

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### RADIOLOGY OF THE HEAD AND NECK

*The Head and Neck in Roentgen Diagnosis.* Volume I & II. Second Edition. By Eugene P. Pendergrass, M.D., J. Parsons Schaeffer, M.D., Ph.D. and Philip J. Hodes, M.D. Pp. (Vol. I: iv + 878 + lxvi) (Vol. II: xli + 881 + lxvi). ± 1,740 Figures. £14 (2 vols.). Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1956.

*Contents: Volume I.* Preface to the Second Edition. Preface to the First Edition. Introduction. Acknowledgements. I. The Skull. II. Fractures of the Head. III. Diseases of Bone. IV. Tumors of the Scalp and Skull. V. The Teeth and Jaws. VI. The Nose, Lacrimal Passageways, and Paranasal Sinuses. VII. The External Ear, The Temporal Bone, and Affections of the Mastoid and Petrosa. VIII. The Eye and Orbit. *Volume II.* IX. Intracranial Tumors and Other Lesions. X. Cerebral Pneumography. XI. Cerebral Angiography. XII. The Neck. XIII. The Neck. XIV. The Neck. XV. Diseases of the Bones and Joints and Tumors of the Cervical Spine. XVI. Tumors and Other Lesions Involving the Cervical Spinal Cord.

This classical text book has been revised and very considerably expanded. The present two volumes comprise 1759 pages of text, as compared with 904 in the first edition. Concomitantly the anatomical, clinical and radiographic illustrations have been increased and their reproduction is of the highest order.

To mention that there are 2403 illustrations must surely indicate the scope and value of this publication.

The anatomical descriptions preceding the discussions of the developmental anomalies and the diseases of the head and neck are concise, but most informative. They form a valuable basis for directing and determining radiological studies.

In sequence after the description of each anatomical structure, the diseases to which it is prone and diagnosable by radiographic methods are discussed in the very fullest detail.

All the special procedures of contrast media examinations are dealt with clearly and extensively; there is no radiological lesion of the head and neck which has not been included in these volumes.

The references at the end of each chapter and the index form a valuable source for further study.

As a text book to which radiologists can confidently turn for the fullest information, it is a *sine qua non*. To those practising neurology and neuro-surgery, as well as the otorhinolaryngologist, the facial surgeon and the dentist, amongst others, there is much of great interest.

J.N.J.

### THE BILIARY TRACT

*The Biliary Tract.* With special reference to the common bile duct. By Julian A. Sterling, A.B., M.D., M.Med.Sc., Sc.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 424 with 94 illustrations plus 2 coloured plates. 80s. 0d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Introduction. 2. Anatomy. 3. Physiology. 4. Pathology. 5. Lesions of the Pancreas. 6. Clinical Manifestations of Bile Duct Disease. 7. Laboratory Observations. 8. Radiology. 9. Medical Management. 10. Anesthesia for Biliary Tract Surgery—Lillian E. Fredericks, M.D. 11. Cholelithotomy. 12. Surgical Procedures Concerning the Common Bile Duct (Excluding Tumors). 13. Surgical Procedures for Tumors of the Biliary Tract. 14. Other Procedures Concerning the Bile Ducts. 15. Postoperative States. Index.

This volume represents a most exhaustive study on the biliary tract. Its detail is such that it is often overwhelming to the practical surgeon. However this is not a serious fault as any surgery on the biliary tract demands the strictest attention to detail. Reconstructive operations on the bile ducts are appearing more commonly among the operation lists of the larger teaching institutions and it is as well to emphasize the possible dangers and difficulties entailed in the surgery of the gallbladder and the bile ducts. It is not for the general practitioner to remove a gallbladder where anaesthesia, theatre facilities, etc., are not of the best. The consequences of even the smallest error even in the most experienced hands may be crippling to the patient, if not fatal. It is in the light

of this knowledge that one forgives the author if he is not a little more positive in his approach and advice.

More than one half of the volume is taken up by the anatomy of the biliary system, physiology, pathology and the clinical manifestations of biliary disease. An interesting chapter on radiology includes a description of intravenous biligrafin studies.

The volume is of value to the surgeon, the gastroenterologist and also to the general practitioner.

A.K.

