

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Sickle Cell Hemoglobin. Molecule to Man. By M. Murayama, Ph.D. and R. M. Nalbandian, M.D. Pp. xii + 198. Illustrated. \$16.50. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown. 1973.

Sickle cell disease is rare in South Africa. A book on the subject is therefore not likely to find many local readers. This is a pity, for this is an excellent publication.

The physics and chemistry of the sickling phenomenon is considered at the molecular level. Using this information, reliable laboratory tests are described in detail, including an automated procedure for large-scale population screening. Finally the therapeutic use of urea in patients both in and out of crisis is discussed at length.

C.S.K.

REVIEW OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Vol. 16. Food, Nutrition and Health. Ed. by M. Rechigl, jnr, B.S., M.N.S., Ph.D. Pp. xxxii + 511. £22.80. Basel and London: Karger. 1973.

This, the latest addition to a by now well-known series, is, as is stated on the dust jacket, 'a multidisciplinary treatise addressed to the major nutrition problems from a world-wide perspective'. Part I, entitled 'Nutrition and Health' includes chapters on nutrition in relation to childhood, aging, physical performance and behaviour and learning. Part II deals with nutrition and disease, covering overnutrition, undernutrition, infection and oral problems. Five interesting chapters on topics such as world food supply, food habits and faddism, processing additives, safety and food poisoning are presented under the general heading — Part III, Food and Nutrition.

Well-known names comprise the list of authors, including that of Prof. N. Sapeika of the University of Cape Town. A new feature is a selected bibliography of published reviews relating to food, nutrition and health.

Like all its predecessors the book can be recommended especially to teachers and researchers in nutrition-orientated fields. It is, however, not likely to be of much value to practising dietitians and food technologists, since, as is common to reviews, practical detail is presented by way of reference to the original works.

J.J.D.

HAZARDS FOUND IN INDUSTRY

Environmental and Industrial Health Hazards. A practical guide. By R. A. Trevethick, M.B., Ch.B. Pp. 211. £4.50. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1973.

This book is designed to provide an easy reference to the major hazards found in industry. The layout is novel in that the recto pages are printed in black and present the layman with a working knowledge of short- and long-term effects of misuse, of precautions which require to be taken and of first aid measures in case of accident. The verso pages are printed in red and present the medical problem in more detail including advice on the management of acute chronic poisoning as well as on pre-employment and biological screening techniques.

As can be expected, a book of this type must treat the subject matter somewhat superficially. It is no reference work for the toxicologist but to the average doctor practising in an industrial area as well as to the industrial MO it will satisfy a great need.

The book will be a most useful one to have around. A second copy should be recommended to the plant manager's library.

A.M.C.

PEPTIDE HORMONES

Peptide Hormones. Methods in Investigative and Diagnostic Endocrinology. Vols 2A and 2B. Part I: General Methodology; Part II: Pituitary Hormones and Hypothalamic Releasing Factors; Part III: Non-Pituitary Hormones. Ed. by S. A. Berson and R. S. Yalow. Pp. 1298. Illustrated. Dfl. 280.00. Amsterdam and London: North-Holland. 1973.

These 2 books (companion volumes to 2 other on thyroid and steroid hormones) are primarily concerned with peptide hormone assay methodology — done very explicitly, authoritatively, and in great detail. The early sections deal mainly with subjects of general methodological interest: principles of bio- and immunoassay, the state of hormones in blood, regulation of secretion, metabolic turnover, etc. while later chapters are concerned with methodology of individual hormones. All polypeptides have been covered in depth, and where relevant, up-to-date physiological reviews have been appended to each chapter. These beautifully produced volumes must be regarded as the definitive work in this field and although expensive are highly recommended for every medical library and indeed for every laboratory where hormones are assayed.

B.L.P.

SMALL-BOWEL DISEASES

Treatment of Small Bowel Diseases. Proceedings of the First Symposium on Hepato-Gastroenterology of the University Hospital Centre of Nice, April 1972. Ed. by J. Delmont. Pp. 127. Illustrated. SFr. 44.-. Basel and London: S. Karger. 1973.

