

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

## SURGERY OF THE AMBULATORY PATIENT

*Surgery of the Ambulatory Patient.* Third Edition. By L. Kraefer Ferguson, M.D., F.A.C.S., with a Section on Fractures by Louis Kaplan, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 866 + xvii with 664 illustrations. 96s. Od. Philadelphia & Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1955.

*Contents: Part I—Surgical Principles and Lesions.* 1. A Survey of the Field of Ambulatory Surgery. 2. Equipment for Surgery of the Ambulatory Patient. 3. Anesthesia. 4. Preparation for and Conduct of Operation on Ambulatory Patients. 5. Postoperative Care. 6. Dressings and Bandages. 7. Treatment of Inflammation Due to Infection. 8. Specific Surgical Lesions. 9. Open Wounds. 10. Burns and Frostbite. 11. Foreign Bodies. 12. Superficial Cysts and Tumours. *Part II—Regional Surgery.* 13. The Scalp. 14. Face, Nose, Ear, Eye. 15. Mouth and Salivary Glands. 16. The Neck. 17. Chest and Breast. 18. The Abdomen. 19. The Back. 20. Perianal Region, Anus and Anal Canal. 21. The Genito-Urinary System. 22. Arm and Shoulder. 23. Hand and Fingers. 24. The Leg. 25. Foot and Ankle. *Part III—The Musculoskeletal System.* 26. General Considerations. 27. The Thoracic Region, Clavicle and Scapula. 28. The Upper Extremity. 29. The Lower Extremity. Index.

As can be seen from the table of contents, the work is divided into 3 parts. In Part I the chapter devoted to local anaesthesia is very well done and should provide a valuable guide to the reader. The diagrams are clear and the explanations are to the point. Pulaski's contribution on infection is well set out, and includes very recent developments in the field of antibiotics; it will have many practical applications. The subject of Bandaging is one which is usually completely neglected in medical education. The diagrams in this section are numerous and clarify the subject better than any description can do.

In Part II, devoted to regional surgery, there is much useful information. The treatment of Ranula—a subject hardly mentioned in most text-books, is well reasoned. Few surgeons, however, will agree that 'the excision of a mixed parotid tumour can be performed easily under local anaesthesia in an ambulant patient'. Likewise in the section on Chest and Breast the removal of benign breast lumps under local anaesthesia is, as a general rule, not an acceptable procedure. In the section on anal lesions the treatment of fissure, fistula and polyps has been carefully dealt with and, taken in conjunction with the earlier section on local anaesthesia, will prove helpful. The hand and fingers are particularly well covered, and the author raises numerous small practical points which are definitely of value. The only adverse criticism of Part II, rests on the breadth of the scope of the term 'ambulant patient'. The reviewer's impression is that in many procedures the patient will only be ambulant at the behest (*sic*) of the surgeon and not of his own choice.

Kaplan's contribution on Fractures occupies a quarter of the entire book. Here is a subject the major part of which falls within the scope of the book's title and the author has done it justice. Every fracture which can be treated with the patient ambulant is fully described—anatomy, mechanism of fracture, displacement and reasons therefor, treatment, and complications, both of the fracture and its treatment, are thoroughly and carefully dealt with.

In conclusion it may be said that the claim of the author that this work deals with points often neglected in larger text-books of Surgery is quite true and the book will prove valuable to general practitioners and specialists alike—especially to those called upon to deal with the results of industrial accidents where the injury is not grave enough to warrant hospitalization.

P.C.W.M.

## THYROID GLAND

*Diseases of the Thyroid Gland.* By Samuel L. Gargill, M.D. and Mark Falcon Lesse, M.D. Pp. 964 (374) with illustrations. New York: Oxford University Press. 1955.

*Contents: Part I. Anatomy, Biochemistry, and Physiology of the Thyroid. Bibliography. Part II. The Interrelations of the Thyroid with the Other Endocrine Glands. Bibliography. Part III. Antithyroid Goitrogens. Bibliography. Part IV. The Metabolism of Iodine and Its Relation to the Structure and Function of the Thyroid. Bibliography. Part V. Classification of Diseases of the Thyroid. Methods of Examination of Patients with Thyroid Disease. Bibliography. Part VI. Non-toxic Goiter. Bibliography. Part VII. Toxic Goiter. Bibliography. Part VIII. Myxedema, Juvenile Hypothyroidism, and Cretinism. Bibliography. Part IX. Thyroiditis. Part X. Benign and Malignant Neoplasms of the Thyroid. Bibliography.*

This volume, by two members of the staff of the Harvard Medical School, is reprinted from Oxford Loose-leaf Medicine. In the

first half, there is a lengthy and detailed presentation of all that is old and much that is new concerning the physiology and biochemistry of the thyroid gland. This section is remarkably up-to-date and includes a full account of the place of tri-iodo-thyronine in thyroid metabolism. A short, lucid exposition of the theories of nuclear structure and radio-activity precedes the chapter on the use of radio-iodine in the investigation and treatment of thyroid disorders.

