

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

Man's Ancestry. By W. C. Osman Hill, M.D., F.R.S.E. Pp. 194 + ix, with illustrations. 21s. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1954.

Contents: Preface. Introduction. 1. The Evidence for Evolution. 2. Evolutionary Horizons in Human Phylogeny. 3. Evolutionary Advance within the Chordate Phylum. 4. How Animals Find Their Way About. 5. The Emergence of the Primates. 6. The Rise of the Anthropoids. 7. The Emergence of Man.

8. Fossil Men. 9. From Paleolithic to Present. 10. Some General Problems. Epilogue. Appendix. Bibliography. Glossary Index.

This is a clear, concise and critical account of human phylogeny. It is based on an excellent series of lectures delivered at Edinburgh University to those undergraduates desirous of acquiring a 'working knowledge' of physical anthropology. However, although

the preface also claims that the book is 'intended for the intelligent layman,' the reviewer doubts the ease with which the layman will fully grasp, even with the aid of the appended glossary, the first few chapters on the evidence for evolution and the evolutionary horizons in human phylogeny.

Some outstanding features are the clarity of the photographic plates, the quality of the diagrams (drawn mainly by the author's wife) and the bibliography—a well-chosen guide for those interested in detail.

The first two-thirds of the book deals with the evolutionary stages leading up to the emergence of Man; whereafter, the more important types of fossil and modern man are well described and discussed. These latter chapters contain sections which should be most thought-provoking to the layman as well as to the professional anthropologist. The reviewer cannot quite agree with some of Professor Hill's statements (but if he didn't he would not be an anthropologist!), for example, on p. 148, in a footnote mentioning the recent investigations on the Piltown fragments, he states: '... This (i.e. faking) is a serious allegation not likely to be accepted by everyone.' This appears to be over-conservative in the light of watertight evidence. It is also regretted that the author does not even mention the possibilities of tracing the blood-group genes in Man's history. As a matter of fact, he seems to neglect genetics completely despite its rapidly increasing importance as a weapon in the physical anthropologist's armamentarium.

Despite these minor frailties, this pocket-size edition of Man's Ancestry can be highly recommended to anatomists, anthropologists and all those interested in their own past. To South African laymen in particular this book will give a masterly bird's-eye view of the evolutionary field, knowledge valuable in that in our country the wealth of fossil material is so considerable that discoveries are reported in the daily press almost as often as 'stars' are 'found' in Hollywood.

R.S.

SOSIALE KINDERHIGIËNE

Ontwikkeling en Vernieuwing van de Sociale Kinderhygiëne. Deur Suze M. C. van Veen. Pp. 122. Assen: Van Gorcum en Comp. N. V. 1954.

Inhoud: 1. Het Arbeidsterrein van de Kinderhygiëne. 2. De Historische Ontwikkeling. 3. De Grondslag. 4. Praenatale Zorg. 5. De Consultatiebureau's voor Zuigelingen. 6. De Consultatiebureau's voor Kleuters. 7. Vaccinaties. 8. De Schoolgezondheidskunde. 9. Kadervorming, Opleiding en Bijscholing. 10. De Organisatie van de Kinderhygiëne. 11. Samenvatting. Résumé. Summary. Literatuurlijst.

Hierdie boek het saam met dié van dr. J. T. Buma (resensie waarvan in S.A. Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde, 16 April 1955, Vol. 29, Nr. 16 verskyn het) die prys, deur De Nederlandsche Bond voor Moederschapsorg en Kinderhygiëne uitgelooft, verwerf.

Daar is gevoel dat die kind in Nederland baie goed op liggaamlike gebied versorg word, maar daar is nog leemtes in die emosioneel-geestelike versorging.

Na 'n kort historiese oorsig en met vermelding van die grondslag van die probleem, gaan die skryfster voort om die bestaande organisasies vir Suigeling-, Kleuter- en Skoolkind-versorging uiteen te sit. Daarna volg 'n voorstelling vir uitbreiding om Kindersorg sosio-psigosomaties te maak.

Die twee boeke behandel die probleem verskillend maar vul mekaar op mees gewenste wyse aan.

Vir almal wat belangstel in en belas is met die groei en sorg van die kind word die boek sterk aanbeveel.

J.G.A.D.

CURRENT THERAPY

Current Therapy 1955. Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practising Physician. Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D. Pp. 692 + xxx. \$11.00. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Infectious Diseases. 2. Diseases of the Respiratory System. 3. Diseases of the Cardiovascular System. 4. Diseases of the Blood and Spleen. 5. Diseases of the Digestive System. 6. Disorders of Metabolism and Nutrition. 7. Diseases of the Endocrine System. 8. Diseases of the Urogenital Tract. 9. The Venereal Diseases. 10. The Allergic Diseases. 11. Diseases of the Skin. 12. Diseases of the Nervous System. 13. Diseases of the Locomotor System. 14. Obstetric and Gynaecologic Conditions. 15. Diseases due to Physical and Chemical Agents. Appendices and Indices.

This book is rapidly becoming one of the most popular books on

treatment in current use. It is readable, reasonably accurate and certainly up to date. The editor has collected a very powerful team of contributors. In addition to the 12 consulting editors there is a list of contributors occupying 13 pages! These include some of the most eminent authorities in their fields. The scope of the book, too, is very wide and covers most of medicine and a fair amount of surgery and obstetrics and gynaecology as well. It is intended for the practising doctor and will fulfil most of his needs.

