

REVIEWS OF BOOK : BOEKRESENSIES

BANTU GYNAECOLOGY

Bantu Gynaecology: By G. P. Charlewood, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.), F.R.C.O.G. with contributions by O. S. Heyns, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. 172. 36s. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press. 1956.

Contents: I. Some Ethnic Relations of the Bantu in South Africa, by O.S. Heyns. II. Congenital Malformations. III. Gonorrhoea. IV. Tuberculosis of the Female Genital Tract. V. Gynaecological Schistosomiasis. VI. Lymphopathia Venereum. VII. Abortion. VIII. Ectopic Pregnancy. IX. Advanced Extrauterine Pregnancy. X. Obstetrical Pressure Injuries. XI. Genital Prolapse, by O. S. Heyns. XII. Hydatidiform (Vesicular) Mole. XIII. Chorionepithelioma. XIV. Anomalous Genital Bleeding. XV. Fibromyomata. XVI. Carcinoma of the Vulva. XVII. Carcinoma of the Cervix. XVIII. Carcinoma of the Uterine Body. XIX. Ovarian Tumours. XX. Masculinisation of the Female. Bibliography. Index.

Having read Dr. Charlewood's book from cover to cover with very great pleasure and interest, I submit my impressions of the work as follows:

It is most fitting and proper that in a book describing the gynae-

cological peculiarities of the Bantu, the historical background of these peoples should be supplied in the first chapter. This erudite account makes unusually interesting and smooth reading and will be welcomed by both the overseas reader and our own South African medical man. Without doubt it creates the correct setting and atmosphere in which to unfold the remainder of the book.

Emphasis is naturally made on the differences between Bantu and European gynaecology. Congenital malformations are mentioned briefly, particularly the impact these have on the domestic and social aspect of Bantu life. It is interesting to note that pseudo-hermaphrodites are more commonly found in the Bantu than in the European in South Africa.

Gonorrhoea is one of the highlights of Bantu gynaecology and is fully dealt with. Gynaecological tuberculosis also is not uncommon among the Bantu; its effects on the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus and adnexae are well described and treatment is briefly discussed. The gynaecological forms of bilharzia disease are also seen much more frequently in the Bantu female than

in the European. The precancerous nature of this infection is stressed, particularly when the cervix is involved. Lymphopathia venereum, a venereal disease seen almost exclusively among the Bantu population, is described fully.

Ectopic pregnancy forms a most important subject as it occurs so frequently among the Bantu and Coloured populations—accounting for nearly 6% of all gynaecological admissions. This follows on the high incidence of gonococcal salpingitis, the antibiotic treatment of which probably increases the chances of tubal pregnancy—an interesting point well brought out. This section rightly emphasizes the 'atypical' ectopic pregnancy which is met with almost as frequently as the classical picture of ectopic pregnancy. An excellent and most authoritative review of the subject is presented.

Vesico-vaginal fistula is a lesion that is unfortunately common among the Bantu female population. The etiology and treatment are clearly and concisely described by Dr. Charlewood, who, because of his wide experience in this field, must be considered an authority on the subject. One's only regret, however, is that this chapter is so short.

An outstanding feature of Bantu gynaecology is the rarity of genital prolapse, which is about 80 times more frequently met with in the European population of South Africa. This subject is expertly dealt with by Professor Heyns who advances a logical and original explanation for its rarity in the Bantu. In the same chapter Professor Heyns puts forward an original and thought-provoking explanation why the Manchester operation for prolapse is so successful. Metropathia haemorrhagica and endometriosis, which are also rare in the Bantu are discussed briefly.

Fibromyomata are found almost 3 times as commonly in the Bantu as in the European, and account for a considerable proportion of Bantu gynaecology. The ever-present demand by the Bantu patient to conserve her uterus has to be respected when treatment is considered.

Carcinoma of the genital tract is considered briefly and concisely. Carcinoma of the cervix is generally met with at an earlier age in the Bantu and its clinical diagnosis presents more problems than is usual in the European case. Carcinoma of the uterine body in the Bantu is very much less frequently seen than in the European. Similarly, ovarian neoplasms appear to occur less commonly in the Bantu, the only exception being dermoid tumours.

The photographs in this book are exceptionally good and are of a high standard. The line drawings are clear, simple and easy to follow. The print is clear, but wider spacing and larger margins would be an improvement.

