

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

## CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

*Cleft Lip and Palate*. Second Edition. By W. G. Holdsworth, F.R.C.S. (Eng.). With a foreword by Sir Harold Gillies, C.B.F., F.R.C.S. Pp. xi + 187. 146 Figures. 42s. net. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface. Foreword. Acknowledgements. I. The Lip and Palate. II. Development. By R. J. Harrison, M.A., D.Sc., M.D., B.Ch. III. Clefts. IV. Cleft Lip. V. Cleft Palate. VI. Secondary Operations. VII. Nursing Care. VIII. General Anaesthesia. By G. E. Ennis, F.F.A.R.C.S. and D. A. Sherman, M.D., D.A. IX. Orthodontic Treatment. By M. A. Kettle, F.D.S., D.Orth. R.C.S. Appendix—Suturing. References. Index.

This second edition improves on the high standard set by the original work. It is a very comprehensive review of everything concerning cleft lip and palate surgery, contains good diagrams and good operative descriptions, but it still has some minor shortcomings.

Some of the techniques described should be mentioned only historically and insufficient space is given to others, such as Tension's operation for cleft lip.

The author should develop strong views to make his book still more useful for the young surgeon who needs the firm guidance resulting from experience and judgment.

D.S.D.

## PHYSIOLOGY IN SURGERY

*Physiologic Principles of Surgery*. Edited by Leo M. Zimmerman, M.D. and Rachmiel Levine, M.D. Pp. xv+988. Illustrations. \$15.00. Philadelphia and London: W.B. Saunders Company. 1957.

*Contents:* 1. Metabolic Changes Associated with Injury. 2. Infections and Antibiotics. 3. Thermal and Radiation Injuries. 4. Transplantation of Tissue. 5. Hemorrhage and Shock. 6. Blood Transfusion. 7. Body Fluids and Electrolytes. 8. Nutrition in Surgery. 9. Significance of Plasma Proteins in Surgical Practice. 10. Surgery of Newborn. 11. Pain. 12. Anesthesia. 13. Congenital Heart Disease. 14. Acquired Cardiac Lesions. 15. The Basis for Surgical Treatment of Hypertension. 16. Peripheral Arterial Vascular Disorders. 17. Venous and Lymphatic Systems. 18. Respiratory Tract: Physiology of the Thorax. Application of Pulmonary Function Studies to Thoracic Surgery. 19. The Esophagus. 20. The Stomach. 21. The Large and Small Intestine. 22. The Liver. 23. The Bile Tract. 24. The Pancreas. 25. The Blood and Blood-forming Organs. 26. The Thyroid Gland. 27. The Parathyroid Glands. 28. The Adrenal Glands. 29. The Islands of Langerhans: Hyperinsulinism. 30. The Kidneys. 31. The Lower Urinary Tract. 32. The Male Genital Tract. 33. The Uterus and Ovaries. 34. The Breast. 35. Kinetic Aspect of the Physiology of the Locomotor System. 36. Central Nervous System. Index.

Here is a book which cannot be reviewed adequately in the space usually available and all one can say is that it should be read by every doctor—and preferably by all medical students. Although edited by two eminent men, it is written by 50 contributors, each an authority in his subject. Consequently, each chapter is an entity in itself, complete with an extensive list of relevant references. The contributors have managed to apply their information to clinical and operative surgery, making the book an absolute delight to read.

There is, however, no easy bedside reading here, because even though the subject matter is cleverly handled, it is too extensive and comprehensive to be simple. Nevertheless, reviewing this book was a pleasure and it is a most welcome addition to my bookshelf, where it will not remain undisturbed for long.

D.J.duP.

## WOUND SHOCK

*Privy Council. Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 34. The Treatment of Wound Shock—The Wound Shock Working Party*. Pp. vii+39. 4 Figures. 3s. 6d. Net. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1957.