## YEAR BOOK OF RADIOLOGY

*The Year Book of Radiology*. (1956-1957 Year Book Series). *Radiologic Diagnosis*. Edited by John Floyd Holt, M.D. and Fred Jenner Hodges, M.D. *Radiation Therapy*. Edited by Harold W. Jacox, M.D. and Morton M. Kligerman, M.D. Pp. 430. 361 Figures. \$9.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

*Contents*: Publisher's Note. *Part I. Diagnosis*. Introduction: The Debt of Surgery to Roentgenology, by Frederick A. Coller. Technical Developments. The Head and Neck. The Spine and Extremities. The Chest: The Heart, Great Vessels and Mediastinum, The Lungs and Pleura. The Gastrointestinal Tract. The Genitourinary Tract. *Part II. Radiation Therapy*. Introduction. The Head and Neck. The Nervous System. The Thorax. Gynecology. The Genitourinary System. Blood Dyscrasias and Lymphomas. Miscellaneous Conditions: Malignant, Benign. Radioactive Isotopes. Physics, Dosimetry and Treatment Technics. Hazards and Injuries. Radiobiology.

As in previous years, this volume has been eagerly anticipated by those interested in the radiological field of medicine.

The customary format of the book has not been changed and there is the usual initial section on technical developments, followed by summaries of carefully chosen subjects on diagnosis and therapy.

An appropriate introduction to this 25th Year Book is the reprint of an editorial from the 'American Journal of Roentgenology' on 'The Debt of Surgery to Roentgenology'. The abstracts of the articles on the latest opaque media and of the hazards and advantages of lumbar aortography are of special interest.

The section on therapy is comprehensive and the surveys cover the present-day scope of radio-isotopes. Of topical interest are the summaries of papers on the relationship of leukaemia to radiation.

As always, the annotations of the widely experienced authors of the Year Book are most illuminating.

For the rapid review of the past year's significant literature on radiological subjects, like its predecessors, this Year Book is invaluable.

J.N.J.

## BIOCHEMICAL DISORDERS IN DISEASE

*Biochemical Disorders in Human Disease*. Edited by R. H. S. Thompson, M.A., D.M. and E. J. King, Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.I.C. 121 Illustrations. Pp. xiv + 843. 90s. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1957.

*Contents*: Preface. *Section I. Diseases of the Gastro-intestinal Tract* by D. A. K. Black. *Section II. Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract* by Noel F. MacLagan. *Section III. The Anaemias* by Sheila T. Callender and J. R. P. O'Brien. *Section IV. Diseases of the Blood. The Clotting Mechanism* by R. G. MacFarlane. *Section V. Hypertension* by G. W. Pickering and W. S. Peart. *Section VI. Diseases of the Kidney and Genito-urinary Tract* by M. D. Milne. *Section VII. Adrenal Diseases* by Joseph W. Jailer and Donald Longson. *Section VIII. Diseases of Iodine Metabolism* by J. Wolff and R. Goldberg. *Section IX. Diseases of Bone and the Parathyroid Gland* by Russell Fraser and E. J. King. *Section X. Diseases of the Nervous System* by R. H. S. Thompson and J. N. Cumings. *Section XI. Diseases of Muscle* by Joseph L. Lilienthal, Jr. and Kenneth Zierler. *Section XII. Diabetes Mellitus and Hypoglycaemia* by Peter H. Forsham and Glenna E. Mortimore. *Section XIII. Disorders of Nutrition* by R. Passmore and A. P. Meiklejohn. *Section XIV. Miscellaneous Disorders of Metabolism: I. Some Abnormalities of Amino-acid and Haemoglobin Metabolism* by H. Harris. *Section XV. Miscellaneous Disorders of Metabolism: II. Connective Tissue Disorders* by E. G. L. Bywaters and L. E. Glynn. *Section XVI. Miscellaneous Disorders of Metabolism: III. Porphyrrias* by C. H. Gray. *Section XVII. Miscellaneous Disorders of Metabolism: IV. Haemochromatosis* by S. Granick. *Section XVIII. Miscellaneous Disorders of Metabolism: V. Glycogen Storage Diseases and Galactosaemia* by Dorothy H. Andersen. *Section XIX. Miscellaneous Disorders of Metabolism: VI. Lipidoses* by S. J. Thannhauser. *Section XX. Disorders of the Reproductive Organs* by P. M. F. Bishop and I. F. Sommerville.