The peculiarities of the Bantu female present a large and very fascinating mass of information to all who are interested in gynaecology. All this information is given clearly and concisely in a manner that is easily assimilable. The subjects raised, however, are often so interesting that one would have appreciated more detail and discussion. This book is unique in that it presents, for the first time, in a complete and well organized volume, the truly major differences between European gynaecology, as is found in all the standard text-books, and Bantu gynaecology as is seen in South Africa.

Dr. Charlewood, who is well qualified to have written such a book, is to be warmly congratulated on his achievement.

The book is an essential for all medical students in South Africa and it should be read by all who practice, or are likely to practice gynaecology among the Bantu peoples.

L. v. D.

PROLAPSE

Genital Prolapse and Allied Conditions. By Percy Malpas, Ch.M. (Liverpool), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. 199 + vii with 37 illustrations. 47s. 6d. London: Harvey & Blythe, Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Anatomy of Genital Prolapse. 2. The Aetiology of Genital Prolapse. 3. The Varieties of Genital Prolapse. 4. The Symptoms of Prolapse. 5. Non-Operative Management. 6. Fothergill Operation and the Colporrhaphies. 7. The Modified Vaginal Hysterectomy. 8. Occasional Repair Operation. 9. The Complications of Repair Operations. 10. Postoperative Infections. 11. The Disturbances of Micturition Associated with Genital Prolapse. 12. The Rectal Complications of Prolapse. 13. Retroversion of the Uterus. Index.

The literature of genital prolapse and its management is very extensive and shows a continued and progressive development of the methods available for the cure of the condition. Much of what has been written about prolapse in the past is still valid, and all

modern methods are based on the work of many pioneers such as Fothergill, Mayo, Ward, Bonney and others.

With the publication of this excellent, though inadequately illustrated, review of genital prolapse and allied conditions, the author is to be congratulated on presenting a work based primarily on a personal experience gained from some 7,000 vaginal plastic operations.

In the chapter on the 'Aetiology of Prolapse' due consideration is given to the causative factors resulting from childbirth, and the rather interesting point is made that lacerations of the birth canal are of less importance than overdistension of the canal beyond the limits of tolerance. When discussing 'Non-operative Management of Prolapse' the value of re-educative exercises is discussed at some length, and in summing up the author states 'that it is of distinct value in recent puerperal patients and in some cases of stress incontinence associated with milder degrees of genital relaxation.' Mr. Malpas unfortunately makes no mention of the value of these pelvic-floor exercises as a prophylactic measure. The sections on the operative treatment of prolapse and allied conditions are concise and excellent, as is the chapter on the complications of repair operations.

This important book contains a vast amount of valuable information and represents a prodigious effort on the part of a world-famous gynaecologist.

A.M.M.

RADIOLOGY

Recent Advances in Radiology. By Thomas Lodge, M.B., Ch.B. (Sheff.), F.F.R., D.M.R. Third Edition. Pp. 358 + x, with 182 illustrations. 45s. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. Neuro-Radiology. 2. Injuries and Diseases of Bone. 3. Diseases of Joints. 4. The Alimentary Canal. 5. Diseases of the Large Bowel—The Biliary Tract—Pancreas. 6. The Cardio-Vascular System. 7. The Lungs. 8. The Lungs. 9. The Lungs. 10. The Genito-Urinary System.

In his preface the new author of this standard book stated that it has been written from the 'standpoint of the radiologist working in the general hospital' rather than the specialist radiologist. The author has achieved his self-set task admirably and the reviewer has no doubt that the book will have a far wider scope and will be of value to the practising physician and surgeon. In presenting a review of modern radiological diagnosis the book is worth while. The high standard laid down by the original author, Dr. Kerley, has been well maintained and selection of subjects has been extremely well balanced. The reproductions are good and it is refreshing to see that a slavish attempt to produce diapositives (negatives) at the expense of detail has been avoided. Indeed in deductive as opposed to empirical radiological diagnosis the positive images should help rather than detract.

The publishers, Messrs. J. & A. Churchill have maintained the excellent standard that has become associated with their publications and few radiologists cannot gain from a study of this text.

The *Recent Advances in Radiology* can be recommended to a far wider field of medical practitioners than the author has stated in his preface and students of radiology can gain much from a study of this book.

E.S.

DYNAMIC PSYCHIATRY

The Practice of Dynamic Psychiatry. By Jules H. Masserman, M.D. Pp. 790 + xxx. £5 2s. 0d. Philadelphia & London: W.B. Saunders Company. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Clinical Investigation of Human Behaviour. 2. Dynamic Evaluation of Clinical Syndromes. 3. Case Studies and Communications. 4. Clinical Dynamics of Affect and Self. 5. The Practice of Dynamic Psychotherapy. Appendices.