*Contents:* Part I. Nature and Assessment. Introduction. Assessment of Patient's Condition. Conclusions. Part II. Treatment. General Measures. Restoration of Blood Volume by Transfusion. Operation. Post-operative Care. Metabolic Consequences of Injury. Special Complications of Injury. Burns. Toxic Gases. Appendix I. Transfusion Fluids provided by the Blood Transfusion Services in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Appendix II. Plasma Substitutes. Appendix III. Transfusion Apparatus. Appendix IV. Practical Points in the Intravenous Administration of Blood or Blood Products, including Grouping Tests. Appendix V. Untoward Reactions following Transfusion. References.

This excellent memorandum should be in the possession of every medical practitioner who is called upon to deal with wound shock. The working party has completely revised War Memorandum

No. 1 on 'The Treatment of Wound Shock' and the present memorandum (No. 34) is absolutely up to date. Clear criteria for the assessment of the patient's condition are given and the treatment is described in detail. Special complications such as fat embolism and anuria are reviewed and the modifications for abdominal and chest injuries and for burns are outlined.

Appendices on transfusion fluids, plasma substitutes, transfusion apparatus, and reactions and practical points in the technique of transfusion, are a most valuable contribution to the memorandum.

The memorandum is recommended with the greatest enthusiasm.

J.H.L.

## YEAR BOOK OF EYES AND E.N.T.

*The Year Book of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat*. (1956-57 Year Book Series). *The Eye*. Edited by Derrick Vail, B.A., M.D., D.Oph. (Oxon.), F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Hon.). *The Ear, Nose and Throat*. Edited by John R. Lindsay, M.D. Pp. 448. 128 Illustrations. \$7.00. post paid. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Publisher's Note. *The Eye*. The Orbit and Adnexa. The Conjunctiva and Cornea. The Uvea. Retraction and Motility. The Lens and Cataract. Neurology and Visual Fields. The Retina. Glaucoma. Surgery. Therapy. Miscellaneous. *The Ear*. Vestibular Function and Vertigo. Hearing and Hearing Tests. Tubal Function and Inflammatory Ear Disease. Otitis Media. Fenestration and Stapes Mobilization. Miscellaneous. *The Nose and Throat*. The Nose and Sinuses. The Mouth, Oropharynx and Nasopharynx. Salivary Glands. The Larynx and Neck. Trachea, Bronchi and Tracheotomy. The Hypopharynx and Esophagus. Allergy. Acute Respiratory Disease (ARD) Viruses. Miscellaneous.

In a book of this type the reviewers are at a disadvantage, for they have to read in a hurry and consequently have not the leisurely approach permitting absorption and retention of so much unconnected material. This is no book to be consumed in one sitting, but rather a bedside delicacy to be nibbled at odd moments, a few pages at a time. Like its predecessors it consists of summaries of the important articles that have appeared in the world literature for the period between October 1955 and September 1956. This is to be the last edition combining the Eye and the ENT sections. From next year they will be independent, thus permitting an extension of each subject. It is hoped that the quality of the paper, print and illustrations will also be maintained.

The summaries are considerably longer than an abstract, such as those of the American Journal of Ophthalmology, and more detail is therefore possible. Also most of the articles have an appended critical review by the Editor. The criticisms may vary from a 'wow' (chorio-retinal burns are obtainable 42.5 miles from an exploded atom bomb) to several sentences, but in all cases are constructive. It is felt that the book serves the purpose of enabling one to keep the previous year's work fresh in mind, there being a tendency for this to become neglected in the rush to keep right abreast with the spate of the more recent journals.

L.S.

This year's edition maintains its interest as an excellent resumé of the world literature with succinct editorial comment after each article. For practitioners with an interest in this field it is an economic method of covering the year's trends. It is as usual, an excellent, clear and well-illustrated publication.

The section on vestibular function and vertigo gives a good review of modern concepts; of special interest is postural and positional vertigo. Psychogalvanic skin reactions in audiometry are regarded as of doubtful value. The present status of fenestration and stapes mobilization in otosclerosis achieves a prominent place. Tympanoplasty is of marked interest and there are excellent articles by Wullstein and Zöllner.

