

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

RURAL HOSPITALS

The Rural Hospital: Its Structure and Organization. By Dr. R. F. Bridgman. Pp. 162, with illustrations. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1955.

Contents: 1. Facts about Rural Areas. 2. Theory of the Rural Hospital. 3. Structure of the Rural Hospital Health Centre. 4. Architecture and Equipment of the Standard Rural Hospital Health Centre. 5. Staff. 6. From Theory to Practice. Bibliography. Index.

Dr. Bridgman, who is Deputy Director of Health of the Department of the Seine, France, has undertaken this study on behalf of the World Health Organization. He has collected a great deal of information, much of it interesting and some of it useful. He accepts the principle accepted by competent authorities everywhere that in rural areas the hospital should serve both a preventive and a curative purpose.

This was accepted by a conference of Far Eastern Countries in 1937 and had previously been accepted by the first Pan-African Health Conference, held at Cape Town in 1932.

The rural hospital advocated by Dr. Bridgman is a combined hospital and health centre, an ideal institution for South African conditions, but not possible while Central Government, Local Authorities and Provincial Administrations are responsible for different aspects of the same health problem.

The chapter on Architecture and Equipment is useful and some of the plans, made available by the US Public Health Service, can be made use of in this country.

This little book will be of interest to many. It should be read by hospital planners and administrators, and by sociologists and all interested in sociology. It is particularly recommended to missionary doctors, who may have to advise on the building, equipment and management of missionary hospitals.

R.S.

CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY

Clinical Bacteriology. By E. Joan Stokes, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Pp. 288 + vii, with 25 illustrations. 20s. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Practice of Clinical Bacteriology. 2. General Procedure. Records. Reports. 3. Culture of Specimens Normally Sterile. 4. Specimens from Sites with a Normal Flora. 5. Identification of Bacteria. 6. Investigation of Tuberculosis and Fungal Infections. 7. Antibacterial Drugs. 8. Clinical Immunology. 9. Hospital Epidemiology. 10. Media-Testing and Other Techniques. Index.

From time to time the advent of a less orthodox publication stirs the reader's interest. However, in order to merit a place on one's shelf, a technical book cannot rely on the trick of unorthodoxy; and Joan Stokes's codification of clinical bacteriological procedures avoids this trap.

It must be accepted that this publication is primarily for the practising bacteriologist and his senior technical assistants, it nevertheless contains rewarding information for all who are interested in bacteriology.

The academic bacteriologist is orientated to avoid false reasoning in reporting. An example cited suggests that it is more informative to report on a specimen of faeces to a clinician that 'no organisms of the Salmonella or Dysentery groups were isolated' than to report that 'cultures yield *Bact. coli*, *Strept. faecalis* and *Proteus vulgaris*'. The author states: 'Naming the species is at first sight impressive, but a full identification of them cannot be made without delay and it misleads the clinician to believe that those are the only viable bacteria in the specimen'. The sophistry of reporting on a specimen of faeces, 'no pathogens isolated', is well emphasized.

In South Africa, where the socio-economic spectrum of the bulk of the population is different from that in England, for instance, it is necessary that routine bacteriology should be disciplined to economic and adequate procedures, unnecessary elegance has little place in routine public health bacteriology. It is for this reason that it is pleasing to note this reference to correct reporting, and also to the legitimate employment of clinical findings.

With regard to the latter point, to secure the economy which stems from the correct laboratory procedure for the diagnosis and follow-up of pulmonary tuberculosis it is necessary to provide relevant clinical data with specimens of sputa sent in for examina-

tion. It is the reviewer's opinion that a laboratory may reasonably refuse to examine specimens that are not accompanied by clinical information.

In this book one readily comes across pieces of practical information which in text-books require close searching for. It is for instance a notorious fact that bacteriological reports on eye-swabs are commonly unsatisfactory. The author draws attention to the fact that bedside platings of eye-cultures are required in order to overcome the influence of lachrymal lysozyme.

The references to media testing, the inhibition of overgrowth of non-streptococcal organisms, or the preparation of a constant-dropping pipette, are surface plums for the picking.

There are, of course, omissions in the contents of the book and there are doubtful recommendations. For instance, in South Africa at any rate, it would be unrealistic to accept the recommendation that, 'in laboratories where ten or more (sputum) examinations are made daily there is no doubt that the fluorescent method is to be preferred'. A more significant criticism which may be levelled is that neither the section on clinical immunology nor that on hospital epidemiology are of wide appeal—the latter for an obvious reason, and the first because of its omission of a screen precipitin test or a standard Kolmer test for the serological diagnosis of syphilis.

All told, this is certainly a book well worth buying for the laboratory.

L.A.

