

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

AIDS TO DISPENSING

Aids to Dispensing. Fifth Edition. Revised by G. M. Watson, B.Pharm., F.P.S. Pp. vii + 167, with 7 Illustrations. 7s. 6d. net. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Preface. I. Introduction. II. Powders. III. Cachets and Capsules. IV. Percentage Solutions. V. Mixtures. VI. Emulsions. VII. Incompatibles. VIII. Pills. IX. Pill Coating. X. Tablets. XI. Pastilles and Lozenges. XII. Effervescent Granules. XIII. Lotions. XIV. Other External Applications. XV. Pre-

parations for use in the Eyes. XVI. Ointments. XVII. Suppositories. XVIII. Preparation of Isotonic Solutions. XIX. Preparation of Sterile Products. XXI. Antibiotics. Index.

The 'Aids' series has always been popular with students and 'Aids to Dispensing' has now reached its 5th edition, having first appeared in 1928. Pharmaceutical practice, like all forms of practice, has changed considerably since those days and in his revision the author has sought to bring the book completely up to date in regard to both knowledge and methods. Certain

new methods of manufacture, such as the dry coating of tablets and the rotary-die method of preparing gelatine capsules, have been described briefly and the chapter on antibiotics has been rewritten, setting out the responsibilities of those who handle these preparations in a realistic way. Both the imperial and metric systems of calculating quantities have been used.

Although it is students of pharmacy who will be primarily interested, this work will also be of value to medical students studying pharmacology.

A.H.T.

NEUROLOGICAL NURSING

Neurological Nursing. A Practical Guide. By John Marshall, M.D., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.Ed., D.P.M. Pp. vii + 166. Figures 83. 18s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1956.

Contents: 1. Introduction to the Neurological Unit. 2. Anatomy and Physiology. 3. The admission and examination of the patient. 4. The care of the skin and the prevention and treatment of pressure sores. 5. The management of neurological disorders of the bladder. 6. Nursing the unconscious patient. 7. Passive movements and rehabilitation. 8. The management of epilepsy. 9. Special neurological investigations. 10. The causes and management of respiratory difficulties. 11. Pre-operative and post-operative nursing care. 12. The psychological approach to the patient with neurological disease. 13. Social care in neurological disease.

It is only comparatively recently that the imperative need for the skilled nursing of neurological cases has become obvious, and, until this excellent book of Dr. Marshall's appeared simultaneously in England and America and Canada last May, no suitable book existed on this subject.

In his short foreword to Dr. Marshall's book, Dr. W. Ritchie Russell, one of the most eminent neurologists of our time, says: 'Neurologists are often so busy that they have little time to do anything else but to diagnose and to leave the treatment to others to do. The present-day neurologist however, realizes more than ever before the need for organizing treatment for his patients. . . . Clearly there is a need here for postgraduate nursing training in neurology, and Dr. Marshall has made an important contribution to the problems involved by writing this excellent account of the neurologically trained nurse'.

'Neurological Nursing', as its author explains from the outset, has been specifically written for nurses, doctors, physiotherapists and others concerned with the practical care of patients suffering from neurological disease. It is in no way intended as a medical handbook of any kind; much less as a text-book on neurology. It is more a guide-book for those into whose hands the care and comfort—sometimes the very life—of the patients are entrusted.

All the specific nursing procedures that may be encountered in the course of neurological nursing are carefully partitioned off into chapters, each clearly headed, and there is no unnecessary verbiage to confuse the reader or leave him in any doubt as to the author's meaning. The delicate and extraordinarily meticulous care imperative in post-operative care after brain surgery is gone into in great detail, as is the nursing of conditions such as epilepsy, concussion and the state of unconsciousness following upon many surgical and medical conditions.

I find the chapter on the care of the skin, which is after all one of the first things upon which stress is laid in the elementary training of every nurse, unnecessarily protracted, but that may be due to my own unfamiliarity with many of the latest methods and needs in neurological nursing. But Chapter 10, on the management of respiratory difficulties, is admirable both in scholarship and lucidity and of great value not only to nurses but to doctors and anaesthetists as well.

In 'Neurological Nursing' we have a book which covers a wide field of practical nursing in an authoritative yet unassuming fashion. It avoids over-elaboration but omits no essential. By any standards a most excellent book, and one to be highly recommended.

