory about immunological subjects and techniques.

D.O.

CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS

Congenital Malformations. Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands, September 1969. Ed. by F. Clarke-Fraser and V. A. McKusick. Pp. xvi + 450. Illustrated. £11.50. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1970.

This volume is a collection of 56 papers, most of them by well-known authors, which gives very wide coverage to current genetic methods and thought. In particular, abnormal and normal gametogenesis, embryogenesis and teratogenesis of congenital defects receive close attention. Autosomal defects, population studies and the epidemiology of different congenital disorders are given extensive coverage at the expense of the common autosomal trisomies and intersex syndromes. Most of the articles have lengthy bibliographies so that further reading is facilitated. The only noticeable omission from this otherwise comprehensive volume is that there is no article on dermatoglyphic profiles in congenitally abnormal individuals.

H.J.G.