The sections on the nose are mainly interested in the plastic field.

The changes in the other sections are not marked, but the use of continuous negative-pressure wound drainage after laryngectomy (post-irradiation) is of interest.

In the allergy section, it is suggested that food sensitivity is important in perennial vasomotor rhinitis in adults. Steroids in nasal allergy are condemned except for local use. The statement that over 90% of chronic sinusitis is basically an allergic rhino-

Sinusitis with or without secondary infection is acceptable in this country.

Articles on the adenoid-pharyngeal-conjunctival viruses and Cocksackie Group-A viruses are of special interest.

B.G.

#### CANCER

*Cancer. Volume I. Part I. Research into Causation.* Edited by Ronald W. Raven, O.B.E. (Mil.), T.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. x+539+(19). 94 Figures. 85s. + 2s. 2d. delivery. (Complete work will consist of 6 Volumes and Index). London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface to the Work. Contributors to this Volume. *Part I: Research into Causation.* 1. Historical Aspects of Cancer. *W. R. Bett.* 2. The Incubation Period of Cancer in Man. *E. L. Kennaway.* 3. Carcinogenic Effect of Cholesterol. *E. L. Kennaway.* 4. Carcinogenesis. *P. R. Peacock.* 5. Chemical Mechanisms of Normal and Abnormal Cell Division. *J. N. Davidson.* 6. Biochemistry of Cancer Induction. *A. Clark Griffin.* 7. Hormones and Neoplasia. *Michael B. Shimkin.* 8. The Part Played by Viruses in the Origin of Tumours. *Leon Dmochowski.* 9. Nutrition and the Genesis of Tumours. *Albert Tannenbaum and the late Herbert Silverstone.* 10. The Genetic Component of Cancer. *P. C. Koller.* 11. Environmental Factors in the Production of Human Cancer. *W. C. Hueper.* 12. Carcinogenic Effects of Radiation. *A. Glucksmann, L. F. Lamerton and W. V. Mayneord.* Index.

This volume is a work of outstanding merit not only as a book which fulfils many criteria (size, weight, binding etc.) but also in the manner in which the subject matter is presented. The text is liberally supported by charts, tables, diagrams and reproductions that are equally commendable. One criticism in this regard may be levelled at the glossiness and whiteness of the paper, which makes reading a little uncomfortable.

The chapters flow naturally one into the other in a manner that flattens out the effects of the discontinuities so prone to arise in publications of this type. The reader not unexpectedly senses the weight of authority behind each statement, for the contributors have been specifically selected from those most renowned in the English-speaking world. Such a standard is maintained throughout that it would be quite inappropriate to single out any chapter for individual comment or praise. The significant feature is the breadth of vision and the intrinsic balance of the chapters and of the work as a whole.

Obviously, in so comprehensive a work, where our knowledge is in a state of flux, certain lines of approach may appear initially to be under- or over-emphasized. This, however, is only the first in a series of volumes and supplements where, no doubt, such apparent discrepancies will later receive due attention.

The vast amount of research that has been and is being undertaken is revealed not only in the body of each chapter but also in the very comprehensive references (up to 600 in some cases) at the end of each chapter.

Perhaps a fitting description of the work would be: a reference book one is loath to put down. It should therefore be found in every medical library and in the personal library of everyone interested in cancer.

J.M.G.

#### BIOCHEMISTRY

*Kinetics and Thermodynamics in Biochemistry.* By H. Geoffrey Bray, D.Sc. (Birm.) and Kenneth White, B.Sc. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Birm.), F.R.I.C. Pp. xii+343. 71 Illustrations. 42s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface. Symbols, Abbreviations and Conventions. 1. Atoms and Molecules. 2. Particles in Motion. 3. Principles of Thermodynamics. 4. Equilibria in Aqueous Solution. 5. The Rate of Reaction. 6. The Kinetics of Reaction Systems. 7. The Kinetics of Enzymic Reactions. 8. Free Energy and Metabolism. 9. Kinetics and the Whole Organism. Index.

