

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE

A Psychosomatic Approach to Medicine. By Desmond O'Neill, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.M. (Eng.). Pp. 197 + vii. 25s. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. Doctor and Patient. 2. Stress Disorder in Practice. 3. Physical Changes in Emotional States: Experimental Work. 4. Stress Symptoms. 5. Therapy of Stress Disorders. Appendix.

This is a valuable addition to the growing number of books and papers which stress the need for a holistic approach to the patient. Dr. O'Neill gives an easily-read outline of the history and theoretical bases of psychosomatic medicine. His clear account of the ways in which emotional stresses produce many common symptoms and syndromes is accompanied by useful references to the literature and the use and place of psychiatric methods in family practice are clearly presented. The author successfully shows

that, although searching for the emotional origins of illness demands more of the doctor, it yields greater satisfactions.

To those who have had psychiatric training or experience, some of the successes in the case histories may look too easy, and perhaps Dr. O'Neill has over-simplified the problems presented by the neurotic patient. Nevertheless, there are very few practising physicians, and certainly no senior medical students, who would not benefit from a study of this book.

H.T.P.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

The M.B., B.S. Finals (1946-1954): By Francis Mitchell-Heggs, T.D., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.S. (Edin). Fourth Edition. Pp. xxvi + 62. 10/6 net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1955.

Contents: Extracts from Regulations of the University of London. Surgery: Clinical Problems. Local and Specific Infections. Injuries of Bones and Joints. Diseases of the Alimentary System. Diseases of the Ear, Nose, Throat and Eyes. Diseases of the Genito-urinary System. Orthopaedic Surgery. Miscellaneous.

Surgical Anatomy. Surgical Pathology. Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Normal Pregnancy. Abnormal Pregnancy. Abnormal Labour. The New-born Infant and Puerperium. Gynaecological Problems. Diseases of the Uterus, Ovary and Fallopian Tubes. Medicine: Clinical Problems. The Ductless Glands, Metabolism and Nutrition. The Cardio-vascular System. Conditions of the Blood. The Nervous System. The Respiratory System. The Alimentary System. The Urinary System. The Skin. Medical Infections and Fevers. Applied Pharmacology and Therapeutics: Clinical Problems. Specific Treatment. Symptomatic Treatment. Toxic Effects. Forensic Medicine: Toxicology. Causes of, and Investigation after, Death. Sex, Pregnancy and Infancy. Legal Terms and Procedure. Public Health: Vital Statistics. Infectious Diseases. Sanitation and Hygiene. Nutrition. Pathology: General Pathology. Laboratory Investigation. Bacteriology. The Alimentary System. The Cardio-vascular System. The Genito-urinary System. The Nervous System. The Respiratory System. The Glandular and Reticulo-endothelial System and the Blood. The Skeletal System. Practical Pathology.

As will be seen from the extensive list of contents above this little book covers the wide variety of questions set in the M.B., B.S. Finals of the University of London over the last 10 years. Since this book was first published in 1935 four editions have appeared, testifying to its usefulness to students and teachers.

A.H.T.