Can one welcome another 800-page tome on clinical biochemistry? Strange to say, the answer is Yes. Professors Thompson and King are to be congratulated on fathering a very successful compilation of articles on the state of biochemistry in medicine. Although there are valuable contributions from America the book is largely the product of British medical schools and surveys present know-

ledge and interpretation from an angle somewhat different from that of other texts.

As the progress of biochemistry and medicine are becoming increasingly interdependent, the editors' project was to provide a forum from which workers on different disease groups could present and correlate old and new work and present to clinicians and biochemists a picture of the present position, the problems and prospects of their subjects, and thus to save long searches for original papers. Incidentally the index and references are full and excellent.

The book is written primarily for medical readers and for this reason the editors arranged for each of their contributors to review disorders associated with one organ group; this contrasts with the usual arrangement of taking one biochemical function, such as protein metabolism, and tracing its aspects throughout the body. Some large sections were needed to take care of diseases without an organ basis, such as porphyria, glycogen disease and lipoidosis. This approach is successful and should appeal to the informed clinician, but may not be so well suited to the student as the conventional arrangement.

The sections on the chemistry of connective tissue and of the nervous system are unusual and helpful. So is that on muscle which the writers ask us to read 'with keen scepticism' because of the difficulties of technique and interpretation.

This book should appeal to candidates for higher examinations, and, if they will look at it, the examiners too may lose some complacency and be saved needless embarrassment.

G.C.L.

## KURZE GESCHICHTE DER VESTIBULARISFORSCHUNG

*Kurze Geschichte der Vestibularisforschung*. By Ernst Wodak, M.D. Pp. viii + 162. 8 Photos. DM 13-80. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1956.

*Contents*: Vorwort. Einleitung. Was war im 19. Jahrhundert über den Vestibularapparat bekannt? Die Entdeckung des menschlichen Vestibularapparates. Vestibularisforschung in Österreich. Forschungsstätten in Holland und Belgien. Die Vestibularisforschungsstätte in Prag. Vestibularisforschung in Skandinavien und Finnland. Vestibularisforschung in Deutschland. Vestibularisforschung in Frankreich. Vestibularisforschung in Italien. Vestibularisforschung in England. Vestibularisforschung in der Schweiz. Vestibularisforschung in Ungarn. Vestibularisforschung in Russland. Vestibularisforschung in den Vereinigten Staaten. Vestibularisforschung in Kanada. Vestibularisforschung in Japan. Vestibularisforschung in der Übrigen Welt.

This small well-written book gives the history and the present-day status on research of the vestibular apparatus.

The author begins by giving a historical survey of what was known about the vestibular functions in the nineteenth century. Purkinje, Meniere and Brener are the famous researchers of this period. About 1905 Bárány of Vienna discovered the caloric nystagmus caused by cold and hot water syringing of the ear, and thus paved the way for establishing the physiology of the human vestibular apparatus.

He then discusses the research done in this field in the different countries, and it is surprising how many centres have well-established institutes for research in this particular sphere.

The author mentions the fact that until the last two decades the Anglo-Saxon and the European researchers worked separately but that since the last World War there is a much better correlation between the two groups.

The book is a thorough survey of what has been done in this field of research and will be of great interest to the E.N.T. surgeons, neurologists and neurosurgeons.

H.L.deV.H.

## HYPOTHALAMUS AND THALAMUS

*Hypothalamus and Thalamus*. Documentary Pictures. Atlas with German and English legends. By W. R. Hess. Pp. x + 70. 246 Figures. DM 36.-. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1956.

*Contents*: Preface. Introduction. I. Key Illustrations to the Anatomy of the Cat's Brain. II. Autonomic Effects and Auxiliary Somatomotor Functions. III. Reactions of compulsive character. IV. Automatic Regulation of Posture. V. Correlations. VI. Combination, Interference and Radiation Effects. Conclusion. List of References on the Physiology of the Brain Stem. List of films. Index.

The author has published his experimental findings on electrical stimulation of various points in the diencephalon of the cat's brain. In each animal the responses from twelve different points of stimulation were examined. Three electrodes carried on a single

mount with a distance of one and a half mm. between them were inserted simultaneously. Each 'trio' was placed in a superior and an inferior plane, first on the left and then on the right.

