

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

SIR WALTER M. FLETCHER

The Bright Countenance—A Personal Biography of Walter Morley Fletcher. By Maisie Fletcher. Pp. 351. 11 Illustrations. 25s. net. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1957. Local Sales Agent: Howard B. Timmins, 109 Long Street, Cape Town.

Contents: Author's Introduction. Foreword by the late M. R. James. I. The Early Years, 1873/1891. II. Trinity College, Cambridge, 1891/1901. III. Burnside and the Croppers. IV. Engagement, 1902/1904. V. 18, Brookside, 1904/1907. VI. Burrells Field, 1907/1914. VII. 93, Bedford Gardens, 1914/1919. VIII. 18, Campden Hill Gardens, 1919/1924. IX. 15, Holland Street, 1924/1927. X. The Indian Commission, 1927/1928. XI. 15, Holland Street, 1928/1930. XII. The Last Three Years (1), 1930/1931. XIII. The Last Three Years (2), 1931/1933. XIV. 'It's All Right'. *Supplement to the Life of Sir Walter Fletcher*, contributed by Sir Arthur MacNalty, K.C.B. I. Research Work in Physiology. II. The Medical Research Committee. III. The Medical Research Committee in War. IV. The Medical Research Council. V. Special Features of the Work of the Medical Research Council. *Appendix*, v. 1. (a) Sir Walter Fletcher: Bibliography. (b) Obituaries and Appreciations. 2. Academic and Other Distinctions. Index.

This biography, as the author, Sir Walter's widow, says, began as a family record particularly intended for his grandchildren. To them no doubt, it has far more appeal than to his scientific and administrative contemporaries. It covers more or less adequately the main features of his life, but it would be greatly improved if it included far fewer extracts from the author's diary which, too often, are incredibly trivial. The same criticism could be applied to the selection of passages from Fletcher's letters.

By far the most informative parts of this book are the foreword by Dr. M. R. James, the supplements by Sir Arthur MacNalty, and the obituaries and appreciations in the appendices which pay tribute to his distinguished career as a research worker and to his outstanding administrative services as secretary for 20 years to the Medical Research Council.

A.D.S.

PLASTIC SURGERY

The Principles and Art of Plastic Surgery. Volumes 1 and 2. By Sir Harold Gillies and D. Ralph Millard Jr. Pp. xxi + 317. With illustrations. £12 10s. + 3s. 10d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

Content: Volume 1: Foreword by Jerome Pierce Webster, M.D. Acknowledgments. Preface. Prologue. I. *The First Act*—Cinderella Surgery. 1. World War One. 2. Principles. 3. Anaesthesia. 4. Technical Tips. 5. Skin Grafting. 6. Inlay Grafting. 11. *Flap Happy*. 7. Rotation Flaps. 8. Direct Flaps. 9. Tube Pedicles. 10. Lymphoedema. 11. Forehead Flaps. 12. Pigmented Naevus. 13. Haemangioma. 14. Radiation Burns. 15. Cancer. 16. Ear Making. *Volume 2:* 17. Harelip and Cleft Palate. 18. Rag Bag. 19. Genitalia. 20. Reduction and Aesthetic Surgery. 21. World War Two and Rookwood House. 22. Burns. 23. An Aspect of Hand Surgery. 24. Lip Trauma. 25. Surgery of the Mandible. 26. Surgery of the Maxilla. 27. Fractures of the Malar-Zygomatic Compound. 28. Nasal Fractures. 29. Frontal Defects. 30. Eyelids and Sockets. 31. Facial

Paralysis. 32. Cross-Grafting. 33. A Day in Clinic. Epilogue. Biographical Data. Index.

This is a monumental work, a text-book of Plastic Surgery interwoven with the autobiography of a surgeon who well merits the title of 'Father of Plastic Surgery' which he has so long held.

There are no stereotyped classifications or second-hand opinions here; the authors take us through 50 years of experience with the informality of a clinical discussion leavened throughout with humour. In it, Sir Harold is nobly supported by Dr. Millard, his American Boswell, who showed the same pleasing witty style in his *Plastic Peregrinations*, and his articles on his Korean experiences. The attractive format of the books is probably due largely to his influence. Most happy, too, is the placing of the photographs and diagrams on the same page as the text to which they are relevant; this obviates irritating paging backwards and forwards in correlating the two.