This book represents a systematic development of the basic ideas of kinetics and thermodynamics as applied to biochemistry. It is written primarily for the honours and post-graduate student and the treatment of the subject matter is thus necessarily at a somewhat advanced level. The mathematical knowledge required, however, does not extend beyond an acquaintance with the ideas of simple calculus.

The topics discussed include structure and biochemical function, energetic coupling and active transport, equilibria concerning oxidation-reduction reactions and phosphate compounds, the kinetics of reaction systems, isotopic tracers in reaction systems,

enzyme kinetics, pathways of free energy, and control of metabolism.

The book will appeal to biochemists and physical chemists alike and will do much to foster the cross-fertilization between those sciences which seek to elucidate the behaviour of living matter.

The book fills an important gap in biochemical literature by collecting much useful material which would otherwise be scattered amongst specialist text-books and journals. It is an invaluable contribution to our knowledge of the major growing points of modern biochemistry.

H.Z.

#### DRUG THERAPY YEAR BOOK

*Year Book of Drug Therapy—1956-57. Year Book Series.* Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D. Pp. 514+70 Figures. \$6.75. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Publisher's Note: Introduction. Allergic Disorders. Cardiovascular Diseases: Arrhythmias, Congestive Heart Failure, Hematologic Coronary Disease, Hypertension, Peripheral Vascular Diseases, Thrombosis, Thrombophlebitis and the Anticoagulant Drugs. Chest Diseases. Corticotropin and the Cortisones. Dermatologic Maladies. Diabetes Mellitus. Gastroenterologic Disorders. Growth Disturbances. Hematologic Disorders. Hypothyroidism. Infectious Diseases: Antibiotics and Sulfonamides—General Considerations, Miscellaneous Infections, Urinary Tract Infections, Tuberculosis. Kidney Disorders. Lead and Organic Phosphate Poisoning. Liver Disorders. Neoplastic Diseases. Neuropsychiatric Disorders. Obesity. Obstetric and Gynecologic Disorders. Ophthalmologic Disorders. Pain. Rheumatic Disorders. Surgical Disorders. Thyrotoxicosis. Urolithiasis. Worm and Fluke Infestations.

The Year Book series is well known to all doctors. The high standard and valuable features are maintained from year to year. There is the usual large number of abstracts of articles on a variety of topics (see table of contents above); it is the American medical literature that is principally represented. Many of the articles are from journals not easily available to all in this country. There are numbers of charts and tables, and an author index as well as the general subject index. Critical editorial notes and comments are a valuable feature of the service provided in these books.

Drugs of many types that have undergone clinical trial over the last year or two are presented for further study by the reader. Those practitioners with research interest will see what has been happening and may be stimulated to conduct studies of their own.

A large number of articles deal with the subject of drugs which affect mood and behaviour (tranquillizing agents), half of the articles being chosen deliberately by the editor to emphasise the toxic proclivities of these extensively prescribed agents. The section on anticoagulants is preceded by authoritative answers to 15 important questions relating to their use and should be studied by everyone using these drugs. The newer anticholinergic drugs proposed as substitutes for atropine in the treatment of peptic ulcer have not displaced this old drug. Ready-mixed proprietary preparations, as marketed for instance in the case of anti-hypertensive drugs, are deplored because the physician loses the advantage of adjusting the dosage of the individual ingredients. Attention is drawn to the ever-changing remedies for trichomonas infection. A warning is given regarding the use of folic acid with cyanocobalamin in pernicious anaemia, which may be harmful. The mode of action of aspirin (incidentally holding its own against cortisone in rheumatoid arthritis) is still unexplained. These examples should serve to illustrate some of the many investigations and unsolved problems of therapy reported by clinical workers and presented in condensed form for the interested reader.

N.S.

