

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

TRAUMATIC HAEMOBILIA

The Management of Liver Injuries. By J. M. Little, M.S., F.R.A.C.S. Pp. 105. Illustrated. £2.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1971.

The author of this monograph has achieved his object most successfully. The text is brief but offers a well-written and up-to-date review of the subject, with good chapters on surgical anatomy, physiological aspects and the controversial subject of traumatic haemobilia. The author suggests an eminently sensible regimen of management and illustrates his arguments by reference to a series of cases of his own. An excellent bibliography is provided. This volume is highly recommended to all surgeons dealing with abdominal trauma.

E.J.I.

DIET IN AFRICAN PEOPLES

Diet and Tradition in an African Culture. By M. Gelfand, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R. Pp. ix + 248. Illustrated. £2.75. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1971.

The diet and customs of African peoples have been described by anthropologists, nutritionists and medical men from their particular standpoints, sometimes in great detail. Seldom though have all three approaches been combined so successfully as in this short book. The intimate knowledge of the Shona people, for which the author is well known, has enabled him to appreciate the fundamental role that food plays in African culture without ignoring its inherent dangers for health. All those involved in similar situations will be grateful for this thoughtful study.

F.W.F.

NEKPYN EN RUGPYN

Neckache and Backache. Proceedings of a Workshop sponsored by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons in co-operation with the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, held at Wayne State University, Detroit, USA. Ed. by E. S. Gurdjian, M.D. and L. M. Thomas, M.D. Pp. xi + 231. Illustrated. \$8.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Hierdie bundel oor nekpyne en rugpyne bevat bydraes deur baie skrywers in 19 hoofstukke en na elke hoofstuk is daar 'n bespreking deur 'n bekende outoriteit. 'n-Boek van hierdie formaat kan noodwendig nie so 'n wye veld absoluut volledig behandel nie, maar tog word verbasend baie aspekte van die onderwerp gedek. Die epidemiologie word bespreek en die meganisme van beserings word aangebied deur ingenieurs in

medewerking met medici. Metaboliese en degeneratiewe oorsake word behandel en die konserwatiewe sowel as chirurgiese behandeling word bespreek. Hierdie goedgeskrewe bundel word sterk aanbeveel, nie net vir ortopede en neurochirurge nie, maar vir almal wat belang het by hierdie onderwerp.

R.N.L.R.

ANAESTHESIA

Complications of Anaesthesia. Ed. by L. J. Saidman, M.D. and F. Moya, M.D. Pp. xv + 298. Illustrated. \$12.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This book is an edited version of a symposium by the same title—one of a series of postgraduate seminars in anaesthesiology sponsored by the Universities of Miami and Florida. It consists of no fewer than 28 papers by American and Canadian authors grouped into 5 sections, each section followed by a verbatim reported discussion. The sections are: Respiratory complications; genetic and anaesthetic complications; circulatory complications; medico-legal implications of anaesthetic accidents; and miscellaneous complications.

The grouping of papers is not entirely satisfactory and this makes some of the sectional discussion somewhat disjointed. The general style is chatty and discursive. The content is far from complete—not that the authors make any claim in this regard. There are some surprising omissions of topic, e.g. halothane 'hepatitis', malignant hyperpyrexia (which rates only mention in the discussion) and abnormal reactions to relaxants. An entertaining book to read, but in general, not reference material.

G.G.H.

FOUNDATIONS OF ANAESTHESIA

Scientific Foundations of Anaesthesia. Ed. by C. Scurr, M.V.O., F.F.A. R.C.S. and S. Feldman, B.Sc., F.F.A. R.C.S. Pp. xiv + 436. Illustrated. £7.50. London: William Heinemann. 1971.

This work is the product of 37 different authors in 44 chapters. Much of the content concerns fields relatively new to anaesthesia, and thus not found in the conventional textbook, making this an exceptional book. It is possibly one of the best contributions to anaesthetic literature in many years, and will probably become required reading for those concerned with higher examinations as a supplement to standard texts. The standard of the contributions is uniformly good, the illustrations clear, and over-all quality is high.

P.A.F.