Some years ago the author published a book entitled 'Principles of Dynamic Psychiatry' in which he 'attempted to correlate various physiologic and psychologic concepts of behaviour into a comprehensive system termed "Biodynamics"'. The present volume extends the application of biodynamics to clinical psychiatry and to the theory and practice of medicine and its specialties'. The field covered is very wide indeed, and the final section of the book even deals with the psychology of politics, economics, and social problems.

Part I deals with the rationale, objectives, and methods of the psychiatric interview. There is a particularly good description of the approach to a psychiatric patient, and the techniques of securing a psychiatric history, and a useful short account of the various psychological tests and their functions.

Part 2 presents a description of various syndromes of behaviour disorder, including the neuroses, character disturbances, hysterical syndromes and psychosomatic disorders, mental deficiency and the psychoses. These are dealt with from the standpoint of the mental forces at work rather than of classification.

Part 3 deals with hospital records and psychiatric reports to referring physicians and to non-medical personnel such as courts insurance companies, and employment boards, which are admirably adapted to their recipients.

Part 4 is predominantly theoretical.

Part 5 constitutes nearly half the book, and is a survey of both the theory and practice of psychotherapy from ancient to modern times. There is much that is erudite in this section, not the least interesting part being that dealing with ancient practices such as the administration of shock treatment in Grecian times by means of electric eels!

There is a section on the evolution and present concepts of psycho-analysis and a review of the theory and practice of the schools of Adler, Jung, Alexander, and others. These are followed by a well-rounded account of the aims, methods, strategy, and tactics of biodynamic psychotherapy. This is based on the psycho-analytic approach, with variations of technique, and the use of drugs, hypnosis, group-therapy, and changes of environment where considered advisable.

In a book of this scope there must of necessity be sections which are dealt with too briefly, but there is a large amount of interesting case material illustrating many points both of diagnosis and therapy, and a bibliography of many hundreds of titles.

This book is stimulating, interesting, and eminently readable.

W.S.

MEDICAL, PHYSIOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS HEALING

New Concepts of Healing. Medical, Physiological and Religious. By A. Graham Ikin, M.A., M.Sc. Pp. 186 12s. 6d. London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1955.

Contents: 1. Healing—Medical, Physical, Psychological and Spiritual. 2. The New Testament and Healing. 3. Psychotherapy and the Church's Ministry of Healing. 4. Psychotherapy and Spiritual Direction. 5. Co-operation Between the Medical Profession and the Churches. 6. Some Healers To-day. 7. Spiritual Healing and the New Physics. 8. Suffering and Service. Appendices.

This is a sincere attempt by Miss A. Graham Ikin, a psychologist, to prepare the way for what the Bishop of Lincoln in his introduction refers to as 'full cooperation between clergy, doctors and psychotherapists in the work of healing and wholeness'. The author is well prepared for her task by her training in psychology, her own experience of sickness and her previous post as organizing secretary and lecturer for the Archbishop of York's Committee of Doctors and Clergy and the National Council for Pastoral and Medical Cooperation.

Her approach to the problem is represented by the following quotation from her own preface: 'Our prejudices and our resentments, our fears and our hates and our touchiness, are as potent a cause of disease as any microbe. Spiritual healing involves a casting out of negative and infantile emotions and a growth towards spiritual maturity.' It is likely that all sincere doctors find themselves on common ground with this statement.

The book is recommended for students in the theological colleges and medical schools. There is no doubt about the sincerity and careful consideration which the author has put into her subject and the book contains much useful information in appendices covering some of the well-known organizations for spiritual healing.

In the mid-twentieth century there is probably much more common ground for religion, psychology and medicine than is usually believed. Outstanding difficulties are, in the reviewer's opinion, largely a matter of semantics arising from the very different type of training approved in these 3 professions. This difficulty is well seen in the chapter on 'Some Healers To-day'. The phraseology here will not carry conviction to a medically trained mind although the case histories could probably quite well have been recounted by a medical man in such a way as to carry very much more conviction. On the other hand the chapter immediately preceding, on 'Co-operation between the Medical Profession and the Churches', and much else in the book is well stated for the consideration of any open-minded doctor. Because of the great importance of this subject it is now up to the medical profession to state its own case for cooperation in equally sympathetic terms.

J.F.B.

HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION

Hypnotic Suggestion. Its Role in Psychoneurotic and Psychosomatic Disorders. A Thesis by S. J. van Pelt, M.B., B.S. Pp. 95 with illustrations. 8s. 6d. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1955.