#### TREATMENT OF HYPERTENSION

*Die Behandlung Des Bluthochdrucks.* Von Prof. Dr. L. Hantschmann. viii+92 Seiten. Abbildungen. DM 12.-. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1956.

*Inhaltsverzeichnis:* A. Diagnose und Differentialdiagnose des Bluthochdrucks. I. Diagnose der Bluthochdruckerkrankung. 1. Die Blutdruckmessung. 2. Werte und Grenzen des normalen Blutdrucks. 3. Feststellung der krankhaften Blutdruckerhöhung. II. Differentialdiagnose der Bluthochdruckerkrankung. 1. Die Bedeutung der Differentialdiagnose für die Therapie. 2. Die Einteilung nach kreislaufmechanischen Gesichtspunkten. 3. Die Einteilung nach klinischen Gesichtspunkten. 4. Die Bluthochdruckerkrankung bei Erkrankungen des Herzens und der grossen Blutgefässe. 5. Der zentral-nervöse Hochdruck. 6. Der endokrine Hochdruck. 7. Hochdruck bei Infektionskrankheiten. 8. Der renale Hochdruck. 9. Der Schwangerschaftshochdruck. 10. Die essentielle Hypertonie. III. Diagnose

des Schweregrades der Hypertonie. B. *Therapie*. I. Die Hypertonie bei Erkrankungen des Herzens und der grossen Blutgefässe. II. Der zentral-nervöse Hochdruck. III. Der endokrine Hochdruck. IV. Hochdruck bei Infektionskrankheiten. V. Der renale Hochdruck. VI. Der Schwangerschaftshochdruck. VII. Die essentielle Hypertonie. (a) Ziele und Möglichkeiten der Behandlung. (b) Beeinflussung der psychischen und nervösen Faktoren. (c) Körperliche Tätigkeit, Sport und physikalische Massnahmen. (d) Diät. (e) Medikamentöse Behandlung. (f) Röntgentherapie. (g) Die chirurgische Behandlung. (h) Zusammenfassende Leitsätze zur Hypertoniebehandlung. VIII. Die Behandlung der Folgezustände des Bluthochdrucks. (a) Herz. (b) Blutgefässe. (c) Gehirn. (d) Nieren. Schrifttum. Sachregister.

This is an excellent and comprehensive book on the aetiology and treatment of hypertension. The subject is extremely well presented and, although the major portion of the book is devoted to the treatment of essential hypertension, the importance of other causes of hypertension is emphasized so that appropriate measures can be instituted for the removal of the specific aetiological factor.

All the usual causes of hypertension are listed, i.e. coarctation of the aorta, unilateral and bilateral renal disease, arteriovenous fistulae, phaeochromocytoma and toxæmia of pregnancy, as well as endocrine causes, central nervous diseases and the hypertension associated with infectious diseases. The appropriate treatment in each case is fully discussed.

This is an essentially practical book, full of basic valuable information, written by a man with wide clinical experience. We are reminded that measures to reduce the blood pressure are not indicated in every case of hypertension and may in fact be harmful in those instances where the elevated blood pressure is due to an increase in stroke volume of the heart, as in heart block, aortic incompetence, arteriovenous fistulae and marked arteriosclerosis of the great vessels.

A full and critical account is given of the various therapeutic measures that have been employed in the treatment of hypertension. Among the ones that have stood the test of time, weight reduction, salt-free diet and rearrangement of the patient's life to allow for more leisure and less nervous tension, are still of prime importance and are by no means superseded by modern hypotensive drug therapy. In the discussion of the various therapeutic agents, stress is laid not only on their hypotensive properties, but also on the side-effects and hazards of administration of the more potent drugs, a point of special importance in out-patient treatment.

The various sympathectomies, adrenalectomy and the treatment of the cardiac, cerebral and renal complications of hypertension are briefly discussed.

This is a concise and useful book which can be read with advantage both by students and doctors alike. It is written in German.

H.L.