Let us not be deceived by the ease of reading. When one attempts to summarize the techniques used and proposed, one begins to realize the wealth of experience, the vivid imagination, and the flood of original ideas, which have kept the senior author in the forefront for so many years.

No plastic surgeon of any standing should be without these volumes, and they should be read by surgeons in allied fields.

D.S.D.

RECENT EPIDEMICS

Recent Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases. By S. Leff, M.D., D.P.H. Pp. xii + 408. 2 Illustrations. £1 15s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1957.

Contents: General Introduction. Introduction: Virus Diseases. *Smallpox*. General Description. Edinburgh Outbreak. Glasgow Outbreak. Brighton Outbreak. Lancashire and West Riding Outbreak. General Summary. *Poliomyelitis*. General Description. Isle of Wight Outbreak. Guildford. *Q. Fever*. General Description. Royal Cancer Hospital Outbreak. College of Art, Canterbury, Outbreak. General Summary. *Psittacosis*. General Description. 1930 Outbreak. *Bornholm Disease*. General Description. Oxford, etc., Outbreak. *Enteric Fever: Typhoid Fever*. General Description. Bournemouth Outbreak. Croydon Outbreak. Aberystwyth Outbreak. *Paratyphoid Fever*. General Description. North Devon Outbreak. Eastbourne Outbreak. School Outbreak. *Food Poisoning*: General Description. *Salmonella Group*. General Description. Hospital Outbreak. Shropshire Outbreak. Northamptonshire Outbreak. *Staphylococcal Food Poisoning*. General Description. Factory Canteen Outbreak. Liver Sausage Outbreak. *Diphtheria*. General Description. Convalescent School Outbreak. Newcastle Outbreak. South Staffordshire Outbreak. *Lead Poisoning*. General Description. Rotherham Outbreak. *Atmospheric Pollution*. General Description. London Fog, 1952. Index.

This very interesting and readable book, which deals with recent outbreaks of infectious diseases, viral and bacterial, and also with the newer industrial menaces to life occasioned by atmospheric pollution, should be carefully studied by all who are interested in epidemiology. The details of the recorded infectious outbreaks are carefully set out and analysed and the lessons to be learnt

from them will be applicable to many future epidemics of a similar nature.

It is topical and germane that Dr. Leff has given so much space in this publication to psittacosis and the Coxsackie group of infections. Q fever has also been given due consideration and the recent views on this disease have received more than mention.

Few inaccuracies have been permitted to creep into the text, although we in South Africa would disagree with the statement that high rates for variola major are experienced here. It does, however, seem strange that no mention is made of the incidence of vaccinal encephalitis following the 1950 mass vaccination campaign in Glasgow where approximately 400,000 doses of vaccine were officially issued for use in this campaign.

The print and paper are excellent and the index sufficiently full and accurate.

I have no hesitation in recommending to all my medical colleagues, all health personnel, and others concerned with epidemiology, this excellent little treatise. Its reading and even re-reading will result in many additional lessons being assimilated which should find ready application in the event of like episodes occurring in their own locality.

E.D.C.

HUMAN CANCER

Human Cancer—A Manual for Students and Physicians. By Maurice M. Black, M.D. and Francis D. Speer, M.D., F.C.A.P. Pp. 273. 34 Figures. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

Contents: 1. Cancer Detection. 2. Human Carcinogenesis. 3. Biological Behaviour of Cancer. 4. Biochemistry of Cancer. 5. Chemical and Radiation Therapy. 6. Cancer of the Head and Neck. 7. Cancer of the Lung and Mediastinum. 8. Cancer of the Breast. 9. Cancer of the Gastro-intestinal Tract. 10. Cancer of the Liver, Biliary Tract and Pancreas. 11. Cancer of the Female Reproductive System. 12. Cancer of the Genitourinary System. 13. Cancer of the Soft Tissues and Retroperitoneum. 14. Cancer of the Skin. 15. Lymphomas and Allied Diseases. 16. Cancer of Bone. 17. Functional Tumors of Endocrine Glands. 18. Cancer in Infancy and Childhood. Index.

The authors of this small book have certainly achieved their object of producing a concise and systematic presentation of their subject; to cover all the important aspects of human cancer in less than 300 pages is no mean achievement.

Although one cannot wholeheartedly agree with their contention that 'even with the most scrupulous attention to the discovery of cancer at its earliest detectable stage, the majority of patients will not be appreciably benefited by current therapeutic measures', the impression is gained that throughout the book their evaluation of treatments is fair and points steadily to the need for earlier diagnosis and more efficient treatment.