Apart from the text which describes the function performed by stimulation of various areas, the effect of stimulation is illustrated by photographs of the animal before stimulation and in the final position.

These carefully conducted experiments, with the exact localization of the point of stimulation leading to specific autonomic functions, provide a basis for the direct interpretation and understanding of the pathological symptomatology of the diencephalon.

The book is written with German and English texts next to each other.

It will be of special interest to physiologists, pathologists, neuro-psychiatrists and neuro-surgeons, but also to all other members of the medical profession, because of its concise and lucid text combined with the excellent illustrations.

H.L.deV.H.

#### PHYSIOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

*Physiology of the Nervous System.* By E. Geoffrey Walsh, M.A. (Oxon.), M.D. (Harvard), M.R.C.P. (London). With chapters on Somatic Sensibility and the Applied Physiology of Pain by John Marshall, M.D. (Manchester), M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (London). Pp. xvi + 563. Illustrated. 50s. net. London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Chapter 1. Nerve and Muscle. Chapter 2. Somatic Sensibility. Chapter 3. The Applied Physiology of Pain. Chapter 4. The Spinal Cord. Chapter 5. Posture: The Labyrinth. Chapter 6. The Cerebellum. Chapter 7. The Cerebral Cortex: Olfaction: Electro-Encephalography. Chapter 8. The Auditory System and Temporal Lobes. Chapter 9. The Visual System. Chapter 10. The Cortical Control of Movement: Cortico-spinal and Extra-pyramidal Pathways. Chapter 11. The Sensory Pathway, Thalamus and Parietal Lobe, Speech. Chapter 12. Hypothalamus, Rhinencephalon and Frontal Lobes. Bibliography. Index.

This new textbook of neurophysiology is a clear exposition of modern views on the subject. It may be recommended with confidence to the general physiologist or to the general physician or surgeon who wishes to keep abreast of recent work on the nervous system, but the undergraduate might find it difficult to understand and the neurologist would find it rather elementary. It should prove particularly useful to the clinical psychologist provided he has a good grounding in neuroanatomy.

The approach is functional rather than anatomical. More space is devoted to the special senses than is usual in a book of this nature and the mental activities associated with cerebral function are given due prominence. The chapter on hypothalamus, rhinencephalon, and frontal lobes is particularly interesting in this respect. Throughout the book the application of fundamental principles to clinical neurology is emphasized and illustrative cases are described.

The style is lucid, if somewhat discursive, and the diagrams are clear and appropriate. The bibliography is well selected and emphasises recent work. The book is well printed, strongly bound, and offered at a very reasonable price.

A.W.S.

#### BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY

*British National Formulary 1957.* By Joint Formulary Committee. Pp. 226. 6s. 6d. (Ordinary) plus 5d. postage, 10s. (interleaved) plus 8d. postage. London: The Pharmaceutical Press. 1957.

*Contents:* Joint Formulary Committee. Preface. Notes for Prescribers. Prescriptions for Dangerous Drugs. Prescriptions for Schedule IV Poisons. Habit-forming Drugs. General Notices. Pharmacological Classification. Formulary. Appendix. Index.

*British National Formulary 1957. Alternative Edition.* By Joint Formulary Committee. Pp. 245. 1957. 7s. 6d. (ordinary) postage 5d. 10s. 6d. (interleaved) postage 8d. London: The Pharmaceutical Press. 1957.

*Contents:* Joint Formulary Committee. Introduction. Preface to the Main Edition. General Notices. Prescriptions for Dangerous Drugs. Prescriptions for Schedule IV Poisons. Habit-forming Drugs. Pharmacological Classification. Classified Formulary. The Treatment of Poisoning. Appendix. Index.

Two editions of the British National Formulary (1957) are available. Hitherto the general arrangement of the Formulary has followed the traditional pattern, preparations and formulae being

grouped in alphabetical order under descriptive headings such as mixtures, tablets, and injections. The main edition carries on the tradition. Several additions and alterations have been made and some preparations have been discarded. The section on poisoning has been extended and includes a monograph on agricultural poisoning (weed killers and insecticides). There are once again Notes for Prescribers with information on groups of drugs, e.g., analgesics, antibiotics, antihistamines. Synonyms, cross-references, lists of additions, deletions and equivalents make it easy to obtain necessary information from the book. The appendix provides information on proprietary preparations, approved names, gas cylinders, and a dental practitioner's formulary.