The second half of the book is devoted to clinical aspects and is, on the whole, disappointing. The individual diseases are poorly described and the authors add little to the descriptions which may be found in general medical or surgical text-books; some chapters, in fact, do not attain this standard. It is interesting to note the high incidence (10·4%) of malignant thyroid neoplasms found by the authors in a series of multinodular goitres. This figure probably reflects the use of less rigid histological criteria than those obtaining in most laboratories. If such an incidence of malignancy did in fact exist, this would constitute an extremely strong argument in favour of surgery for all cases of multi- or uni-nodular goitres.

The limited number of illustrations depict pathology for the most part; there are less than thirty 'clinical' photographs—including X-ray reproductions.

This volume is not recommended to those in search of clinical guidance, but valuable information is contained in the first half of the book.

R.H.

## LEPROSY

*La Lèpre.* By Roland Chaussinand. Pp. 310 with illustrations. 3·800 fr. Paris: Expansion Scientifique Française. 1955.

*Contents: Préface. A. L'Expansion de la lèpre de l'antiquité à nos jours. B. Le bacille de Hansen. C. 'Lèpres' des animaux. D. Étiologie de la lèpre. E. Immunologie de la lèpre. F. Clinique de la lèpre. G. Examen immunologique et Sérologique dans la lèpre. H. Diagnostic de la lèpre. I. Classification de la lèpre. J. Épidémiologie de la lèpre. K. Prophylaxie de la lèpre. Thérapeutique de la lèpre. M. Appendice. N. Bibliographie Sommaire de Travaux à consulter. O. Index. P. Tables des Matières.*

This excellent little book by the Chief of the Leprosy Service at the Institut Pasteur contains all that the doctor practising in an area where leprosy is endemic needs to know about the clinical features, diagnosis and treatment of the disease. It is a précis in the French sense, which is broader than ours, and readers will find here good chapters on the history of leprosy, on the bacteriology (including an account of some interesting experiments in inoculation of fish with Hansen's bacillus), and on the 'leprosy' of rats and buffaloes. The scheme of classification is not the most modern but it is clearly tabulated and explained.

There are some subjects which, we feel, might profitably have been covered more fully. Histological changes in the skin and their importance in diagnosis receive too little attention and the diseases important in differential diagnosis could be described in more detail and, perhaps, illustrated by examples. The question of erythema nodosum leprosum (panniculitis nodosa leprosa) is glossed over in a few lines.

The author believes that a para-allergy exists between tuberculosis and leprosy, basing his belief largely on certain similarities in the reactions of leprotics and tuberculotics to lepromin; and he thinks that prophylactic BCG vaccination might be valuable for contacts. Recent work by Dr. R. Kooij at Westfort Institution (which I have been privileged to see before publication) suggests that the two tests are not comparable because the Mitsuda reaction is probably a foreign-body reaction (that can be produced by non-leprosy tissues as well as by lepromin) and not an allergic reaction. The interesting point about the Mitsuda reaction is not that it is often positive in tuberculoid leprosy but that it is always negative in lepromatous cases.

The author's views on prophylaxis and institutional treatment are well stated; he is against the indiscriminate incarceration of all lepers whether they are infectious or not, believing that this leads to concealment of the disease in the earliest stage when it can be most amenable to treatment. All the modern treatment methods for leprosy and its complications are described and Dr. Chaussinand believes oral DDS to be the best standard method.

The term macule is horribly misused by leprologists, even French leprologists. In their language it can describe anything from a macule as understood in dermatology to a cup of tea. In this book the author at least admits that the situation is unsatisfactory but says that since Jeanselme could not think of a better term we might as well go on calling nearly any lesion of leprosy a macule. He is good enough, however, to say precisely what he means wherever he uses the term.

This book is well bound, printed on good paper and copiously illustrated. It is recommended without reservation.

J.M.

#### TROPICAL MEDICINE FOR NURSES

*Tropical Medicine for Nurses.* By A. R. D. Adams and B. G. Macgraith. Pp. 314 + vii with illustrations. 30s. 0d. Oxford Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Ainhum. 2. Amoebiasis. 3. Bacillary Dysentery. 4. Bartonellosis. 5. Blackwater Fever. 6. The Chigoe Flea. 7. Cholera. 8. Epidemic Dropsy. 9. Filariasis. 10. Guinea Worm. 11. Heat, Effects of Exposure to. 12. Hookworm Infestation. 13. The Leishmaniases. 14. Leprosy. 15. Leptospirosis. 16. Lymphopathia Venereum. 17. Malaria. 18. Mycetoma Pedis. 19. Nutritional Disorders. 20. Plague. 21. Rabies. 22. The Rat Bite Fevers. 23. The Relapsing Fevers. 24. The Schistosomiasis. 25. Sickle Cell Trait and Sickle Cell Anaemia. 26. Some Skin Conditions. 27. Smallpox. 28. Snake Bite, Scorpion Sting, Spider Bite. 29. Sprue. 30. Trachoma. 31. Tropical Eosinophilia. 32. Tropical Myositis. 33. Tropical Ulcer. 34. The Trypanosomiasis. 35. The Typhoid Fevers. 36. The Typhus Fevers. 37. Ulcerating Granuloma of the Pudenda. 38. The Undulant Fevers. 39. Acute Virus Fevers. 40. Worm Infestations, Various. 41. Yaws. Appendices. Index.