This small book presents clearly, and in more detail than even the latest textbooks, the treatment of relatively unusual conditions such as sprue, Whipple's disease, Crohn's disease, congenital enzyme deficiencies, resection syndromes, and chronic ischaemia, as well as discussing experiences with bowel transplantation.

Consisting as it does of a collection of papers presented by men of international repute, it is authoritative.

Discussions are on a level consistent with the eminence of men like Monges, Bernier, Rubin, Hernandez Morales, Dahlqvist and Delmont, to mention but a few.

At a price of £5.20 it is, however, doubtful if this booklet will have a market beyond public medical libraries or those of connoisseurs like gastro-enterologists.

L.M.W.

PATHOLOGY OF THE HEART

The Pathology of the Heart by E. G. J. Olsen, M.D. Pp. xi + 224. New York: Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation. 1973.

In this book the author has set out to produce a short volume which will provide pathologists and clinicians alike with a quick reference on cardiac pathology and at the same time cover more ground than the chapters dealing with the subject in current standard textbooks of pathology. On the score of brevity he has succeeded, but in doing so the text has been reduced to a level where it contains hardly more than the briefest reference to most entities, including those which are responsible for considerable mortality today. In contrast, however, the list of bibliographical references is detailed and comparable to that expected in a much bigger work. On the whole, the standard of photography, particularly of the photomicrographs, leaves much to be desired.

Taking the over-all view, one is left wondering whether this book does achieve the objectives of the author.

C.J.U.

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Histopathology: Selected Topics. Ed. by H. C. Cook, F.I.M.L.T. Pp. vii + 296. Illustrated. R10,10. London: Baillière Tindall. 1973. Available through Collier-MacMillan, Kempton Park, Tvl.

Histopathologists are notorious for their conservative adherence to old and well-tried technical methods and changes tend to infiltrate very slowly. This little book, consisting of 9 contributions by authorities in their chosen topics, reviews important advances in histopathological techniques. Some, such as fluorescent microscopy, have been in use for many years, but are found in few laboratories. Chapters on chromosome studies and the special histological problems related to organ transplantation are topical and of great application.

The book is crisply written with an economy of style well suited to a practical handbook. It is a work by specialists for specialists and should be of great value at the bench of the more sophisticated histopathologist and technologist.

J.G.

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Basic Nuclear Physics for Medical Personnel. By H. J. Jackson, Ph.D. Pp. xi + 148. Illustrated. \$9,50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

This book has been designed as an introduction to basic nuclear physics for medical personnel who have no specialist training in physics. Basic physical principles have been described very clearly, but the important chapter on nuclear decay lacks certain important definitions. In general, the book is a useful introduction suitable for the novice, but technicians working in nuclear medicine departments would require more specific applications in the text.

K.C.H. B. and B.J.S.

HAEMOPHILIA

Haemophilia. Proceedings of the VII Congress of the World Federation of Haemophilia, May 1971, Teheran, Ed. by F. Ala and K. W. E. Denson. Pp. xviii + 308. Dfl. 72,00. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1973.

The World Federation of Haemophilia was started largely on the initiative of Mr Frank Schnabel, himself a haemophilic. Meetings are held biennially, not only to report advances in the management of bleeding disorders, but also to publicise haemophilia. This book reports the proceedings of the VII Congress of the Federation, held in Teheran in 1971. Research in the field of coagulation moves so fast today that any book is out of date by the time it is published — nevertheless, this Congress resulted in several excellent papers that are still relevant. Those on the regulation of production of factors VIII and IX by the liver and spleen, the current status of hepatitis B infection, the pathology and therapy of haemophilic arthropathy, and the management of inhibitors of factor VIII stand out. This book is recommended for all interested in haematology.

J.B.K.