In the companion volume, referred to as the 'alternative edition' a pharmacological arrangement is provided. The preparations and formulae are grouped according to their pharmacological action and use instead of in alphabetical order. For hospital practice and teaching purposes and for prescribers generally this grouping is valuable.

In general the contents of the two editions are the same and the formulae identical. There are however changes in presentation as the result of changes in arrangement.

These valuable handbooks are not intended to replace standard works of reference, and should not be regarded as textbooks of pharmacology, still less of therapeutics. The aim is to provide a book of convenient size with a comprehensive range of preparations and formulae to meet the needs of prescribers in hospital and general practice, and of pharmacists.

N.S.

#### YEAR BOOK OF CANCER

*Year Book of Cancer—1956-1957 Series.* By R. L. Clark, Jr., B.S., M.D., M.Sc. (Surgery), D.Sc. (Hon.) and R. W. Cumley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Pp. 572. Figs. 210. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Publisher's Foreword. Introduction. Head and Neck. Brain and Nervous System. Gastrointestinal Tract. Lung. Skin. Female Breast. Genitourinary Tract. Female Genital Tract. Leukemia and Lymphomas. Bone and Soft Parts. Cytology and Pathology. Virology. Radiotherapy. Chemotherapy. Steroid Endocrinology. Genetics. Epidemiology and Statistics. Metastatic Tumors and Late Care. Basic Research. Special Surgical Problems. Pediatric Cancer. Roentgen Diagnosis. Radiobiology and Radiophysics. Endocrine Tumours. Pathologic Aspects of Cancer.

This Year Book, the latest edition to the series will be welcomed by everybody who has to deal with cancer. In the publisher's foreword they note that 'the need for such an addition to the annual series of medical Year Books has become increasingly apparent as cancer itself has become increasingly the responsibility of every member of the medical profession'.

The subject is so vast, that 'of the 5,000 medical journals that are published annually throughout the world, some 500 regularly publish in the English language articles which are related to cancer.' In one year more than 4,000 of these articles appeared. The editors have divided the field into 25 sections and have assigned 3-7 editors per section. Several sections, such as the lung 'had as editors a clinician, a pathologist, a radiologist and a surgeon'. In this way the book represents 207 selected articles and an unusual feature of the book is that the authors were asked to abstract their own articles. This is the solid basis on which the worth of this Year Book rests. There is no doubt that it is such a book that everybody dealing with cancer will have to keep on his shelf.

S.T.T.

#### AIDS TO MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS

*Aids to Materia Medica and Therapeutics.* Fifth Edition. By J. W. Hadgraft, F.P.S., F.R.I.C. Pp. vii + 259. 10s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Introduction. Part I. Materia Medica of Official Substances. Part II. List of B.P. Preparations. Pharmacological Classification of Drugs. Appendix I. Dangerous Drugs and Poisons. Appendix II. Weights and Measures. Index.

Advances that have been made in pharmacology have rendered obsolete the classification of drugs into organic and inorganic substances under the title of *Materia Medica*. This volume of the Students' Aid Series has nevertheless been prepared for the medical student, and for postgraduate pharmacy students, to indicate the way in which drugs are formulated for use in therapeutics and the

alternative preparations that are available. The book follows closely the recommendations made in the British Pharmacopoeia. The main properties of drugs are briefly presented and the pharmacopoeial preparations are mentioned, but a number of drugs which have not yet received official recognition have also been included.

The short action of certain barbiturates is due not so much to their rapid destruction as to their rapid removal from the blood stream and storage in the body fat; they are clinically short-acting, pharmacologically long-acting. The action of 'autonomic drugs' is generally regarded nowadays as being on the autonomic effector cells, not on nerve endings. The action of the synthetic orally administered anticoagulants is to a large extent due to inhibition of the formation of factor VII. On p. 225 Oxytocin is included in a list of intestinal stimulants.

This book will prove a useful aid to the study of pharmacology. It can be easily read before a course of more detailed study is undertaken, will supplement larger texts, and be useful for revision.

