

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

THYROID PROBLEMS

Your Thyroid Gland—Fact and Fiction. By J. L. Hamburger, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. x + 77. Illustrated. \$5.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This book is supposed to be written for the patient and layman in order to understand thyroid problems. However, the reader comes to the conclusion that Dr Hamburger writes for the less informed clinician, advocating experience in order to eliminate confusion and false notions. He criticizes needless expenses, wasted time and effort, false hopes and disappointment which result from the worthless administration of thyroid hormones. For a clinician who believes that 'medicine is not an exact science' the author shows a remarkable insight into the scientific basis underlying thyroid problems.

A.P.v.Z.

MIGRAINE

Migraine. The evolution of a common disorder. By O. W. Sacks, B.M., B.Ch. Pp. 298. £2.50. London: Faber & Faber. 1970. Obtainable from MacMillan South Africa, Joubert Park, Johannesburg.

The author discusses migraine in great depth, obviously based upon considerable experience with the disease. Apart from interesting historical quotes, the clinical picture, pathogenesis and therapy are discussed in detail. So many variables are mentioned that the reader may tend to over-diagnose the

disease. Certain migraine equivalents mentioned, e.g. periodic fever may be considered by some to be controversial.

In almost 300 pages there is a wealth of information, probably far too much detail for the average reader. However, as a reference book it is ideal, and anyone planning lectures or articles on migraine would be well advised to read the relevant chapters.

D.J.

RADIOTHERAPY

Frontiers of Radiation Therapy and Oncology. Vol. 5. The interrelationship of surgery and radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer. Ed. by J. M. Vaeth. Pp. vi + 275. Illustrated. S.F.R. 79.-. Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1970.

This symposium, dedicated to that 'dinosaur of radiotherapists' Dr J. A. del Regato, Director of Penrose Cancer Hospital, Colorado Springs, records the collected papers of 21 outstanding laboratory and clinical cancer research workers in the fields of surgery and radiotherapy in the management of malignant disease. Some stress the need for more pre-operative radiotherapy, while others show a trend away from 'low dose' pre-operative orthovoltage therapy towards 'high dose' radical supervoltage and megavoltage therapy in the treatment of 'solid tumour' malignant disease. The possession of this fascinating and stimulating volume 5 in the series is highly recommended.

T.F.