## THE ELDERLY SICK

*The Care of the Elderly Sick in General Practice*. Being the John Matheson Shaw Lecture for the year 1956 delivered in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on November 9th, by W. Ferguson Anderson, M.D., F.R.F.P.S. Glas., M.R.C.P. Lond. Adviser to the Western Regional Hospital Board (Scotland) in Diseases of Old Age and Chronic Sickness; Honorary Lecturer in *Materia Medica* in the University of Glasgow. Pp. 27. Edinburgh: The Royal College of Physicians. 1957.

This booklet—a primer in Geriatrics—comprises the 1956 John Matheson Shaw Lecture of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh delivered by Dr. W. Ferguson Anderson. It is brimful with Experience—tested, reliable information on varied subjects ranging from the pitfalls in diagnosis of coronary thrombosis and appendicitis to the bugbear of geriatrics—bedsores. Helpful advice is given on mental aberration, gastro-intestinal disturbances, osteoporosis, hemiplegia, insomnia, surgery, and a host of other subjects. An apt plea is made for the reinstatement of careful history-taking as a valuable aid in diagnosis—a timely antidote to laboratory fanaticism.

And all this is dealt with in barely 23 easily read pages; a remarkable achievement made possible by avoiding padding, platitudes and similar space-consuming extravagances.

This lecture should serve to remind one that many easily applicable means for relieving suffering and countering disability in the aged are readily available, and should whet the reader's appetite for further study of the subject of geriatrics.

I.M.H.

## STUDENT'S HISTOLOGY

*A Student's Histology*. By H. S. D. Garven, B.Sc., M.D. (Glas.), F.R.S.E., F.R.F.P.S.G. Pp. xii + 650. Illustrations (Some in colour). 55s. net. + 1s. 6d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1957.

*Contents*: Preface. To the Student. List of Contractions. 1. The Cell and General Considerations. 2. The Tissues of the Body. 3. Glands and Secretory Activity. 4. The Circulatory System. 5. Haemocytopoietic and Lymphatic Organs. 6. The Respiratory System. 7. The Skin. 8. The Digestive System. 9. Excretion. 10. Integration—The Endocrine Organs. 11. Reproduction. 12. Integration—The Reflex Arc. 13. The Special Senses. *Appendix I*. Suggestions on Further Reading. *Appendix II*. A List of Histologists and Others. Index.

For many years there has been a marked gap in the medical student's armamentarium of text books on physiological histology. The available texts have either been very elementary or have dealt with the subject in sufficient scope and detail for the advanced student or research worker.

This new book by an outstanding teacher and histologist fills the gap in a remarkable manner. The clarity of the text, both visually and conceptually, and the organization of the book, leave little to be desired. The plates and figures, all of which are new, must be particularly commended.

An interesting innovation is notes on the Latin and Greek derivations of the names of the major structures and organs discussed. Eponymous nomenclature, although still used, is commendably reduced in this volume. The name of Malpighi, for example, is no longer perpetuated in the kidney or in the skin. In this respect the 'List of histologists and others' in Appendix II is of great interest and value.

The correlation of structure and function is, on the whole, well covered by Dr. Garven. He avoids the extremes of paucity or over-discussion of physiological associations seen in some of the more expensive volumes. The reasonable cost of this book, as text-books go, has been achieved without reduction in the quality of type face or finish, both of which are excellent.

Dr. Garven's book cannot be too highly recommended to all students of medicine and biological science. It will also be of considerable help to those studying for specialist qualifications.

A.G.R.

## CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

*Clinical Toxicology*. The Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment of Poisoning. By S. Locket, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. (London). With Special Sections on the Identification and Estimation of Some Common Toxic Substances by W. S. M. Grieve, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. and the Identification and Botanical Characteristics of Some of the More Frequently Encountered Poisonous Plants by S. G. Harrison, B.Sc. Pp. xii + 772. 27 Illustrations, including 2 coloured plates. £5 5s. net. London: Henry Kimpton. 1957.