N.S.

## DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

*Differentialdiagnose innerer Krankheiten.* 5., neubearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage. Von Prof. Dr. R. Heggin. XVI, 749 Seiten. 459 z.T. mehrfarbige Abbildungen, Gr.-8°. Ganzleinen DM 79.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1957.

*Inhaltsverzeichnis:* *Teilen 1.* Allgemeine Gesichtspunkte. *Teilen 2.* Anaemien. *Teilen 3.* Haemorrhagische Diathese. *Teilen 4.* Status febrilis. *Teilen 5.* Kopfschmerz. *Teilen 6.* Dyspnoe. *Teilen 7.* Herzrhythmusstörungen. *Teilen 8.* Myokardschädigung im Elektrokardiogramm. *Teilen 9.* Zyanose. *Teilen 10.* Schmerzen im Bereich des Thorax. *Teilen 11.* Hypertonien. *Teilen 12.* Hypotonie. *Teilen 13.* Lungenschattungen. *Teilen 14.* Hilusvergrößerung. *Teilen 15.* Vergrößerter Lymphdrüsen—Lymphome. *Teilen 16.* Schmerzen im Bereich des Abdomens. *Teilen 17.* Diarrhöen. *Teilen 18.* Obstipation. *Teilen 19.* Ikterus. *Teilen 20.* Splenomegalie. *Teilen 21.* Haematurie, Albuminurie, Pyurie, Zylindurie. *Teilen 22.* Oedeme. *Teilen 23.* Schmerzen in den Extremitäten und im Bereich der Wirbelsäule. *Teilen 24.* Bewußtseinsverlust Sachverzeichnis.

The introductory section devotes a great deal of time to good approach, meticulous observation and interpretation of physical signs and symptoms. It broadly indicates in a highly satisfactory manner the factors and special investigations required before making a final or justified diagnosis.

In the subsequent chapters the author proves to be somebody with years of experience and vast clinical acumen. The advent of good photography enables the author to achieve great success in conveying essential information without a laborious text.

I can confidently recommend this edition to all students in their early clinical years. I am also convinced that general practitioners will find it equally interesting and benefit tremendously from it.

The only disappointing point about this book is the fact that no form of treatment is discussed in conjunction with the differential diagnoses.

The discussion on haemorrhagic diatheses, PUO, painful conditions of the thorax and the section on kidneys is of excellent standard and compares well with present-day teaching in this country. Very much the same can be said for the remaining chapters.

The section on unconsciousness, is certainly dealt with in a very brief manner but is nevertheless very stimulating and complete.

D.J.H.

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD

*Orthopedic Surgery in Infancy and Childhood.* By Albert Barnett Ferguson, Jr., B.A., M.D. and five other contributors. Pp. xii + 508. 120s. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* 1. The Foot. 2. The Knee. 3. The Hip. 4. The Spine. 5. The Neck, by John Donaldson, M.D. 6. The Upper Extremity, by Frank Stelling, M.D. 7. Affections of Bone. 8. Affections of Muscle. 9. Neurogenic Affections. 10. Malignant Tumors of Bone.

One lays down this volume with mixed feelings, for though there is much that is good in the book there is a curious lack of balance. In a book which purports to deal with orthopaedic conditions peculiar to childhood, one is surprised to find chapters on burns and on lacerations of the hand and fingers. Though this may be an index of the ever-growing scope of Orthopaedic Surgery an even bigger surprise is that the common postural deformities of childhood such as bow-legs, knock-knees, etc., are entirely omitted. Only 7 pages (including illustrations) are devoted to that fairly

common deformity of childhood, congenital clubfoot, yet 35 pages are devoted to the comparatively rare congenital anomalies of the hand and fingers. Nevertheless, there are some pleasing sections, the one on the hip-joint being especially good. Congenital dislocation of the hip is extremely well done and the embryology of the hip is concisely described in relation to this dysplasia. The clinical signs for early detection and diagnosis are well detailed. As regards treatment, though the general principles are acceptably stated, one may take exception to some of the actual methods employed, for example, reduction of the dislocation by skeletal traction. Similarly in the chapter on Tuberculosis of the Hip, few Orthopaedic Surgeons will agree with the suggested treatment by immobilization in a bivalved plaster cast. Transient Synovitis of the Hip, a common condition in childhood, yet so seldom described, is well dealt with.

