

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

RESEARCHES IN ANXIETY

Anxiety. Its components, development and treatment. By S. Lesse, M.D., Med. Sc. D. Pp. xi + 225. \$9.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1971.

As a phenomenological study of anxiety this short volume—the result of eighteen years of accumulated research and observation by one individual—is indeed impressive. For once anxiety is seen as a dynamic activity of mounting or decreasing intensity and not as a static quality.

As a scientific attempt to measure these changes, however, the author's researches seem to lack true objectivity and control. His measuring devices are somewhat crude clinical ratings of motor, affective, verbal, and autonomic components of anxiety; and independent raters were not used. The conclusions he reaches, particularly with regard to therapeutic implications, are therefore perhaps not fully justified. Nonetheless, this valuable little book points the way to a more dynamic approach to research in psychiatry.

D.L.N.

TELEVISIE EN OFTALMOSKOPIE

Television Ophthalmoscopy. Instrumentasie en mediese aawending. Deur R. L. Dallow, M.D. Pp. xiii + 104. Geïllustreerd. \$8.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Hierdie uitstekende uiteensetting van die gebruik van televisie gekoppel aan oftalmoskopie verduidelik nie net die voordele van hierdie stelsel as onderrigmetode nie, maar ook die diagnostiese waarde hiervan, o.a. die ontleding van die fundusbeeld in die volgende parameters (a) Geografies, bv. die bepaling van die grootte van die skyf, bloedvate, tumore ens. (b) Tydsbepaling van bloedvloei deur o.a. gebruik te maak van fluoroskopie. (c) Monochromatiese respons van die fundusstrukture—deur gebruik te maak van die onsigbare monochromatiese gedeeltes van die spektrum kan meer inligting met televisie ingewin word as met direkte besigtiging van die oog.

Die boek gee verder 'n beskrywing van die verskillende apparate wat mees geskik is vir die stelsel en verduidelik ook hoe die informasie direk op 'n monitor vertoon kan word; op videoband vasgelê kan word vir latere herbesigtiging; en deur komperprogrammering gestoor kan word. Die voor- en nadele van televisieondersoek in vergelyking met cine- en skuifiefotografie word ook bespreek.

A.B.W.F.

VIRUS INFECTIONS

Viral Interference and Interferon. By R. D. Andrews, Ph.D., M.B., B.S., Dip. Bact., B.Sc. Pp. vii + 90. Illustrated. £1.05. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1970.

This book informs on developments in the control of virus infections by natural means. The author deals in 7 chapters with the production of interferon, purification properties, mechanisms of production, mode of action, interferon in animals, in man, and finally with the significance of interferon. Each chapter is followed by references. An index facilitates the use of the book considerably.

This up-to-date source of information will be of great value to scientific and medical research workers.

H.D.B.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

The Schizophrenic Syndrome. Ed. by L. Bellak, M.D. and L. Loeb, M.D. Pp. vii + 879. \$24.76. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

Dr Bellak is undoubtedly an expert and authority on the subject he prefers to call 'The schizophrenic syndrome' as a result of a lifetime of close clinical proximity associated with extensive research. His present book is the third revision since 1936 and it is, therefore, understandable that in spite of

the strong case made out by him, to regard the group of schizophrenic illnesses as a syndrome, he should refer to this as schizophrenia throughout his voluminous work. He reviews the thus far confusing knowledge of its aetiology-epidemiology and clearly shows his analytical approach to this illness by giving a detailed account of ego-functions and morbidity in this sphere encountered in the 'schizophrenic syndrome'.

The incidence of schizophrenia in the USA is estimated to range from 0.82% to 3%, thus making this illness the public health problem No. 1. Extensive biological studies have failed to throw any light on this bewildering number of factors comprising the complex aetiology. A review of neurophysiological studies reveals an unsatisfactory state of affairs concerning any specific EEG pattern apart from the 'choppy rhythm'.

This book is essential for the postgraduate student of psychiatry who is devoted to a life pattern of research in schizophrenia. To the average practitioner it is likely to give mental indigestion.

C.G.A.S.

KUNSKLEPPE

Prosthetic Heart Valves. Deur L. A. Brewer, M.D. Pp. xlv + 909. Geïllustreerd. \$12.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

Die boek is 'n publikasie van lesings wat gelewer was tydens die Tweede Nasionale Konferensie oor Kunsleppe gehou te Los Angeles in Junie 1968.

In die agt jaar sedert die publikasie van die eerste uitgawe van *Prosthetic Heart Valves* is reuse vordering gemaak met die konstruksie, eksperimentele toetsing en kliniese gebruik van kunsleppe. Die kliniese ondervinding met meer as 9 000 pasiënte wat kunsleppe ontvang het, die komplikasies en die langtermyn resultate met 'n wye verskeidenheid van kunsleppe wat gebruik is, word breedvoerig bespreek. Hieruit blyk dit dat die gevaar van trombo-emboliese verskynsels met die gebruik van kunsleppe verminder het deur die bedekking van die kunslep met poreuse materiaal wat 'n gekontroleerde weefsel ingroei aanmoedig. Die gevaar van endokarditis na kunslepvervanging en die rol van intra-operatiewe kon-taminasie word goed toegelig. Die voorkoms van hemolitiese anemie veral na aorta-kunslepvervanging en die tekortkominge in konstruksie van sekere soorte kunsleppe met beskadiging of verbrekking van komponente, beklemtoon verder die feit dat die ideale aorta of mitraal kunslep ten spyte van groot vooruitgang, nog nie ontwikkel is nie. Die boek is goed toegelig met illustrasies van uitstekende gehalte en lees maklik. Dit word aanbeveel vir torakschirurge, kardioloë, navorsingswerkers en biomediese ingenieurs met belangstelling op die gebied.

P.M.B.

HAEMOSTATIC MECHANISMS

The Haemostatic Mechanism in Man and Other Animals. Proceedings of a symposium held at the Zoological Society of London, December 1969. Ed. by R. G. MacFarlane. Pp. xiv + 248. Illustrated. £4.50. London and New York: Academic Press. 1970.

This book is an authoritative account of haemostatic mechanisms by leading European investigators. It is written primarily for the zoologist and comparative physiologist rather than for the physician or even the haematologist, although the evolution of the human blood-clotting mechanism will be of interest to specialists in this field. The mechanisms by which traumatic loss of body fluid is arrested in protozoa and in metazoa with an open circulation, are shown to be comparable in many respects to the processes in the vertebrata. The details of the coagulation process and of fibrinolysis, a phenomenon limited to vertebrata, are shown to differ in different species. Modern views on mammalian blood coagulation and fibrinolysis are outlined.

A.W.S.