Considering that there is no really suitable and adequate text-book for nurses working under tropical conditions the authors have attempted, by means of this book, to give sound information on tropical diseases and how they should be *treated* rather than *nursed*. They have done this for the reason that they have realized that doctors are not always readily available and nurses are often called upon to deal promptly with cases without hope of medical help. In this object they have succeeded admirably and the book is all that one can expect coming as it does from the School of Tropical Medicine of Liverpool. It can be read with real profit by students as well as nurses.

A.H.T.

#### A DUODENAL-ULCER PATIENT

*My Duodenal Ulcer and I.* By Stuart Morton. Pp. 213. 16s. 0d. London: Christopher Johnson Publishers Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. In the Beginning. 2. No One Forgets His First Voyage. 3. The Years in Between. 4. Permanent Ship-Surgeon. 5. Mid-Atlantic Perforation. 6. The turning Point: To the Mayo Clinic U.S.A. 7. Sequel. 8. The Navy Did Not Know. 9. Adventure on the Beach. 10. Homecoming. 11. After the War. 12. Duodenal Ulcer. 13. Doctor and the Public. 14. Ships' Doctors. Addendum.

This is a difficult book to review: it is doubtful whether it falls under the category of books which call for review in a medical journal.

It certainly gives a somewhat poignant picture of the disabilities under which the duodenal-ulcer patient suffers or, rather, did suffer before surgical treatment became more adequate.

Apart from the writer's adventures with his ulcer, which are not of very great interest, the book is eked out to the length necessary for publication by long quotations from the author's contributions to the press, a history of the Mayo Clinic (largely

borrowed from *The Mayo Clinic*, by Lucy Wilder) and 'The Practitioner's Notes for the patient with indigestion'.

Altogether this is not a book to be recommended either to the lay or medical reader. The advice on the treatment of duodenal ulcer can readily be obtained by any patient from his medical adviser, and the mistakes in surgical treatment to which the author refers were due to the current surgical theories of the time at which he was unfortunate enough to acquire an ulcer.

F.R.L.

#### GIBBERD'S TEXTBOOK OF MIDWIFERY

*A Short Textbook of Midwifery.* Sixth Edition. By G. F. Gibberd, M.B., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. 593 + viii with illustrations. 30s. 0d. London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. The Anatomy of the Pelvis and its Contents. 2. The Development of the Ovary. 3. The Anatomy and Physiology of Pregnancy. 4. The Diagnosis of Pregnancy. 5. The Management of Normal Pregnancy. 6. The Anatomy and Physiology of Normal Labour. 7. Clinical Course and Management of Normal Labour. 8. Occipito-Posterior Positions of the Vertex. 9. Multiple Pregnancy. 10. Ectopic Pregnancy. 11. Pregnancy Complicated by Pelvic Abnormalities. 12. Diseases of the Ovary in the Early Months of Pregnancy. 13. Diseases of the Ovary in the Later Months of Pregnancy. 14. The Toxaemias of Pregnancy. 15. Diseases Associated with Pregnancy. 16. Malpresentations. 17. Presentation and Prolapse of the Cord. 18. Contracted Pelvis. 19. Abnormalities in Uterine Action During Labour. 20. Abnormalities in the Birth-Canal During Labour. 21. Ante-Partum Haemorrhage. 22. Abnormalities in the Third Stage of Labour. 23. The Normal Puerperium. 24. Puerperal Infections. 25. The Abnormal Puerperium. 26. Obstetric Operations. 27. The Normal Infant. 28. The Premature Infant. 29. The Abnormal Infant. Index.

In his preface to the first edition Gibberd wrote: 'Midwifery is remarkable for the variety of interests which it offers to different types of mind. The functions of the uterine muscle, to the physiologist; the conformation of the pelvis, to the anatomist; the toxaemias of pregnancy, to the pathologist; the opportunities for nice judgement, to the clinician; the contemplation of that most nearly perfect of all surgical instruments—the long curved forceps of Smellie, to the craftsman: these are but a few examples of the interests that midwifery affords to those who study and practise it . . .'

In the preface to this new (6th) edition he writes: 'The revision of a text-book brings home to the author the subtlety of change; he finds himself ready to deny those very things which he asserted only a few years previously; and, what is more revealing, if it were not for the documentary evidence before him, he might even fall into the error of denying that he ever held his former views.' These sentences show that the author is both keenly interested in the subject he professes and that he is utterly honest.

The clarity of thought throughout Gibberd's book makes it one that students take to readily, and one that is invariably recommended to them for use as a text-book.

The basic principles of obstetrics are dealt with in a masterly fashion. Methods of resuscitation and the antibiotics have brought about marked changes, as a comparison of the tables on pages 437 and 439 demonstrate. As soon as a major obstacle has been removed or displaced others assume greater importance, and the relative balance is upset.

These changes call for new editions of worth-while text-books. It is with enthusiasm that the 6th edition of Gibberd is received.

J.T.L.