150 pages are devoted to the developmental, metabolic, and other affections of the skeleton and this is a good all-round review.

The book is full of admirable illustrations but references are not made to them in the text. It is also strange that in a book so well got up there should be many spelling mistakes, e.g., 'bone ships' instead of bone chips, on Page 387, and 'oraginally' instead of originally, in the chapter on the hip.

Though, despite its faults, one may recommend this book to those interested in the Orthopaedic Surgery of Childhood, it is to be hoped that a future edition will eliminate its defects and achieve a better balance between the more and the less important subjects dealt with.

J.M.E.

## IONIZING RADIATION

*Chronicle of The World Health Organization—Challenge of Atomic Energy.* Vol. II, No. 8. Pp. 265. Figures 25. Subscription for 1957, 17s. 6d. Price per copy, 1s. 9d. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1957.

*Contents:* The challenge of atomic energy. Effect of radiation on human heredity. Radioisotopes and insect biology. Radiation and health. Disposal of radioactive waste. Responsibilities of the medical profession in the use of X-rays and other ionizing radiation. *Notes and News:* Portable instrument for comparing national X-ray standards. Conference on research uses of radioisotopes. Post-graduate training in atomic energy. Review of WHO publications.

This special issue of the above periodical is in itself a review, and covers some of the activities of the World Health Organization in the field of ionizing radiation.

The main article is based on the proceedings of a study group of WHO and 'aims at giving an idea of the main lines of approach' to the problem of the effects of radiation on human heredity. The contributions by scientists, eminent in their field, are briefly reviewed in language comprehensible to those with a training in basic biology. Those with more than a cursory interest in the problem will wish to read these papers in the original, since the conclusions about possible genetic effects of these rays in man are complex, incomplete and often controversial.

A brief and interesting note on tracer techniques in problems of insect biology forms a second paper. The third article is well illustrated and is devoted to an elementary discussion of radiation effects on man, and their avoidance. The final article is devoted to a short description of the problems of disposal of radioactive waste products. The widely published statement by the United Nations' Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation is also re-issued.

The journal makes an instructive 30 minutes reading for those who are not familiar with recent advances in the use of ionizing radiation but contains little new for those who are already interested in current trends and developments in this field.

M.H.F.

## PRENATAL CARE

*The Care of the Expectant Mother.* By Josephine Barnes, D.M., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 270. Illustrations. 30s. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd. 1956.

*Contents:* Preface. Acknowledgements. *Part I. Normal Pregnancy.* 1. The Anatomy and Physiology of Pregnancy. 2. The Clinical Examination of the Pregnant Woman. 3. Special Investigations. 4. Advising the Mother. 5. Preparation for Childbirth. 6. Maternity Services in Britain. *Part II. Abnormal Pregnancy.* 7. Multiple Pregnancy. 8. Hydramnios. 9. Malpresentations. 10. Disproportion and Trial Labour. 11. Haemorrhage in Early Pregnancy. 12. Ante-

partum Haemorrhage. 13. Excessive Vomiting (Hyperemesis Gravidarum). 14. Toxaemias of Late Pregnancy. 15. Induction of Labour. *Part III. Diseases Complicating Pregnancy.* 16. Diseases of the Pelvic Organs. 17. Cardiovascular Disease. 18. Diseases of the Blood. 19. Respiratory Diseases. 20. Diseases of the Alimentary Canal. 21. Renal Diseases. 22. Diseases of the Endocrine System. 23. Venereal Diseases. 24. Diseases of the Nervous System. 25. Acute Specific Fevers. Index.

It is now well over 30 years since Prenatal Care was first practised in any systematic and constructive way and the care of the expectant mother has received much attention, and increasing importance has been attached to this real 'preventive medicine' aspect of the subject. The dramatic fall in maternal and infant mortality can be attributed to the improved care which mothers receive during pregnancy.

This latest volume on the subject is intended as a practical guide for all who undertake the management of pregnancy. As this is being done by an increasing number of general practitioners and midwives throughout the country, the timely appearance of this volume is to be welcomed. It is most clearly and concisely written with good reproductions of diagrams and photographs and the text is very readable. It covers the whole subject in a very practical manner and does not attach undue importance to any controversial issues. It would be invidious to single out special chapters for mention but the section on Rhesus factor is most clearly and simply presented and the chapter on Toxaemias of Pregnancy quite the most comprehensive for a work such as this.

