

SUSPENSION THERAPY

Suspension Therapy in Rehabilitation. By Margaret Hollis, M.C.S.P. and Margaret H. S. Roper, M.C.S.P. Pp. xii+220. 112 figures. 25s. net. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

'Suspension Therapy' is a fitting tribute to Mrs. Guthrie Smith, edited and presented by Margaret Hollis and Margaret H. S. Roper. As in Mrs. Guthrie Smith's book, the diagrams and illustrations are excellently portrayed. The book brings up to date the art and technique of this therapy as applied under present-day conditions. The articles are very enlightening, in particular the one dealing with amputations. This book is ideal for the student and the practitioner of suspension therapy.

T.P.H.

FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS

Fractures and Dislocations. By George Perkins, M.C., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii+363. 255 figures. 57s. 6d. London: University of London, The Athlone Press. 1958.

This book has obviously been written primarily for the medical student and general practitioner. No details concerning operative procedures have been included. A system of starring each fracture has been employed. This means that the practitioner can see at a glance which fractures he can safely handle himself. The author in many instances stresses early movement or ambulation, often adopting a rather radical approach. Splintage and immobilization are reduced to a minimum. For example, in transverse fractures of the shaft of the femur, skeletal traction without any additional splint is the method of treatment advocated. It is to be regretted that in a book of this nature the more conservative skin traction with the Thomas splint is not mentioned at all. The Thomas splint is recommended as a first-aid measure only.

The book is well written and the illustrations are excellent. Amusing remarks find their way into the text—for example in the section dealing with elbow injuries in children, the author writes: 'The child is advised to avoid activities that are likely to cause another fall, such as trick-cycling, horse riding, and skating. The advice won't be taken'.

G.D.

OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF CARDIAC DISEASE

Operable Herzleiden. Einführung in Klinik, Diagnostik und Operationsmöglichkeiten. Von Prof. Dr. J. Jacobi und Prof. Dr. M. Loeweneck. Unter Mitarbeit von Dr. K. Maier und Dr. H. Sammlert. viii+175 Seiten. 155 Abbildungen in 268 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 49.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

The authors devote at least one chapter to the history of cardiac abnormalities and the ensuing special investigations. They have not forgotten to pay tribute to the great pioneers of the past—especially those who rendered valuable contributions before the advent of the modern (not to say ultra-modern) laboratory. In subsequent chapters they attempt a classification of cardiac abnormalities and anomalies with special reference to those causing incapacitating disorders. For the rest, the treatise is based on a method of diagnosis with reference to the various operative possibilities which exist, with special attention to the congenital cardiac aberrations amenable to surgery. Cardiac catheterization is mentioned as a vital aid in diagnosis. The authors

also pay tribute to the heart-lung machine; the basic principles, uses, failures and successes are set out.

D.J.H.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

A Primer in Medical Technology. By Paul M. Kraemer. Pp. viii+338. 33 figures. 58s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

As mentioned by the author in the preface, the scope of this book is limited, no mention being made of bacteriological, parasitological or histological techniques.

However, it can be said of the subject matter dealt with, that it is treated in a novel and refreshing manner, providing an excellent background to, and understanding of, laboratory methods. The anatomical and physiological aspects of the renal system and the laboratory tests used to determine abnormalities are simply and lucidly explained. The other chapters, on haematology, blood chemistry and cerebrospinal fluid, are also very well presented. The book has a decided value for the medical technologist embarking on his or her profession.

S.J.R.

ORBITAL DISEASES OF NASAL ORIGIN

Die rhinogenen Erkrankungen der Orbita. Von Dr. R. Herrmann. viii+83 Seiten. 42 Abbildungen. DM 18.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

This book deals with orbital complications of nasal and sinus disease. The subject falls in the border-line between rhinology and ophthalmology and should thus be of interest to specialists in both these branches of surgery. Many articles have been written on the subject and this volume fulfils a much needed want in collecting the cumulative experience of many investigations in one book of 80 pages. The work is profusely illustrated with fine photographs and simple but clear diagrams of every possible orbital complication of rhinogenous disease. Much can be learned from detailed study of the illustrations alone. The book can be unreservedly recommended.

B.T.B.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF SURGERY

Pathophysiologische Grundlagen der Chirurgie. Von Priv.-Doz. Dr. Th.-O. Lindenschmidt. xx+410 Seiten. 40 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 56.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

The author outlines the patho-physiological basis of surgery. He mentions disturbances of protein, carbohydrate and fat metabolism and diseases of many organs. The quality of the various chapters differs. Some parts of the book are good and interesting, but in other ones, apparently, the author has to rely on the medical literature without being sufficiently experienced to decide whether his references are reliable. This field of applied physiology is so large that it can hardly be covered by a single person's work; future editions of this book should be written in collaboration with other specialists.

H.W.W.

LOVE AND LIFE

A Woman Doctor Looks at Love and Life. By Marion Hilliard. Pp. 190. 8s. 6d. net. London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd. 1958.