The single chapter on treatment methods is perhaps not well balanced, about the same amount of space being devoted to X-rays as to 6 mercaptopurine, the mention of marrow depression and marrow aplasia following irradiation suggest unwise methods and should not be allowed to prejudice the reader against radiotherapy. The early chapters on the biological approach to the cancer problem are thought-provoking. All the chapters have excellent references as a guide to wider reading.

This is a book which provides a good bird's-eye view of Human Cancer and will be of value to student or practitioner needing an introduction to the subject.

M.B.B.

REGIONAL ANATOMY

A Synopsis of Regional Anatomy. Eighth Edition. By T. B. Johnston, C.B.E., M.D. Pp. viii + 450. 20 Plates and 10 Text-figures. 28s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Section I.—The Upper Limb. Pectoral Region and Axilla. The Back. Scapular Region. Upper Arm. Front of Forearm. Palmar Aspect of Wrist and Hand. Back of Forearm and Hand. Joints of Upper Limb. Section II.—The Lower Limb. Front of Thigh. Medial Side of Thigh. Gluteal Region and Hip Joint. Back of Thigh and Popliteal Fossa. Front of Leg and Dorsum of Foot. Peroneal Region. Back of Leg. Sole of Foot. Joints of Lower Limb. Section III.—The Thorax. The Thoracic Wall. Pleurae and Lungs. Pericardium and Heart. Great Vessels, etc. Joints of Thorax. Section IV.—The Abdomen. Perineum. The Female Perineum. Abdominal Wall. Abdominal Cavity. Pelvis, in Male. Pelvis, in Female. Joints of Pelvis. Section V.—The Head and Neck. Front and Side of Neck. Dorsal Aspect of Neck and Trunk. Front and Side of Neck (continued). Median Line of Neck. Root of Neck. Scalp. Face. Temporal and Infratemporal Regions. Submandibular Region. Orbit and Middle Cranial Fossa. Prevertebral Region. Mouth and Pharynx. Nose. Larynx. Section VI.—The Central Nervous System and Organs of Special Sense. Intro-

ductory. Spinal Cord: Ascending Tracts, Descending Tracts. Brain: Medulla Oblongata and Pons. Cerebellum. Fourth Ventricle. Midbrain. Deep Connections of Cranial Nerves. Cerebrum. Thalami and Third Ventricle. Meninges. Auditory Apparatus. Internal Ear or Labyrinth. Eye. Section VII.—Osteology. Vertebral Column. Sternum and Ribs. Skull: Mandible, Hyoid Bone. Bones of Upper Limb. Bones of Lower Limb.

With 8 editions over a period of 36 years, Professor Johnston's compact text can be regarded as having acquired the status of a standard work, if not indeed of a classic. As to its quality, its author's repute as a teacher and as the present editor of *Gray's Anatomy* is sufficient testimony.

Professor Johnston makes it clear that he has designed his book not as an alternative to the conventional dissection manual, but as a revision text for the senior undergraduate or postgraduate student. As such, it would be difficult to better.

The development of surgery decade by decade imposes changes of view on the functional significance of anatomical facts. What was formerly academic knowledge may suddenly become vitally important; conversely, though less often, facts once stressed decline in practical importance. In revising this book, Professor Johnston has endeavoured to keep his presentation at least abreast of current surgical trends.

L.H.W.

CYTOLOGY OF EFFUSIONS

The Cytology of Effusions in the Pleural, Pericardial and Peritoneal Cavities. By A. I. Spriggs, D.M. (Oxon.), M.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 71. 5 Colour Plates. 40 Figures. 42s. net. London: William Heinemann: Medical Books Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Introduction. I. History of Cytodiagnosis of Serous Fluids. II. The Cells of Effusions. Nomenclature and Descriptions. III. Non-malignant Effusions: Transudates, Acute Inflammation, Tuberculous Effusions, Pleural and Peritoneal Eosinophilia. IV. Leukaemia and Reticuloses. V. Malignant Effusions. VI. Malignant Cells. Description of Types. Appendix I. Recommended Techniques for Cytological Examination of Fluids. Appendix II. Reliability of Cytological Diagnosis of Cancer; Author's Series. References. Plates. Index.

This brief little work embodies the microscopic findings from 636 cases in which 1,050 specimens of pleural, peritoneal or pericardial fluid were examined. Dried smears of these fluids were stained either by the little-used May-Grunwald-Giemsa method or by other Romanowsky stains.