*Contents*: Preface. I. Introduction. Facts and Figures. *Part I. Basic Treatment in Poisoning*. Principles and Practice Discussed in respect to Injury and Damage to Individual Organs and Systems. II. The Immediate Treatment of Acute Poisoning; Gastric Lavage; Warmth; Posture; Sedation; Nausea and Vomiting; Diarrhoea and Colic. III. Disorders of the Respiratory System (including Acute Respiratory Failure; Artificial Respiration; Pulmonary Oedema; Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide; and Acute Heart Failure). IV. Disorders of Fluid and Salt Balance; of the Kidney and Renal Tract occurring in Poisoning; Shock and Peripheral Circulatory Failure (including Anuria; Intravenous Fluids; Dehydration; Water Intoxication; Potassium Intoxication; Hypercalcaemia and Renal Failure). V. Liver Damage; Anticoagulants; Dextran. VI. Disorders of the Blood and Haemopoietic System. VII. Antibiotics; Sulphonamides, Sulphones and Diamidines; Hypersensitivity; Antidotes (including "B.A.L." "E.D.T.A." and Nalorphine Hydrochloride); Pesticides and Synthetic Detergents. *Part II. Symptoms and Treatment Described for Individual Poisonous Agents*. VIII. Toxic Gases. IX. Sedatives, Hypnotics and Narcotics. Section I (including Barbiturates; Sulphonal; Urethane; Primidone; Phenylacetylurea; Ureides and Bromides; Phenytoin; Troxidonium and Methylpentynol). X. Sedatives, Hypnotics and Narcotics. Section II (including Opium; Morphine and its derivatives; Pethidine; Amidone; Phenadoxone; Cannabis Indica and Mescal; Drug Addiction). XI. Alcohols, Ethers, Aldehydes, Ketones, Esters and Glycols. Section I (including Ethyl Alcohol; Acute Alcoholic Intoxication; Chronic Alcoholism; Antabuse and Dithiocarbamic Acid Derivatives). XII. Alcohols, Ethers, Aldehydes, Ketones, Esters and Glycols. Section II (including the Halogenated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons). XIII. Salicylates; Phenacetin and related Aromatic Analgesics; Phenylbutazone; Quinine; Quinidine and related Compounds; Mepacrine and other Anti-malarials. XIV. Convulsants (including Cocaine and the Local Anaesthetics and the Anti-histaminics). XV. Vegetable and Plant Poisons. Section I. XVI. Vegetable and Plant Poisons. Section II. XVII. Vegetable and Plant Poisons. Section III. XVIII. Venomous Animals. XIX. Phenols, Cresols, and their Derivatives;

DNC and related Compounds; Naphthalene and its Derivatives; Aniline and the Aromatic Amines; Nitro-benzene. XX. Corrosive Acids, Alkalis and related Compounds. XXI. Arsenic; Antimony; Bismuth; Phosphorus; Lead. XXII. Mercury and its Compounds; Beryllium; Cadmium; Iron; Gold; Zinc; Manganese; Thallium; Nickel; Tellurium; Vanadium; Aluminium; Copper; Cobalt; Magnesium; Osmium; Platinum; Silver; Tin and Lithium. XXIII. Radioactive Substances; Atomic Bomb. XXIV. Toxic Effects of a Miscellaneous Group of Drugs and Therapeutic Agents including Hormones and Vitamins. Part III. *Special Sections on Identification of Poisons and Poisonous Plants.* XXV. The Identification and Estimation of some Common Toxic Substances. (W. S. M. Grieve, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.). XXVI. The Identification and Botanical Characteristics of some of the more frequently encountered Poisonous Plants. (S. G. Harrison, B.Sc.). Index of Treatment. Index of Authors. Index of Plant Names. Subject Index.