PATHOLOGY FOR THE SURGEON

Pathology for the Surgeon. By William Boyd, M.D. (Edin.), Dipl. Psychiat. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Canada), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.S. (Canada), LL.D. (Sask.), D.Sc. (Man.), M.D. (Oslo). Seventh Edition. Pp. 737 + vi, with illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Surgeon and the Pathologist. 2. Inflammation and Repair. 3. Wound Infections. 4. The Granulomata. 5. Gangrene. 6. Shock and Burns. 7. Coagulation, Thrombosis and Embolism. 8. General Pathology and Tumours. 9. The Mouth and Jaws. 10. Neck, Salivary Glands and Esophagus. 11. The Thyroid Gland. 12. The Stomach and Duodenum. 13. The Small Intestine. 14. The Colon and Rectum. 15. The Vermiform Appendix. 16. The Gall Bladder and Liver. 17. The Pancreas. 18. The Peritoneum. 19. The Upper Urinary Tract. 21. The Male Reproductive System. 22. The Female Reproductive System. 23. The Breast. 24. The Spleen. 25. The Lymphatic System. 26. The Cranium and its Contents. 27. The Spine, Spinal Cord and Nerves. 28. The Bones. 29. The Joints. 30. The Soft Tissues. 31. The Skin. 32. The Endocrine Glands. 33. The Cardiovascular System. 34. The Lungs and Mediastinum. Index.

All who use and enjoy Boyd's *Surgical Pathology*, will use with even more enjoyment this book which is its direct successor. The new title calls attention to a different approach to the subject in the mind of the writer, but postgraduate students, registrars, and surgeons will recognize an old friend in new guise, and much improved thereby. It does, however, take time to become accustomed to the increasingly common fashion of a double-column page.

The illustrations have been improved in quality and increased in number. This applies particularly to the section on 'Spine, Spinal Cord, and Nerves', where the text is also more informative. The paragraph on injury and repair of nerves is greatly improved. 'The Mouth and Jaws' chapter is greatly improved over the parallel 'Jaws' in the final edition of *Surgical Pathology*. 'Burns' has been modernized satisfactorily, although the paragraph on radiation burns is at once too brief and too generalized to be truly informative.

The position and usefulness of the frozen sectionist is judiciously set forth in an excellent and sensitive discussion, which should be read, marked and inwardly digested by any surgeon clamouring for this aid to diagnosis. Boyd states in this connection that he 'knows of no clinical nor experimental evidence' which shows that incision into a cancer (for biopsy) increases the occurrence of metastases. *Vox auctoritatis vox Dei*—or just *Boyd's*? A noteworthy statement, anyway.

There are new chapters on 'Skin' and 'Lungs and Mediastinum'. A useful chapter on the 'Endocrine Glands' replaces that on the 'Middle Ear' and thus removes this hybrid onion from the pathological petunia patch. Naturally, the paragraphs on the 'Adrenals' benefit most from this replacement.

Some minor lapses, Kienböck for Keinböck, 'case' for 'cast' on p. 644, and 'foreign bodies' for 'loose bodies' on p. 585, will doubtless be corrected in future editions, for which there will certainly be a continuing demand.

R.D.H.B.

PATHOLOGY YEAR BOOK

The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology (1954-1955 Year Book Series). Edited by William B. Wartman, B.S., M.D. Pp. 486, with 168 illustrations. \$6.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1955.

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. General Pathology. 3. Cardiovascular System. 4. Hemopoietic System. 5. Respiratory System. 6. Alimentary System. 7. The Liver. 8. The Pancreas. 9. Urinary System. 10. Genital System and Breast. 11. Endocrine Glands. 12. Musculoskeletal System. 13. The Nervous System. 14. Hematology. 15. Clinical Microbiology. 16. Clinical Chemistry. 17. Electrophoresis, Chromatography and Proteins. 18. Ammonia Metabolism. 19. Enzymes. Miscellaneous Topics.

The latest edition of this series embraces the period 1954-1955. The book covers the recent advances in the whole field of Pathology, and the Editor, William B. Wartman, D.S., M.D., has devoted the first 69 pages to General Pathology and then divided his material under the various systems of the body. The final part of the book, some 150 pages, covers advances in Clinical Pathology.

In the opening part of the book, apart from a printer's error on p. 25 (reduplication of a sentence), the subjects summarized read well. An impression obtained, however, is that some of the articles could have been dealt with a little more fully; but for those further interested the references to all the original articles are given; as well as a fairly comprehensive index.

An interesting point to the reviewer was an account of 2 cases of fatal generalized B.C.G. infection in man, following on vaccination, reported from the University of Bergen. In the editors words: 'This case and the one previously reported show that B.C.G. is not always innocuous. In addition there are a certain number of cases of local abscesses, some of spread to regional lymph nodes and a few of skin lesions'.