While little new emerges from this work, the reader will find the information in a concise and easily assimilable form. The morphologist will be disappointed in the descriptions of malignant cells; these are skimpy and inadequate. However, this deficiency is offset by an abundance of good coloured drawings and photographs illustrating the various cell types.

The chief value of this book lies in the description and consideration of cellular patterns as seen in the various disease states, and as such the book will be of value to clinicians who require information on the interpretation of the laboratory findings of serous effusions.

C.J.U.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS SURVEYED

Chronic Bronchitis in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. By A. G. Ogilvie, M.D. (Dunelm), F.R.C.P. (Lond.) and D. J. Newell, M.A. (Cantab.). Pp. vii + 115. Figure 6. 15s. net + 9d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1957.

Contents: I. Introduction. II. Pathology and Pathogenesis. III. Definition and Recognition. IV. Newcastle-upon-Tyne. V. Preparation and Organization. VI. The Conduct of the Survey. VII. The Prevalence of Bronchitis. VIII. Clinical Indications. IX. Domestic Care and Smoking. X. Bronchitis and Housing Conditions. XI. Bronchitis and Occupational History. XII. Discussion. Summary. Conclusions. References. Appendices.

This book is an example of a cooperative endeavour between health visitors of the local authority and doctors to survey the occurrence of chronic bronchitis in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The survey is taken over a period of 19 months in an industrial town which is situated on the banks of the Tyne, and roughly divided into a Northern area further away from the bank of the river than the Eastern and the Western sections which are relatively more crowded, damp and polluted.

Recognizing the difficulty of definition, the authors discuss the

criteria on which they have based the acceptance of the 464 bronchitics and 485 non-bronchitic controls included in the survey—males and females over the age of 30 years—and, including in their definition both early cases in which the course is reversible and capable of healing, and the severe forms where the condition of obliterative bronchiolitis produces shortness of breath and chronicity, conclude that about one-third of cases pass on to the more serious phase, and produce the astoundingly high prevalence rate of 36% for men and 17% for women.

They confirm that infection is the dominating factor in chronic bronchitis, but that it is maintained and aggravated by environmental agents, the most important of which seem to be cigarette smoking, atmospheric pollution, dust, draughts and extremes of temperature at work, the elimination of which might lead to arrest or reversibility of the disease.

This book is of special interest to the chest physician and the industrial and the public-health medical officer. In the detailed and tabulated account of the methods used to check on histories and diagnoses, and in the assessment of housing, overcrowding and employment where these are continually changing in any one person's life, it sets an example for similar surveys and research which might lead to the prevention and earlier treatment of a disease which is not only of importance as a cause of death but perhaps the greatest cause of absenteeism in industry.

R.L.T.

YEAR BOOK OF UROLOGY

Year Book of Urology—1956-1957 Series. Edited by William Wallace Scott, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 382. 87 Figures. \$6.75. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

Contents: Publisher's Note. *Studies on the Prostate. General Considerations. Urologic Training. Examination of the Urine. Infections, Including Gonorrhoea. Calculi. Urography. Instruments and Appliances. The Kidney. Anomalies. Tumors. Trauma. Renal Failure. Nephritis, Nephrosis and Pyelonephritis. Hypertension. Physiology. Transplantation. Hydronephrosis. Surgical Technic. Miscellaneous. The Adrenals. Adrorenal Syndrome. Cushing's Syndrome and Cortical Tumors. Medullary Tumors. Adrenalectomy for Hypertension and Cancer. The Ureter. Ureterointestinal Anaestomosis. Substitute Ureter. Miscellaneous. The Bladder. Tumors. Micturition. Surgical Technic. Miscellaneous. The Prostate. Prostatitis. Prostatectomy. Carcinoma. Miscellaneous. The Genitalia. Penis. Urethra. Epispadias and Hypospadias. Testis Tumors. Scrotal Swellings. Cryptorchism. Fertility and Sterility. Miscellaneous.*

Dr. W. W. Scott, editor of this Year Book of Urology, is steadily maintaining the high standard he set when he took over in 1950. The volume contains all the freshness and vitality one has come to expect.

This is one of the large Year Book family, which give the reader an abridged survey of the last year's literature in a particular speciality. These series are becoming increasingly popular and to be in good company one must become a subscriber.

