

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

## YEARBOOK ON TREATMENT

*Modern Treatment Yearbook 1955.* Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. Twenty-First edition. Pp. 344 +xxii with 45 illustrations. 25s. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* Antibiotics in Medicine. 2. Antibiotics in Surgery. 3. Antibiotics in Neurology. 4. Antibiotics in Skin Diseases. 5. Antibiotics in Tuberculosis. 6. Antibiotics in the Treatment of Venereal Disease. 7. The Newer Antibiotics in Ophthalmology. 8. Antibiotics in the Treatment of Urinary Infections. 9. The Emergence of Antibiotic-Resistant Strains of Bacteria. 10. Modern Treatment of the Injured Foot. 11. The Modern Treatment of Hepatitis. 12. The New Insulins. 13. Antiseptics in General Practice. 14. Intractable Pain. 15. Bornholm Disease. 16. Some Soft-Part Lesions of the Forearm and Hand. 17. Modern Treatment of Bronchopneumonia in Infants and Young Children. 18. Modern Treatment of Injuries of the Hand. 19. Hyperemesis Gravidarum. 20. Rheumatic Heart Disease in Children. 21. The Treatment of the Failing Heart. 22. The Investigation and Treatment of Obesity. 23. The Modern Treatment of Skeletal Tuberculosis. 24. The Use of Supervoltage Therapy in the Treatment of Cancer. 25. The Medical Treatment of Hypertension. 26. Obliterative Arterial Disease of the Legs. 27. Blood Vessel Grafting. 28. Diseases of the Supporting Tissues of the Teeth. 29. Myasthenia Gravis. 30. Temporal Arteritis: Its significance and treatment. 31. The Industrial Approach to Rehabilitation. 32. 'Growing Pains'. 33. The Parotid Gland. 34. The Modern Treatment of Depressive States. 35. Modern Treatment of Adrenal Deficiency Disorders. 36. Prolonged Labour. Index.

One year book is very like another. This one is particularly undistinguished. It is also remarkably out of date considering that it is a 1955 publication. For instance: (1) there is almost nothing on the use of isoniazid in the chapter on tuberculosis, while it is not even mentioned in the section on tuberculosis meningitis; (2) hypertension has got as far as hexamethonium bromide, but rauwolfia veriloid, apresoline and ansolysin are not considered; (3) largactil has not appeared, e.g. in hyperemesis gravidarum; (4) glutamic acid is still recommended for hepatic coma, while the blood ammonia is not mentioned, and nor is cortisone in this connection. Liver extract is still given for cirrhosis.

As usual there are far too many vague statements, too many drugs or methods 'may be used' for this or that, without any explanation or discussion. Dr. Schlesinger's chapter on rheumatic heart disease is good, and the one on supervoltage therapy interested your reviewer. Some are bad, as that on the failing heart, which is best unread.

Bornholm disease is a strange choice—5 pages, with 6 lines on treatment!

This book is neither stimulating nor always sound and can only be recommended to chronic yearbook devotees.

W.P.U.J.

## SURGERY FOR NURSES

*Modern Surgery for Nurses.* Edited by F. Wilson Harlow, M.B., B.S. (Durham), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Third Edition. Pp. 872 +xxiv with 419 illustrations. 27s. 6d. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. Haemorrhage and Surgical Shock. 2. Saline and Dextrose infusion and blood and plasma transfusions. 3. Wounds and superficial injuries. 4. Acute inflammation and infective gangrene: Infections of the hand. 5. Chronic inflammation: Tuberculosis, syphilis and actinomycosis. 6. Surgical Bacteriology. 7. Tumours and Cysts. 8. Ulcers, sinuses and fistulae. 9. Skin-grafting. 10. Burns and scalds. 11. Diseases of the veins and arteries: Gangrene: Amputations. 12. Peritonitis. 13. Appendicitis, and diseases simulating appendicitis. 14. The oesophagus, stomach and duodenum. 15. The Gall-bladder and bile ducts, liver, pancreas and spleen. 16. Hernia and intestinal obstruction. 17. The rectum and anal canal. 18. The kidneys and ureters. 19. The bladder and prostate. 20. The urethra and male genital organs: The adrenal glands. 21. Thoracic surgery. 22. The Breast. 23. The neck and thyroid gland. 24. The face, salivary glands, mouth, tongue, and Teeth. 25. The throat, nose and ear. 26. Head injuries and neurosurgery. 27. The examination of urine and other diagnostic tests in common use. 28. X-ray diagnosis. 29. Preparation for operation and methods of anaesthesia. 30. Surgical technique. 31. Post-operative treatment. 32. Post-operative complications. 33. The care and treatment of special cases. 34. Fractures, dislocations and other injuries to bones and joints. 35. Injuries of individual bones and joints, upper limb and chest. 36. Injuries of individual bones and joints, lower limb, pelvis and spine. 37. Injuries and diseases of bursae, muscles and tendons. 38. Inflammatory disease of bones and joints. 39. Deformities, congenital and acquired. 40. Affections of the spine. 41. Nerve lesions. 42. Tumours and non-infective diseases of bone. 43. Gynaecological anatomy: Normal and abnormal menstruation. 44. Diseases and displacements of the uterus. 45. Pregnancy and labour and their anomalies and complications. 46. Infections of the genital tract and diseases of the vulva and vagina. 47. Cysts and tumours of the ovaries. Sterility. Gynaecological instruments and pre- and post-operative treatment. 48. Ophthalmic surgery and nursing. 49. Syphilis, gonorrhoea and other venereal diseases. 50. General anaesthesia. 51. Intravenous anaesthesia: Basal narcosis and rectal anaesthesia. 52. Spinal analgesia: Local, regional and epidural anal-