L.B.

DISEASES OF THE CHEST

Diseases of the Chest. By H. Corwin Hinshaw, M.D., Ph.D. and L. Henry Garland, M.B., B.Ch. Pp. x + 727 + 634 Illustrations on 277 figures. \$15.00. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1956.

Contents: 1. Diagnostic Procedures. (Clinical History and Evaluation of Complaints). 2. Diagnostic Procedures (Physical Examination and Bronchoscopy). 3. Diagnostic Procedures (Laboratory Studies). 4. Diagnostic Procedures (Radio-

logic Examination of the Thorax). 5. Segmental Anatomy of the Tracheobronchial Tree and Lungs. 6. Measurement of Pulmonary Function By Roger H. L. Wilson. 7. The Bacterial Pneumonias. 8. Pneumonias of Viral and Rickettsial Etiology—Summary of Roentgenography in Pneumonia. 9. Pulmonary Inflammation and Fibrosis due to Physical, Chemical and Obscure Causes. 10. Pulmonary Abscess. 11. Inflammatory and Suppurative Diseases of the Bronchi. 12. Postoperative Pulmonary Atelectasis. 13. Foreign Bodies in the Larynx and Tracheobronchial Tree By Walter E. Heck, M.D. 14. Thoracic Injuries. 15. Diseases of the Diaphragm. 16. Bronchial Asthma and Related Conditions. 17. Pulmonary Emphysema. 18. Pulmonary Cysts, Bullae and Blebs—Spontaneous Pneumothorax. 19. Mediastinal Diseases. 20. Bronchogenic Carcinoma. 21. Bronchial Adenomas and Some Other Intrathoracic Tumors. 22. Intrathoracic Metastases. 23. Pulmonary Congestion and Edema. 24. Pulmonary Embolism. 25. Congenital Anomalies. 26. Tuberculosis (Bacteriology and Pathogenesis). 27. Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Diagnostic Procedures and Classification). 28. Treatment of Tuberculosis (Rest and General Management). 29. Treatment of Tuberculosis (Specific Antibacterial Drugs). 30. Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Collapse Therapy). 31. Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Pulmonary Resection). 32. Medical Aspects of Tuberculosis Control. 33. Diseases of the Pleura. 34. Sarcoidosis. 35. Pulmonary and Associated Changes in the Collagen Diseases. 36. Coccidioidomycosis By William A. Winn, M.D. 37. Actinomycosis. Nocardiosis and Blastomycosis. 38. Histoplasmosis and Some Other Pulmonary Mycoses. 39. Parasitic and Other Tropical Pulmonary Diseases. 40. Pulmonary Diseases of Occupational Origin. Index.

This is a very comprehensive, up-to-date text-book, suitable for both undergraduate and postgraduate students and practitioners. Radiology plays such a large part in the diagnosis of chest diseases today, that the joint authorship by a professor of clinical medicine and a professor of clinical radiology would seem a wise choice. The text is brief and yet extremely comprehensive and the numerous roentgenograms are excellently reproduced. There is a full chapter by a separate author on the measurement of pulmonary function—a subject of increasing importance today. The writer could find no information about the subject of fat embolism—the only small point of criticism which can be offered.

It is a welcome change to find references to British literature freely quoted in an American text-book of this sort, and all round it is a most well-balanced and up-to-date review of the subject. One has little hesitation in giving it the strongest recommendation.

M.J.B.

CURRENT THERAPY

Current Therapy—1956. Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practising Physician. Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D. Pp. xxx + 632. \$11.00. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1956.

Contents: 1. The Infectious Diseases. 2. Diseases of the Respiratory System. 3. Diseases of the Cardiovascular System. 4. Diseases of the Blood and Spleen. 5. Diseases of the Digestive System. 6. Disorders of Metabolism and Nutrition. 7. Diseases of the Endocrine System. 8. Diseases of the Urogenital Tract. 9. The Venereal Diseases. 10. The Allergic Diseases. 11. Diseases of the Skin. 12. Diseases of the Nervous System. 13. Diseases of the Locomotor System. 14. Obstetric and Gynecologic Conditions. 15. Diseases Due to Physical and Chemical Agents. 16. Appendices and Indices.