In these busy and harried times when we all find we have to work longer hours to meet our commitments we are hard put to it to find the leisure time for reading. The Year Book not only reads for us but abstracts and collates, so that the material is condensed, sorted and pigeon-holed, and the compact little book serves as refresher, reference pocket library and a great source of information. The editor and his staff are to be congratulated in the careful and thorough study they have put into the making of this book. As in previous years one is conscious throughout of the watchful censorship of the editor, which is reflected in the pithy footnotes to many of the extracts. Medical publications are as voluminous as ever and considerably exceed what is really worth recording; and the editor's help in sorting the wheat from the chaff is thus all the more worthy of praise.

The Year Book this year comprises 382 pages, which include a full and comprehensive index. Its usual excellence, like a good vintage wine, is its main recommendation.

P.J.M.R.

CLINICAL PROCTOLOGY

Essentials of Clinical Proctology. Third Edition. By Manuel G. Spiesman, M.D., B.S., LL.D., F.I.C.P. and Louis Malow, M.D., B.S., F.A.C.S. Pp. viii + 316. 129 Figures. \$8.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1957.

Contents: Preface. 1. Embryology and Applied Anatomy of the Anorectum. 2. Congenital Malformations and Pediatric Proctology. 3. Differential Diagnosis of Anorectal Conditions. 4. Proctoscopy and Sigmoidoscopy: Examination and Instrumentation. 5. Anesthesia for Anorectal Operations. 6. Preoperative and Postoperative Care in Anorectal Surgery. 7. Postoperative Complications in Anorectal Surgery. 8. Cryptitis and Papillitis. 9. Pecten Band, Pectenosis, and Pectenotomy. 10. Fissure Pentad (Fissure in Ano). 11. Abscess of the Anorectum. 12. Anorectal Fistula. 13. Hidradenitis Suppurativa (Pyoderma). 14. Hemorrhoids. 15. Injection Treatment of Hemorrhoids. 16. Prolapse and Prolidantia. 17. Anal Stenosis. 18. Anal Incontinence. 19. Pruritus Ani. 20. Diarrhea: Functional and Organic. 21. Chronic Amebiasis and Amebic Dysentery. 22. Ulcerative Colitis. 23. Proctitis and Sigmoiditis: Irritable Colon (Mucous Colitis); Bacillary Dysentery. 24. Tuberculosis of the Anorectum and Colon. 25. Faccial Proctitis. 26. Venereal Diseases of the Anorectum. 27. Melanosis Coli. 28. Benign and Rare Tumors (Other than Polyps). 29. Polyps (Benign and Malignant). 30. Malignant Tumors. 31. Fecal Impaction. 32. Coccygodynia and Proctalgia Fugax. 33. Plonidal Cysts and Sinuses. 34. Constipation. 35. Foreign Bodies and Injuries. 36. Stool Analysis. *Appendix:* Authors' Treatment Drawer; Solutions and Diets in Proctologic Work; Intestinal Parasites. *Bibliography. Index.*

The 3rd edition of this book has been completely revised and the authors have added chapters on the injection treatment of haemorrhoids, paediatric proctology (where the subject of congenital megacolon is only briefly dealt with), ulcerative colitis, hydradenitis suppurativa, pruritus ani, amoebiasis, the classification of rectal polypi, and sigmoidoscopy.

The authors to great lengths to justify the idea of the 'pecten band, pectenosis and pectenotomy'—they follow the writings of W. E. Miles and A. L. Abel in detail. They believe and attempt to prove that it is uncommon to find an anal fissure without the pecten band, and that the pecten band is *not* a fibrosis of any sphincter muscle but a pathological condition initiated by chronic passive congestion and inflammation and not found in the newborn or in the rectal mucosa of normal adults. They therefore advocate incising the pecten band in cases of anal fissure—but not the internal or external sphincter as some would have us believe. What impresses me is not so much the fervent belief in the pecten band, but the acute difference of opinion expressed by experts in the art of proctology. These divergent views come from surgeons who have many years expert experience—they differ, they treat and the patients get better. When shall we know the truth?—or does it matter?

The authors make no attempt to describe major surgical operations, e.g. abdomino-perineal resection, but rather stress the basic clinical and practical approach to diagnosis and treatment of common anal conditions.

The book is full of do-s and don't-s, and the don't-s on sigmoidoscopy and the injection of haemorrhoids are excellent. There are long lists of prescriptions and details from the author's 'treatment drawer', which will surely be of value to all.

This book is strongly recommended to general practitioners and surgeons alike.

P.H.