There are many smaller or larger books on the subject of toxicology. This is a new book with the emphasis on the fact that it is written by a physician in active clinical practice with a unit under his care that is primarily concerned with the treatment of poisoning. Their experience in the field of clinical toxicology they regard as almost unique. The subjects considered in this volume include therapeutic agents, chemicals used in industry and in warfare, venous and poisonous plants. Most of the information is derived from studies in human beings. Alcoholism and addiction and suicidal agents are considered in special detail. The book is divided into 3 parts. Part I deals with the basic treatment of poisoning, principles and general measures. In part II treatment is described for each individual toxic agent or group of agents. Part III contains two sections in which the identification of some commonly occurring toxic substances and poisonous plants and seeds are considered. There are numerous references to the literature, and a comprehensive index (treatment; authors; plants; subject index) containing more than 7,500 entries.

This book will be of value to medical and non-medical workers interested in the clinical diagnosis and treatment of poisoning.

N.S.

#### THERAPEUTICS

*The Principles of Therapeutics.* By J. Harold Burn, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. Pp. ix + 278. 36 Figures. 27s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1957.

*Contents:* I. The Development of Therapeutics. II. Ion Exchange in Cellular Activity. Active Substances in the Body. III. Transmission of Nerve Impulses by Acetylcholine and Noradrenaline. IV. The Properties of Acetylcholine and

of Substances modifying its Action. V. The Treatment of Hypertension. VI. Substances whose Action resembles that of Acetylcholine, especially Nicotine. VII. Adrenaline and the Sympathomimetic Amines. VIII. The Action of Histamine. Anaphylaxis, Allergy. Histamine Liberators and Anti-Histamine Substances. IX. Hydroxytryptamine and Bradykinin. X. Pituitary (posterior lobe) Extract. Biological Standardization. XI. The Digitalis Glycosides. XII. Substances relaxing Smooth Muscle including Vasodilators. XIII. Analgesic Substances. XIV. Cocaine and the Local Anaesthetics. XV. Alcohol. XVI. Anaesthetics. XVII. Barbiturates and Tranquillizing Drugs. XVIII. Stimulant Drugs. XIX. Drugs on the Alimentary Canal. XX. Action of Drugs on the Uterus. Ergot. XXI. The Treatment of Anaemias. XXII. The Thyroid Gland. XXIII. Insulin. XXIV. Oestrogens and Androgens. XXV. Adrenal Cortex. XXVI. Disinfectants. XXVII. Sulphonamides Salicylates. XXVIII. The Kidney. Treatment of Oedema. XXIX. Antibiotics. XXX. Malaria. XXXI. Chemotherapy in Tropical Diseases. XXXII. Metallic Salts and Vitamins. XXXIII. Biological Variation and Clinical Trials. Index.

This book contains the lectures on pharmacology and the basis of therapeutics given to medical students at Oxford. It is not a text-book of pharmacology nor yet of therapeutics; but a knowledge of its contents will enable the student to use his pharmacology when treating his patients and the physician to maintain his contact with the experimental observations on which his treatment is based. It is recommended to those who want brief notes on the principles involved in the therapeutic use of drugs.

Experimental evidence is given for the combined use of ephedrine with neostigmine in myasthenia gravis; for the hypotensive action of reserpine (dislodging 5-hydroxy-tryptamine in ganglia and thus blocking transmission); for the effect of cigarette-smoking on the liberation of antidiuretic hormone or vasopressin; for the production of essential hypertension by dopamine, through the failure of amine oxidase to destroy this pressor substance. Numerous other views on the mode of action of drugs, both established and tentative, are clearly presented and often illustrated by figures and tracings. It is surprising to read a description of the use of thallium acetate for ringworm without mention of its great toxicity. Dimercaprol is not of value in lead poisoning. There is no mention of the effect of orally administered anticoagulants on factor VII, nor is there indication of the chemo-receptive emetic trigger zone, nor of the action of iodine on thyrotrophic hormone and the thyroid proteolytic enzymes in hyperthyroidism. Diiodohydroxyquinoline might be mentioned in the treatment of amoebiasis. There are better alternatives to filix mas than pelletieria and cousoo. On p. 257 'parathyroid' should be read for 'paratyphoid'.

This is an interesting and useful book for students and physicians.

N.S.