This volume represents the eighth edition of an annual series, and is beautifully presented to the practising physician, with an excellent index of subject, covering very adequately the whole field of modern therapy, with current views and modifications. There are upwards of 300 contributing authors, all but two of them of the North American Continent, and all considered to be recognized authorities. The two 'outsiders' are Dr. Smirk of Dunedin, New Zealand, who writes on the treatment of Hypertension, and Dr. Sheehan of Liverpool, whose subject is Hypopituitarism.

The treatments and methods described are thoroughly up to date. With such a multiplicity of authorship there is of necessity a wide variation in style and quality of the individual articles.

The volume is recommended for use and reference by the busy general practitioner and specialist. If this continues to be an annual edition, each of which is virtually a new book rather than a revision of the previous edition, then one wonders whether a 'loose-leaf' edition would not be more acceptable, more especially as it is an expensive book to replace each year.

A.L.

THE PARKINSONIAN PATIENT

Extrapiramidaal Syndroom of Situatief Gedrag. Door dr. A. C. Lit. Blz. 251. f 12.50. Amsterdam: Noord-Hollandsche Uitgevers Maatschappij. 1956.

Inhoud: Inleiding. *Het Syndroom van Parkinson in de Literatuur.* I. De theorieën over de aetologie. II. De motorische verschijnselen. III. De psychopathologische verschijnselen. IV. Het post-encephalisch Parkinsonisme. V. De psychoso-

matische opvattingen. *Het onderzoek*. VI. De patiënten. VII. Het psychiatrisch onderzoek. VIII. De biografische anamnese. IX. Samenvatting van het psychiatrisch en biografisch onderzoek. X. Het psychologisch onderzoek. XI. De motorische verschijnselen. XII. Enkele prognostische en therapeutische conclusies. Samenvatting. Summary. Zusammenfassung. Sommaire. Literatuurlijst.

This is a phenomenological study, i.e. in it the author discusses not so much the Parkinson syndrome as the parkinsonian patient.

Although the author accepts the anatomical findings in cases of paralysis agitans and so-called postencephalitic parkinsonism, he feels that they cannot explain the clinical picture sufficiently. Lesions in the globus pallidus, the ansa lenticularis and the substantia nigra are, moreover, found *postmortem* without there having been a typical Parkinson syndrome during life.

The author therefore attempts to approach the problem from a psychological angle. He stresses the premorbid temperament, which closely resembles Janet's psychasthenia and which is invariably found in cases of paralysis agitans and to a lesser degree in parkinsonism. His psychological investigations (Rorschach test and Wechsel-Bellevue method) confirm these psychiatric and biographic findings. For these people 'the aspect of the world implies a threat rather than an obvious invitation. They have a tendency to distantiation and suppression of emotional life'. The majority of patients, nevertheless, had succeeded in establishing a satisfactory if formal adjustment. When, however, endogenous and exogenous disturbing influences supervene, this type of person gives up the struggle and 'distantiates' himself further into the akinesia, rigidity and tremor of the Parkinson syndrome. The author considers that the disease is more readily understood as a reaction of a temperament to a situation 'it is inextricably correlated with changes in the person—world relationship') than explained by an organic lesion.

It is impossible to do justice to a study of this kind in a short review. While admitting that it may be useful to view an organic nervous disease also from a psychological angle, one feels that the author is in danger of ignoring the fact that the organic brain changes remain a condition *sine qua non* for the causation of the Parkinson syndrome.

The author is on safer ground when he stresses the necessity for psychotherapy and physiotherapy. This is too often neglected in the treatment of the disease, which in many instances is only combated by prescribing the usual older and newer neuroplegics. That this warning is not new, is well known to all neurologists who remember the era of the Bulgarian root and the special clinics for parkinsonians, which were *en vogue* after the first world war.

As a thoughtful and often original phenomenological study however, the book has considerable value.

F.H.K.

PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS

Physical Diagnosis. Fifth Edition. By Ralph H. Major, M.D. and Mahlon H. Delp, M.D. Pp. xi + 358. 536 Figures. \$7.00. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1956.

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. History Taking and Recording. 3. Pain. 4. General Inspection. 5. Examination of the Head and Neck. 6. Inspection, Palpation and percussion of the chest. 7. Auscultation of the Lungs. 8. The Physical Findings in Diseases of the Lungs. 9. Inspection, Palpation and percussion of the Heart. 10. Auscultation of the Heart. 11. The Pulse. 12. Blood Pressure. 13. Physical Findings in Cardiovascular diseases. 14. Abdomen and Genitalia. 15. The Extremities. 16. Examination of the Nervous System. Index.