Dr. Marion Hilliard has written a very important little book of 170 pages of easy reading. It contains the experiences and shrewd

observations of 25 years of work amongst people during their times of stress and difficulty. This insight into the frailties of human beings is presented with such wisdom and humility and with such scintillating wit that she offends nobody, however shocked one feels at first to find one's innermost and well-hidden, thoughts exposed to the sunlight. There is a chapter and a message for everyone—man, woman and adolescent—and in my opinion the book is a treasure and a 'must'.

R.K.

TROPICAL PAEDIATRICS

Diseases of Children in the Subtropics and Tropics. By H. C. Trowell, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. and D. B. Jelliffe, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H. Pp. xvi+919. Illustrations. 105s. net. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1958.

The author's preface states that this book is probably too high-powered for most medical students and is really intended for postgraduate study of the clinical aspects of the diseases described in the title. There are 75 contributors from 24 countries, and the standard of the sections was bound to vary. Some are magnificent, a few are poor. No attempt is made to detail signs and symptoms of diseases of world-wide distribution, which are assumed to be common knowledge to any qualified medical practitioner. Conversely, tropical and subtropical diseases, and especially problems of nutrition, are dealt with in detail. References to recent literature are given. The illustrations, tables, and charts are excellent and the book is a valuable addition to paediatric literature, and cheap by present standards.

F.J.F.

ORTHOPAEDICS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Orthopaedics in General Practice. By W. H. Gervis, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. Pp. x+120. 32 figures. 10s. 6d. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1958.

The author, an orthopaedic surgeon, has himself been in general practice. In this book he discusses common painful conditions affecting the human frame from head to foot. His thesis is that most aches and pains are not 'rheumatism' but the result of faulty posture in standing, sitting, walking or lying down; that they are amenable to correction of abnormal postures by appropriate exercises and even by stretching as animals do. There is certainly much truth in all this, but one does not agree with the author where he so much minimizes the occurrence of 'rheumatic affections' of the muscular system. Local infiltrations, such as hardened and extremely sensitive *circumscribed* areas in muscles, especially near their tendinous ends, in the nuchal region, shoulders, back, loins, hips, knees, shins, ankles and even fingers and toes cannot invariably be ascribed to strain *per se*. One sees many headaches due to tender spots in muscles at the back of the head or neck, which, when removed by local treatment, subside forthwith. Examples are legion. One has seen many Native women who walk with a perfect poise complaining of severe bouts of back-ache.

These matters apart, students would do well to read this little book carefully, paying due attention to the otherwise sound teaching set forth.

G.C.A. v.d. W.

RETICULO-ENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM

The Reticulo-endothelial System in Growth and Tumour Formation. By Roger Wyburn-Mason, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. 206. 79 illustrations. 42s. net. London: Henry Kimpton. 1958.

In this book Dr. Wyburn-Mason records the results of his investigations into the functions of the reticulo-endothelial system, using vital and supravital staining techniques. The first 40 pages are devoted to a detailed account of the distribution of macrophages within normal tissues. This section of the book will prove of value to those seeking information on one or other specific point but the average reader will probably gladly accept the author's own suggestion that he reads the summary at the end of the chapter rather than the lengthy account itself. The functions of the RE cells are then examined and the author attributes to these cells a far more fundamental role in metabolism and growth than is generally thought. As a result of his studies he has developed some interesting and stimulating ideas on the fundamental nature of malignant tumours. His ideas are controversial but anyone

interested in the more basic aspects of tumour growth will find much food for thought in the latter half of this book.

M.I.S.

COFFEE CONTRA-INDICATED

Coffee and Caffeine. By Dr. Med. Rolf Ulrich. Pp. 52. 7s. 6d. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1958.

The author of this little book felt it necessary to collect information on coffee and caffeine scattered in the literature and present a balanced account of current knowledge on the subject. The literature is entirely continental, and certain words and phrases used in the translation give a continental flavour. The author forbids the consumption of full coffee in certain heart diseases, high blood pressure, inflammatory eczema, certain cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, hyperthyroidism, gastric and duodenal ulcers, chronic inflammatory states of the bladder, kidney diseases, and glaucoma. Not everybody will accept these views. The author does not refer to the symposium on tea at the New York Academy of Sciences, 16 May 1955 (published by The Biological Sciences Foundation, Washington), where it was agreed that there are no medical contra-indications to the drinking of that beverage; but he cites work from Utrecht indicating that tea is the most harmless caffeine-containing drink, which is attributed to inhibition of its caffeine content by adenines.

N.S.

CARDIAC FAILURE

Die Herzinsuffizienz in der Praxis. Von Dr. Dr. K. Bloch. viii+216 Seiten. 8 Abbildungen. Kartoniert DM 19.80. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

By way of introduction much space and time are devoted to an explanation of myocardial contraction and changes which ensue during contraction. The accumulator system is discussed. This is also thought to be the explanation of the ability of the heart to perform with such perfect synchronicity the functions demanded by the body under different forms of physiological and pathological stresses. Equal emphasis is laid on histology, chemistry and neurological innervation.