For the student, the practitioner engaged in Prenatal Clinics and the practitioner far from consultant help this book can be confidently recommended to 'brush up your antenatal care'.

P.M.

#### HARRISON'S CLINICAL METHODS

*Chemical Methods in Clinical Medicine.* Fourth Edition. By G. A. Harrison, M.D., B.Ch., F.R.I.C. Pp. xi + 667. Figs. 158. 65s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface to Fourth Edition. Acknowledgements. I. Special Apparatus, Colorimeters, Comparator, Flame Photometer, Mesoscope, Microscopes, Paper Chromatography, Paper Electrophoresis, Pipettes, Spectroscopes, etc. II. Routine Chemical Examination of Urine: Qualitative. III. Proteins in Urine: "Albuminuria". IV. Urinary Deposits: Calculi and Concretions. V. Tests of Renal Efficiency. VI. Reducing Substances in Urine: Glycosuria, Lactosuria, Pentosuria, etc. VII. Interpretation of Blood-sugar and Blood-sugar Curves. VIII. Chemical Tests in Diabetes Mellitus and Control of Insulin Treatment. IX. Ketosis, Acidosis and Alkalosis. X. Blood and Derivatives in Urine. XI. Urines Abnormal in Colour. Drugs in Urine. XII. Bile and Urobilin in Urine: Efficiency Tests of Liver and Bile Passages. XIII. Tests of Pancreatic Efficiency. XIV. Indicanuria. Miscellaneous Urine Tests. XV. Chlorides. Inorganic Constituents of Urine.

XVI. Collection, Preservation and Quantitative Analysis of Urine. XVII. Collection and Preservation of Blood. XVIII. Blood: Qualitative Examination. XIX. Blood Analysis. XX. Treatment and Chemical Analysis. XXI. Chemical Examination of Cerebrospinal Fluid. XXII. Milk Analysis. XXIII. Gastric Analysis. XXIV. Chemical Examination of Duodenal Contents. XXV. Chemical Examination of Faeces. XXVI. Basal Metabolism and Metabolism Experiments. XXVII. Pigmentations. XXVIII. Miscellaneous and Conundrums. Appendix. Index.

Ten years have passed since the last edition of Harrison appeared and for a long time this book has been unobtainable. In these years great changes have been made in the routine of chemical pathology, and in the new problems which have arisen many of us have looked forward to a new edition which would give the very practical help which we have got from Harrison in the past.

Dr. Harrison's aim has been to write a book which would interpret the meaning of laboratory tests to the clinician and to describe the more commonly employed methods for the benefit of the laboratory worker. He limited himself to investigations regarded as routine in his own laboratories. He has always been an advocate of closer collaboration between the clinician in his sideroom and the chemical pathologist in his laboratory; he is a believer in the great importance of simple tests on urine and faeces and in the expansion of sideroom work. This accounts for the unique place held by his book for its very practical account of qualitative tests, of blood and urine spectroscopy and of investigations of other biological materials. His suggestions for making simple but efficient apparatus out of laboratory materials and obsolete instruments are often excellent.

The analytical methods he describes are mostly old friends of proved worth, but to these he often adds personal touches of value. There are new sections dealing with photoelectric colorimetry, chromatography, electrophoresis and flame photometry. In the section on colorimetry he seems to be at pains to avoid mentioning any particular instrument although his account of the two-cell instrument applies only to one type of absorptiometer. He does not mention the simpler spectrophotometers which certainly compete in this field. The sections on chromatography and electrophoresis are short but helpful, but a lot of space is given to electrophoretograms of the sera of pigeons, hedgehogs and other unlikely animals; this does not seem to be worth while. Flame photometry is dismissed very briefly; he rightly suspects results obtained by this method unless meticulous care is taken, and he gives details of reasonably simple chemical methods which may prove better when the demands for sodium and potassium determinations are not very numerous. On the whole these new sections are a little disappointing but they form a very small part of a book which will be a great asset in any sideroom or clinical laboratory.

G.C.L.