It is nearly 20 years ago that this book first appeared and it has served its purpose well. At that time the author made it plain that he laid great stress on the appreciation of the meaning of the physical signs in illness and for that reason he avoided reference to X-ray, pathological and other forms of diagnostic aids. He makes frequent use of the descriptions of the 'old masters' and mentions how impressed he has always been by the words of Sir William Osler, 'and when you can, read the original descriptions of the masters who, with crude methods of study, saw so clearly'.

In these days when so many aids to diagnosis are known and so frequently used, often at great cost to the patient, it is well that a book like this should be in its 5th edition.

The original author welcomes Dr. Mahlon Delp as a co-author and pays tribute to his help in the past. This new edition contains a number of additions to both the text and the illustrations and many parts have been re-written. A noteworthy feature is the transfer of the chapter on history—taken from the end of the book to a prominent place at the beginning.

A.T.

A TEXT-BOOK OF MEDICINE

The Principles and Practice of Medicine. A Text-book for Students and Doctors. Third Edition. By Sir Stanley Davidson, B.A. (Cantab.), M.D., P.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.D. (Oslo). Pp. viii + 1,076. 73 Figures. VII Plates. 35s. net. Postage 1s. 9d. Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Infection and Disease. Infectious Diseases. Chemotherapy. Diseases of the Respiratory System. Nutritional Disorders. The Chronic Rheumatic Diseases. Tropical Diseases and Helminthic Infestation. Disorders of the Blood and Blood-Forming Organs. Diseases of the Endocrine System. Diseases of the Kidney and Urinary System. Disturbances in Water and Electrolyte Balance and Acid-Base Equilibrium. Diseases of the Digestive System. Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract. Diseases of the Pancreas. Diseases of the Nervous System. The Psychoneuroses. Appendix A—Diet Sheets. Appendix B—Tables of Standard Body Weights. Index. Tables of Weights and Measures and Exchanges.

This book was first published in 1952 and within the short space of 3½ years the 1st and 2nd editions and two large reprints have been sold. It would seem obvious that this phenomenal demand has been the result of its approval not only by students and their teachers but by doctors generally.

The contributors are members of the staff of the Department of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh and it is clear that there has been close cooperation between them. This had led to a balanced style and composition and the presentation of the material is excellent. In addition, the whole work shows the diversity and breadth of knowledge and experience which must result from the team-work of outstanding physicians.

In this 3rd edition the section on neurology has been re-written and the bringing up to date of the other sections has caused an increase in the size of the book by some 38 pages. The illustrations are clear and sufficient. It is a good book, which undoubtedly deserves the success it has achieved.

A.T.

CLINICAL ABSTRACTS FROM J.A.M.A.

J.A.M.A. Clinical Abstracts of Diagnosis and Treatment. Published with the Approval of the Board of Trustees, American Medical Association. Pp. vii + 661. \$5.50. New York and London: Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation with Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1956.

Contents: Preface. Digestive System. Respiratory System. Cardiovascular System. Urinary System. Reproductive System: Pregnancy, Breast, Tubes, Ovaries, Vagina, and Uterus, Testes. Endocrine System. Bones, Joints, and Connective Tissue. Blood and Lymphatic System. Skin. Nervous System. Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat. Metabolism. Poisonings. Infections. Therapeutics: Anesthesia, Shock, Fluid Therapy, Cancer, New Drugs, Miscellaneous. Diagnostic Technics. Index of Subjects.

The need for practitioners to keep up to date has stimulated the production of numerous books. We have annual volumes of all kinds, some general, some specialized. This one is said to rest on a broad basis, providing specialized knowledge for the general practitioner and keeping the specialist abreast of developments in fields other than his own. By the use of this type of book the busy doctor can take his 'refresher course' in comfort and in a relatively painless fashion!

Books in this series have been published twice before. It is a selected group of 'medical literature abstracts' which have appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Those who read medical journals will have seen many of these papers in their original form. The appeal of this volume will therefore be to those who lack either the time or inclination for extensive reading of current medical literature.

There is a further restriction. This volume deals almost entirely with diagnosis and treatment. This is said to establish both economy of words and reading time but not of ideas! But it must restrict its usefulness.