gesia. 53. Radiotherapy in the treatment of malignant tumours: Surgical electrical instruments. 54. Useful tables and clinical details. 55. The sulphonamides and antibiotics.

This is a volume of the utmost comprehensiveness, dealing with all branches of Surgery and in addition Gynaecology, Obstetrics, Anaesthetics, Surgical Bacteriology, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiology and antibiotic and sulphonamide Chemotherapy.

The reader is first impressed by the systematic lay-out of the text and welcomes the larger-than-average print. Heavy print is used to great advantage and aids in simplifying classification and tabulation, thereby contributing to easy reading and reference.

The many clear photographs and diagrams have been effectively chosen to give the nurse not only a clear clinico-pathological picture but also to illustrate the main operative procedures and optimal positioning of the patient at all stages of nursing.

The reader will profit by the special chapters outlining the all-important pre-anaesthetic and surgical preparations and the nursing surveillance during the post-operative period with its hazardous complications, plus their recognition and emergency treatment.

A section on the essentials of paediatric nursing and the diabetic patient is more than welcome. One is, however, acutely aware that no mention is made of the essentiality and great dangers of parenteral-fluid therapy in major surgery, particularly of infants.

Both the theatre-trained and the trainee will view with delight the chapter on theatre technique. This is also amply complemented in most chapters by drawings of surgical instruments with their names and uses aptly described in the captions.

Not a single X-Ray photograph included is too technical for the nurse. Being carefully selected they aid her in clarifying the underlying pathology of her patient and thus the rationale of the prescribed treatment which she is taught to carry out.

One is amazed to find a volume of this size and scope where the editor has so successfully maintained brevity of the text in every section without sacrificing clarity or surgical matter essential for the practising nurse.

The above-mentioned are but a few of the many qualities which contribute to make this volume invaluable, not only for study and examination preparation, but also as a quick reference for the ever-busy nurse.

P.W.M.

## LABORATORY TECHNIQUES IN RABIES

*Laboratory Techniques in Rabies.* By various authors. World Health Organisation: Monograph Series, No. 23, 150 pages; 51 illustrations (including 1 coloured plate), price £1 (paperbound, or £1 5s. clothbound). South African Agent: Van Schaik's Book Store (Pty), Booksellers and Stationers, Pretoria.

*Contents:* Foreword. 1. Laboratory diagnosis. 2. Methods of vaccine production. 3. Vaccine potency tests. 4. Production of hyper-immune serum. 5. Laboratory. Additional reference sources.

With the publication of this useful manual, the World Health Organization has fulfilled a need for information on new laboratory techniques of rabies, as well as combined in one volume all the basic procedures necessary for laboratory work.

The manual is on the whole very easy to follow, and each step, is clearly set out, from the preparation of a brain emulsion and the inoculation of mice for testing for the presence of the virus to the preparation of a vaccine and its final testing for sterility and potency. Many excellent photographs are included.

All the contributors are experts in the field of rabies. They have selected reliable procedures with the intention of introducing methods which would aid in producing more uniform and comparable results in laboratories engaged on this work. However, they have not forgotten that the facilities in many laboratories are limited; for instance, in the preparation of vaccine, more than one method is described, the first being the preparation of a phenolized vaccine from sheep brains, and the second one in which rabbit brains are used. Four potency tests, from which any laboratory should be able to select a suitable method, are also given. In addition, the preparation of a chicken-embryo vaccine and its potency test are described. One rather confusing mistake occurs in the method of preparation of a diluent for a brain suspension. Incorrect proportions of the required constituents are given;

apparently the contributor has failed to check his figures. In the section on the production of hyper-immune serum, very little information has been given and the methods used are not too clear.

Many of the techniques for rabies work that are given in this manual, can also be applied to other viruses.

The contributors are Drs. D. d'Antona, P. Atanasiu, R. Béquignon, E. Falchetti, Karl Habel, George A. Hottle, Harold N. Johnson, Martin M. Kaplan, Kamarov, Hilary Koprowski, Pierre Lepine, Thomas F. Sellers, Ernest S. Tierkel and C. Vialat.  
N.W.