DIE INTEGUMENT

The Integument. A textbook of skin biology. Deur R. I. C. Spearman, B.Sc., Ph. D., F. I. Biol. Pp. vii + 208. Geillustreer. £4,20. London: Cambridge University Press. 1973.

Vir diegene wat in die ontwikkelingsaspekte van die huid belangstel sal hierdie monografie van Spearman 'n welkome aanwysing wees. Die struktuur van die bedekkende laag van lewende wesens, vanaf werwellose tot soogdiere, word kort, bondig en oorsigtelik bespreek om daarna vergelykenderwyse 'n oorsig van die funksies van hierdie laag te gee. Die bestudering van hierdie werk wat tipografies goed versorg is en met gerieflike lyntekeninge geïllustreer is, sal vir alle biologies geïnteresseerdes en ook vir dermatoloë van nut wees.

F.P.S.

INTRA-OCULAR LIGHT SCATTERING

Intra-ocular Light Scattering. Theory and clinical application. By D. Miller, M.D. and G. Benedek, Ph.D. Pp. ix + 121. Illustrated. \$8,75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

The physical properties of light scatter and its effect on vision as applied to the eye, particularly in diseases of the eye, are reviewed in this excellent monograph, together with a number of original experiments to demonstrate the effects of glare on the eye and ways and means of treating these effects.

The monograph makes delightful reading on a subject which has been neglected in our ophthalmic literature. Although ophthalmologists have been aware of the effects of glare on the eye and have often taken remedial action, these effects have not been presented previously in an orderly and scientific manner as it is in this book. Also, the experiments that are described to demonstrate the effects of glare and to find methods of treating these effects is impressive. This monograph is warmly recommended for reading by all ophthalmologists interested in the welfare of their patients.

M.H.L.

CEREBRAL CIRCULATION

Research on the Cerebral Circulation. Fifth International Salzburg Conference. Ed. by J. S. Meyer, M.D., M. Reivich, M.D., H. Lechner, M.D. and O. Eichhorn, M.D. Pp. xxv + 475. Illustrated. \$35,50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

This lavishly illustrated and beautifully produced volume records the papers delivered at the 5th Salzburg Conference on Research on the Cerebral Circulation. Every conceivable aspect of the subject is covered. These contributions are collated in sections dealing with the normal anatomy of the cerebrovascular system, arteriosclerosis of the brain, biochemical and metabolic findings in cerebrovascular disturbances, advances in cerebral blood flow measurements, cerebrovascular disease, and techniques of investigation of such disease.

At the end of each section, the discussion which emanated from these papers is edited and reproduced. The bibliography is considerable. The only possible criticism of the volume is the absence of an index, but this obviously represents a collection of papers rather than a monograph, and this oversight may be forgiven. This book is recommended reading for all those workers in the field of cerebral circulation.

C.F.

INFLUENCE OF BAILLIE'S MORBID ANATOMY

The Influence of Matthew Baillie's Morbid Anatomy. Biography, evaluation and reprint. By A. E. Rodin, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C). Pp. vii + 293. Illustrated. \$8,95. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

Matthew Baillie (1761-1823), author of the first comprehensive and systematic textbook of pathology in English, was the son of a Professor of divinity and the nephew of the renowned John Hunter who profoundly influenced his career. Baillie became an anatomy lecturer at the famous great Windmill Street School in 1782 and physician to St George's Hospital in 1787. He developed a deep interest in pathological anatomy and built up a large collection of specimens which he presented to the Royal College of Physicians. The fated collection, transferred to the Royal College of Surgeons as recently as 1938, was destroyed by enemy bombardment during World War II. Baillie's personal library of over 900 scientific works is housed in the Royal College of Physicians.

Baillie's fame rests primarily on his clearly and concisely written textbook, *Morbid Anatomy*, first published in 1793 and passing through several editions — the second American one being reprinted in this volume. The work was later supplemented by an illustrated atlas (not reproduced here).

This volume should be of great interest to all students of the history of medicine and of pathology in particular.

E.M.S.