The abstracts are well selected and most of the important papers of the current year will be found in its pages. They are grouped under systems which make for easy reference. There is something for everyone but not a great deal for anyone with a particular interest. Those who like this kind of volume will find it as good as most of its kind but not as good as the best. Those who read it are bound to pick up useful 'tips' but no profound advance in knowledge should be expected by the perusal of its pages.

C.M.

THERAPY OF DISEASES OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATION

Klinische Pharmakologie der Herz- und Kreislaufkrankheiten als Grundlage einer individuellen Therapie. By Hans Seel, M.D. Pp. 268. DM 19.60. Hippocrates-Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany. 1956.

Contents: I. Clinical pharmacology as a basis for individual therapy. The doctor. The patient. The Drug. II. Pathologic-physiological points of view for the treatment of diseases of the heart and circulation. III. Drugs for the treatment of diseases of the heart and circulation. A. Drugs with a specific action on the heart: (1) Strophanthus-Digitalis group. (2) Glycosides of the II order—digitaloids. (3) Non-glucosidal cardiatics. (4) Organpreparations (ATP, heart extracts, liver extracts). (5) Hormones. (6) Alkaloids. B. Drugs with a specific extra-cardiac action: (1) Purin group. (2) Drugs which stimulate the central nervous system. (3) Sympathomimetics. (4) Sympatholytics and adrenolytics: (a) Vasodilatory sympathomimetics: (b) Nicotinic acid and its derivatives. (5) Ganglion-blocking agents. (6) Parasympatholytics. (7) Spasmolytics. (8) Nitrite group. C. Drugs used in the treatment of diseases of the peripheral bloodvessels: (1) Diseases of the arterial system. (2) Diseases of the venous system. IV. Clinical-pharmacological guides and critique of the therapy.

Before Seel took up the chair in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Berlin, he was Director of the Research Institute for Clinical Pharmacology in Hamburg-Eppendorf. The nature of Seel's researches through many years and his extensive experience in medical practice certainly render him one of the most capable authors of a book on clinical pharmacology. From the summary of the contents given above, it is obvious that the author has covered a very wide field which is of the utmost importance not only to specialists in diseases of the heart and circulatory system, but also to research workers and general practitioners. In the space available the subject-matter of the book cannot be reviewed in detail. An important point which deserves to be mentioned, is Seel's conclusion, as a result of his practical experience as a heart specialist, that different types of heart disease require different doses of digitalis. The author discusses the use of drugs which are either not mentioned in books on pharmacology or are referred to only cursorily. Also the use of spartein and

iodine in arteriosclerosis therapy receive detailed attention. The discussion of the drugs in the light of the nature of their actions on the system, the extensive old and new literature quoted, and the effects of nutrition, circumstances and other sociological conditions on diseases of the heart and circulation, add materially to the value of this important publication.

D.G.S.

PSYCHIATRY FOR STUDENTS AND NURSES

A Practical Handbook of Psychiatry for Students and Nurses. New Third Edition. By Louis Minski, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. 144. 7s. 6d. net. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books—Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Preface. Introduction. I. Development of the Individual. II. Child Psychiatry. III. Aetiology of Mental Illness. IV. General Symptomatology. V. Affective Reaction Types. VI. Schizophrenic Reaction Types. VII. Organic Reaction Types. VIII. Organic Reaction Types (continued). IX. Organic Reaction Types (continued). X. Psychoneuroses. XI. Nursing and General Management. XII. Specialised Forms of Treatment (Insulin). XIII. Specialized Forms of Treatment (continued). (Convulsion Therapy, Electronarcosis, Carbon Dioxide Inhalation Therapy, Continuous Narcosis, Prefrontal Leucotomy and Malarial Treatment of General Paralysis) Largactil, Serpasil. XIV. Psychotherapy. XV. Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation. XVI. Legal Aspects of Psychiatry. Index.

This little handbook gives the essentials of a knowledge of psychiatry in a short and concentrated form. In this third edition the author has revised it so as to include the changes and advances in treatment which have been made in this important field of practice in recent years.

Its appeal will be mainly to students and nurses who require an authoritative survey when preparing for examinations, but it has an interest also for general practitioners who may not be able to spare the time to read longer works and yet wish to keep up to date in this subject.

A.T.