Contents: Part I. 1. Preliminary Introduction. 2. Short Historical Outline of Hypnotism. 3. The Nature of the Hypnotic State. 4. The Incidence of Susceptibility to Hypnosis. 5. The Phenomena of Hypnosis. 6. Methods of Inducing Hypnosis. Part II. 7. The Aetiology and Mechanism of the Psychoneuroses. 8. The Role of Hypnotic Suggestion in the Treatment of Psychoneurosis. 9. Illustrative Case Histories. Part III. 10. General Summary of Thesis.

Every general practitioner should read this clearly and simply written book. Dr. van Pelt, President of the British Society of Medical Hypnotists, exposes the simplicity of the techniques required to get to the root cause of many anxiety states, psychoneuroses and psychosomatic disorders. Contrary to the practice of many hypnotists he claims that light hypnosis is all that is necessary in most cases and that hereby in 95% of people can be achieved in a matter of weeks what may take years by psycho-analysis. He propounds his theories of the aetiology and mechanism of the psychoneuroses and the role of hypnotic suggestion therein. He states that hypnosis is a form of super-concentration of the mind, and that any of the recognized forms of psychoneurosis is really a state of self- or accidental hypnosis. Thus an idea of real emotional significance will act as, and have the power of, a hypnotic suggestion, and a psychoneurosis is the same in its structure as the behaviour and symptoms arising from a hypnotic or posthypnotic suggestion. In the treatment thereof he prescribes 'Relaxation, Realization and Re-education'. Dr. van Pelt would not be in his residential position if this book were not convincingly suggestive of the importance and role of hypnosis in psychotherapy. The 12 illustrative case histories give the reader a clear picture of this role and it is interesting to observe that the number of sessions required in therapy vary from 4 to 12. His claims in treatment appear reasonable. It would have been difficult to accept a claim of success by one treatment in a psychoneurotic with a complicated network of emotional disturbances, as less experienced hypnotists aver. It reminds one of the surgeon who performs a herniorrhaphy and claims success because he never sees the patient again, little realizing that his associate around the corner may have repaired his failures. As a non-hypnotist, this reviewer would more readily accept many claims of success in hypnosis when theories are re-inforced by facts and by controlled experiments.

R.S.

STAMMERING

Stammering: Its Cause and Cure. A Supplement to Stammer is not Nerves. By H. V. Hemery, L.R.A.M. Pp. 17 + iv with 5 illustrations. London: The School for Functional Speech Disability. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Basis of Speech. 2. Contradiction of Previous Theories. 3. The Postulation of a Basic Physical Error. 4. The Development of the Error. 5. The Nature and Definition of Stammering. 6. The Effects of Stammering. 7. The Correction of Stammering.

Contents: 1. The Purpose of the Supplement. 2. Public Opinion. 3. Medical Views. 4. Some Stammer; Others copy. 5. Stammering is being Cured. 6. Apparent Set-backs. 7. The Development of Customary Speaking Skill. 8. The Development of Stammering Skill. 9. The Re-education of the Stammerer.

The author's continuous contact with his pupils may explain the degree of repetition throughout this book (and the supplement, which, in turn, is a modified repetition of sections of the book) which makes reading very difficult. In attempting to create a new science out of the art of teaching, Mr. Hemery has failed miserably. Despite his warning to readers not to confuse 'nerves' with nervousness he errs himself. He states that 'stammering is a physiological bad habit which has its roots in basic error'. This 'basic error' is used throughout the book as some mysterious undefined etiological concept or even as an actual lesion, not to be confused with 'wrong motor inco-ordination'; yet he states elsewhere (and often) that the bad habit (of stammering) is due to wrong motor inco-ordination, and this 'bad habit' in effect, and in fact one discovers, turns out to be the 'basic error', e.g. on p. 38—'It cannot be emphasized too strongly that it is precisely the existence of the basic error and the lack of its replacement by a serviceable motor-habit that is the bane of the stammerer'. In the eyes of the reviewer a habit (good or bad) is based upon a reflex which depends upon the integrity of the nervous system. In fact the author himself proves that 'stammer is nerves'. The practical aspects of the re-education of the stammerer expounded in the Hemery Method of Speech

Re-education for Stammerers are not disputed by the reviewer because they embody the generally accepted principles of correction of speech defects. It seems that this book has been written merely as a vehicle to expound on the Hemery Method. The book could have been reasonably and readably condensed into about one-

third of its present size and most of the diagrams and figures, which are un-anatomical, un-physiological and unscientific, could have been dispensed with. These two books, written for stammerers and their teachers, merely confuse the confounded.

R.S.