The book is well printed and the photographs and photomicrographs are of good quality. It serves its purpose well, which is essentially that of a summary of recent advances in the last two years in Pathology. A minor criticism is the brevity of some of the summaries, and further that one or two of the articles could rather be classed as 'interesting' rather than 'advanced'. All in all, this book should provide points for those unable to devote the time to reading all the recent literature on this subject.

P.E.W.

RECENT MEDICAL AND HEALTH LEGISLATION

Recent Medical and Health Legislation. Supplement to Medical and Health Legislation in the Union of South Africa. By E. H. Cluver, K.St.J., E.D., M.A., M.D. (Oxon.), D.P.H. (Eng.), F.R.S.I. Pp. 348 + xii. 27s. 6d. South Africa: Central News Agency Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Amendment Acts. 2. The Nursing Act. 3. The Food, Drugs and Disinfectants Act. 4. Public Health Amendment Act 44 of 1952. 5. International Sanitary Regulations Act. 6. The Post Mortem Examinations and Removal of Human Tissues Act. 7. The Dental Mechanicians Act.

In 1949 Dr. Cluver published a much needed book covering all the medical and health legislation of the Union of South Africa. This valuable publication needed supplementation because of the many amendments, additions, and entirely new enactments. The new publication of Dr. Cluver's is a comprehensive supplement to his previous publication.

Each section is prefaced by a short commentary which covers and explains many of the important changes and additions. The contents of the book are indexed in great detail.

The new legislation covers a wide field, including laws relating to the training of medical practitioners, dentists, and chemists and druggists, and the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. It includes important sections on internships and the registration of medical practitioners visiting the Union. The control over harmful and habit-forming drugs has been tightened up. There are new laws concerning the Medical Council, professional fees, and the suspension, or restriction from practice, of registered persons.

The book covers amendments to the Nursing Act, extensive changes and additions to the Foods, Drugs and Disinfectants Act and changes in the Public Health Act which refer to the constitution of the National Health Council and refunds to local authorities resulting from recommendations of the 'Havena' Committee. The latter incidentally led to the pegging of salaries of health officials which is now causing so much discontent.

There is an important chapter on International Sanitary Regulations which bring the Union into line with international sanitary regulations adopted by the World Health Assembly.

The Dental Mechanician Act is also brought up to date.

It is hoped that Dr. Cluver will rewrite his original book and bring it up to date. This is much needed, particularly in regard to the regulations made under the Foods, Drugs and Disinfectants Act, which have frequently been amended and re-amended over the last few years and now really require to be written up as a new set of regulations. Their present arrangement is confusing.

All doctors and members of relevant 'allied' professions should be in possession of Dr. Cluver's original book and this new publication. For medical officers of health and health administrators they are essential.

H.N.

CANCER FOR THE LAYMAN

One in Six. An Outline of the Cancer Problem. By I. Hieger, D.Sc. Pp. 80, with illustrations. 12s. 6d. London: Allan Wingate. 1955.

Contents: 1. Cancer: its Mythology and Reality. 2. Some Achievements of Cancer Research: The Statistical and Experimental Approach. 3. Cancer and Ageing. 4. Lung Cancer: Smoking and Smoke. 5. Cancer Theories. Epilogue. Acknowledgements. Glossary.

This book, by a distinguished biochemist, provides a readable and attractively illustrated outline of the cancer problem for the enlightened layman. The statistics are up to date and reliable, although the discussion of hepatoma in the Bantu fails to emphasize the limitations of statistics derived from miners, who represent a very young population, far from characteristic of the total Bantu population.

The description of experiments with carcinogens bear the stamp of first-hand acquaintance with the subject. The chapter dealing with cigarette smoking and lung cancer is convincing, the author blandly suggesting that cigarette factories should be closed so that the subsequent curve of lung-cancer deaths may provide the final evidence.

The title has been based on the present death-rate from cancer in England and Wales; the conclusion in the epilogue that some forms of cancer could largely be avoided by hygienic measures needs wider recognition, for certain cancers provide as valid a claim to the attention of public-health authorities as the acute infectious fevers.

The book can be recommended to any, expert as well as non-expert, who wish to obtain a summary of modern research into cancer.

A.G.O.

POLYCYTHAEMIA

Modern Medical Monographs: Polycythemia. Physiology, Diagnosis and Treatment Based on 303 Cases. By John H. Lawrence, M.D., D.Sc., F.A.C.P. Pp. 136 + viii, with 38 illustrations. \$5.50. London and New York: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1955.

Contents: 1. Polycythemia Vera. 2. Relative Polycythemia. 3. Secondary Polycythemia. Summary. Case Histories. References. Index.