The methods and drugs employed in the treatment of cardiac failure are taken in review by the authors and certain recommendations are offered with special reference to cardiac failure in infants, e.g. the use of intravenous strophanthin, which he considers should be avoided. Digitoxin is the drug of choice according to his own experience.

J.J.H.

A PRIMER OF ANAESTHESIA

Narkose-Fibel für klinische und ambulante operative Eingriffe. Von Dr. H. J. Thum. viii+103 Seiten. 10 Abbildungen. Kartoniert DM. 13.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

This treatise, based on years of experience, offers useful hints as regards corrective treatment in emergency. The author, without probing far into detail, explains the principles of anaesthesia and the different methods of application, with special reference to physical conditions affecting the routine administration of gases. He describes the different stages of anaesthesia. Comments are made on the use of atropine in cases presenting with tachycardia, as in thyrotoxicosis or related diseases.

The author gives some useful advice concerning anaesthesia during the different stages of pregnancy and in Caesarean section; he considers the administration of barbiturates to be contra-indicated.

J.J.H.

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Clinical Chemistry in Practical Medicine. 5th edition. By C. P. Stewart, D.Sc. (Dunelm.), Ph.D. (Edin.) and D. M. Dunlop, B.A. (Oxon.), M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. vii+342. 30 figures. 27s. 6d. net + 1s. 7d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

The present edition is augmented and rewritten in part. Intended primarily for students in medicine, there can be no doubt that this book is one of the best available for this purpose. However, its scope is not limited to students only; the practitioner, houseman and registrar have in it a valuable guide to the intelligent use of clinical chemistry. In a lucidly written book, clinical chemistry is placed in its correct perspective. Despite the concise appearance

of the volume, it is remarkably comprehensive and the reader will find that it covers almost every aspect of present-day clinical chemistry. In short, it is difficult to overstate the value of this book to those who strive to maintain adequate standards in the use of clinical chemistry in relation to the practice of medicine.

S.M.J.

ADVANCES IN PAEDIATRICS

Advances in Pediatrics. Vol. X. Editor: S. Z. Levine. Pp. 362. Illustrations. \$9.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

The high standard set by contributors to previous volumes in this series has been maintained. In this tenth volume there are excellent and useful reviews of 'convulsive disorders', 'the treatment of tuberculosis', and 'the prevention of poliomyelitis by vaccination'. The chapter on 'psychologic principles in paediatric practice' not only reviews the psychological effects of acute illness but industriously details the implications of numerous specific chronic illnesses. Reflecting a lack of major new advances in the paediatric field despite active clinical research, it is disappointing to find so little fresh material in this volume. There is a short chapter on 'muscular disorders' and a very interesting one on the 'transfer of antibodies from mother to offspring'. The chapter on 'staphylococcal infections in nurseries' is timely and important and should be read by everyone who has duties on a maternity unit.

L.S.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Differentialdiagnose neurologischer Krankheitsbilder. Von Prof. Dr. Dr. G. Bodechtel. xxviii+975 Seiten. 532 Abbildungen in 638 Einzeldarstellungen. Ganzleinen DM 120.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

This book stresses the clinical picture as the important point in dealing with problems of differential diagnosis in neurological diseases. The diseases of the peripheral nervous system are dealt

with in the first chapter. The second chapter deals with the diseases of the brain and spinal cord—circulatory disturbances, inflammation, tumours and congenital abnormalities. It is shown that a painstaking history and careful clinical examination suffice in most cases to arrive at the correct diagnosis. That is why the technical examinations are dealt with only briefly. The contents are based on the rich experience of a medical clinic, and the book is very detailed, with excellent illustrations. It should be of great interest to the neurologist and the physician, but also to all other members of the medical profession.

H.L. de V.H.

THE PREMATURE INFANT

Care of the Premature Infant. By Evelyn C. Lundeen, R.N. and Ralph H. Kunstadter, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.A.P. Pp. xv+367. 87 illustrations. 60s. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1958.

This book is written by a nurse and a paediatrician, both closely associated with the late Dr. Julian Hess, whose book *The Premature Infant* is so well known to workers in this field. Although the present work is based on the previous book by Dr. Hess, it has been completely revised and bears little resemblance to it. The nursing and medical care of the premature infant as practised at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago is the basis of this book, and this alone should recommend it to all those caring for the premature baby.

There are some rather debatable features, such as the author's recommendations on the calorific requirements of infants—isn't 60-90 calories per kg. body-weight per day rather low? Their recommendations on the indications for oxygen therapy in the premature infant appear to the reviewer to be too liberal but they do rightly stress the need for not exceeding the 40% oxygen concentration in preventing the tragic occurrences of retrolental fibroplasia; and also the need for control of oxygen concentrations in premature care by having available an oxygen analyser to regularly record these concentrations.

This book is certainly recommended to those working in this field of neonatal paediatrics.

I.K.