Monographs on a single disease, written by authorities who have spent many years studying it, have become more and more popular in recent years. Parkes-Weber wrote one on this topic in 1922 and the present booklet will help to bring the subject up to date. Dr. Lawrence is well qualified to write it since he has been able to base it on a study of 303 cases. The pathology and clinical picture of the various types of polycythemia are well described. The section on treatment is very good and what one would expect in view of the author's extensive experience with the use of 32p. The description of the author's original work on the polycythemia of high altitude is also noteworthy.

There is much to criticize. It is not an 'almost forgotten fact' that polycythaemia vera is nearly always characterized by hyperplasia of the myeloid as well as the erythroid elements of the bone marrow. The fact is mentioned in most text-books on haematology. The relationship of polycythaemia vera to myeloid leukaemia, myelosclerosis and myelofibrosis is not well handled. There is no definition of the polycythaemic level (and no clear distinction between males and females); nor is 'leukaemia' defined and there is no mention of the concept of non-leukaemic myelosis or the erythroleukaemic chain. A few immature precursors of red and white cells in the peripheral blood do not constitute leukaemia. It is difficult to accept that 20% of patients with polycythaemia vera have or develop an associated leukaemia.

The whole question of the diagnosis of polycythaemia vera is a difficult one, more especially the differentiation between this disease and relative and secondary types of polycythaemia. One gets the impression that the authors have over-simplified the issue. Blood-volume studies appear to be essential, but even some of the cases 'of relative polycythaemia' appear to have a high true red-cell volume (Table 4). One hopes that the iron utilization will help, but so far this has not become universally applicable.

One does not expect a full review of the literature in a monograph of this type, but it surely should not omit mention of a critical review published in recent years in a South African journal.

Finally, measurements of red-cell survival in polycythaemia vera, published before the contributions in this field of the author's associates appear to have been omitted. This is a regrettable oversight.

C.M.

HAEMOPHILIA AND RELATED CONDITIONS

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Haemophilia and its Related Conditions. Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 32. By R. G. Macfarlane and Rosemary Biggs. Pp. 22. 2s. 6d. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1955.

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. Clinical Diagnosis. 3. Laboratory Diagnosis. 4. Technique: (a) Preparation of Special Reagents; (b) Preliminary Tests; (c) Tests on Samples with an Abnormal One-Stage Prothrombin Time; (d) Tests on Samples with a Normal One-Stage Prothrombin Time. 5. Treatment. References.

In recent years rapid progress has been made in the study of the haemorrhagic disorders, and many clinicians and laboratory workers have felt bewildered and puzzled when faced with a patient presenting with hereditary or other haemorrhagic diatheses. The Medical Research Council of Great Britain have realized this position and they have asked Dr. R. G. Macfarlane and Dr.

Rosemary Biggs to prepare this short memorandum. They could have made no better choice.

This 22-page booklet maintains the high standard we have come to expect from the Medical Research Council's publications. It covers the clinical and laboratory diagnosis of these haemorrhagic states. There is a fairly detailed technical section which is quite adequate as a guide to most laboratory workers, and also a short section on treatment. Most of the work has been published previously but it has never before been made so conveniently and inexpensively available.

The advice which is given is concise, accurate and authoritative. It is simply set out, easy to follow and easy to understand. The memorandum will receive a warm welcome from clinicians, pathologists and medical students.

C.M.

MAYO CLINIC PAPERS

Collected Papers of The Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation. Edited by Richard M. Hewitt, B.A., M.A., M.D. *et al.* Volume XLVI. Pp. 843 + viii, with illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1955.

Contents: 1. Alimentary Tract. 2. Genitourinary Diseases. 3. Ductless Glands. 4. Blood and Circulatory Organs. 5. Dermatology. 6. Head, Trunk and Extremities. 7. Thorax. 8. Brain, Spinal Cord and Nerves. 9. Radiology. 10. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. 11. Anaesthesia, Gas and Intravenous Therapy. Miscellaneous. Indices.

During the past year no less than 629 papers were published by members of the staff of the Mayo Clinic. In this volume 134 of them have been reproduced, some in full, others in abstract.

The articles are presented in sections according to the anatomical system concerned. The first chapter contains papers dealing with the Alimentary Tract and here one finds an excellent review of the therapy of ulcerative colitis by J. A. Bargen. It is interesting to note the author's complete lack of enthusiasm for steroid therapy in this condition. Other commendable papers deal with hiatus hernia, functioning ovarian tumours and the management of thyrotoxicosis, myocardial infarction and renal disease.

At the Mayo Clinic thyroidectomy is performed under local anaesthetic. By this means, the risk of permanent damage to the recurrent laryngeal nerves is thought to be reduced. The results obtained would seem to justify the procedure.

The whole volume is essentially practical and clinical, and does not include any highly technical or abstruse articles. It may be regarded as 'light' medical reading, which should be enjoyed by all members of the profession.

R.H.