As in previous editions two authors may each specify their own regime for a particular condition. As might be expected they often vary considerably and one could well wonder which regime to follow. As a result the book is a well balanced presentation of medical treatment as it is practised at present.

Some criticism is not out of place. Atabrine and carbarsone as the treatment of choice in amoebiasis certainly sounds rather strange. 'Routine' tracheotomy in tetanus would appear to be a bit drastic. In the larger centres vein ligation in phlebitis has become one of the rarer operations nowadays. An initial dose of 100 mg. of phenylindandione is probably too small. The risk of anticoagulant resistance after too large a dose of Vitamin K1 (given for haemorrhage) should be more emphasized. The 'traditional' use of pot. iod. and papaverine for hypertension might well be abandoned, as might the use of calcium gluconate for bleeding in haemorrhoids. A dose of TEM of 20 mg. in chronic lymphatic leukaemia may be dangerous. The complicated diet schedules for prevention of urolithiasis are of doubtful value. The free use of proprietary names for drugs in the text is also not easy to justify, but the admirable roster of drugs at the end of the book is very welcome. A list of common pharmacopoeial drugs with their proprietary equivalents would be even more welcome.

Finally, in view of the annual revisions would not a loose leaf format be perhaps more suitable?

C.M.

PAEDIATRICS

Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By Wilfrid Sheldon, C.V.O., M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Seventh Edition. Pp. 804 +x with 212 illustrations. 50s. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. On the Examination of Children. 2. Some Affections of the New-born. 3. The Premature Infant. 4. The Diet of the Healthy Infant. 5. Digestive Disorders in Infancy. 6. Hypertrophic Stenosis of the Pylorus. 7. Rickets and Scurvy. 8. Disorders of Metabolism. 9. Diseases of the Mouth and Oesophagus. 10. Diseases of the Digestive System. 11. Abdominal Tuberculosis. 12. Disease of the Liver, Gall Bladder, and Pancreas. 13. Diseases of the Urinary System. 14. Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear. 15. Diseases of the Respiratory System. 16. Intra-Thoracic Tuberculosis. 17. Diseases of the Circulatory System. 18. Diseases of the Blood, Spleen, and Lymphatic System. 19. Diseases of the Endocrine Glands. 20. Diseases of the Nervous System. 21. Functional Nervous Disorders. 22. Mental Deficiency. 23. Diseases of the Joints, Bones, and Muscles. 24. Some Common Diseases of the Skin. 25. Congenital Syphilis. 26. Acute Infectious Fevers. Index.

For many years this British text-book of Paediatrics has been popular because of the quality of its presentation. It was written primarily for the undergraduate and the doctor in practice to serve as something more than a handbook; it was not intended to replace the larger works of reference.

Much information is packed into this volume in a form which makes very pleasant reading even when one comes to the few rare but important diseases which have been wisely included.

This latest edition retains the style of the earlier ones and has been thoroughly brought up to date. Several sections have been newly written and many conditions that have received attention in recent paediatric literature have been included for the first time. This has been done without an increase in the size of the book, which is a real achievement. The author is to be admired for his fairness and common sense when dealing with controversial aspects of treatment. There is a welcome absence of dogmatism. The only real criticism offered is that more detailed attention might have been paid to the treatment of dehydration and disturbances of electrolyte metabolism, which are important and practical problems in practice. The illustrations include a number of good colour plates. This book can be warmly recommended as the first one to read when starting the study of paediatrics, and will prove useful in any doctor's library.

J.H.

DIE SIEK SUIGELING

Zieke Zuigelingen. Deur C. H. Verboom. Derde wederom herziene druk. Pp. 302. Geb. f. 12.50. Assen: Van Gorcum en Comp. N.V. 1955.

Inhoud: 1. Afwijkingen bij pasgeborenen. 2. Aangeboren afwijkingen. 3. De voeding van de gezonde zuigeling. 4. Avitaminosen. 5. Voedingsstoornissen. 6. Brakende zuigelingen. 7. Enkele neus-keel-oor- en mondziekten. 8. Ziekten der ademhalingsorganen. 9. Afwijkingen aan nieren en urineweg. 10. Enkele Bloedafwijkingen. 11. Enkele Hartafwijkingen. 12. Enkele Infectieziekten. 13. Stuipein. 14. Enkele Huidziekten. 15. Enkele oogafwijkingen. 16. Acro-dynie. Myxoedem, Mongolisme, Myatonia congenita, Dysostosis multiplex. 17. Antibiotica in de Kindergeneeskunde. 18. Het onderzoek van de zuigeling. 19. Het consultatie bureau voor zuigelingen.

Die kern van hierdie boek het ontstaan in die besettingstyd, toe daar in Nederland min geleentheid was om publikasies in die hande te kry betreffende nuwe geneesmiddelle en behandelingsmetodes.

Dr. Verboom het toe die algemene praktisyns op hoogte van sake gehou met afgerolde mededeling.

In 1948 is dit in boekvorm saamgevat; nou in 1955 het daar die derde herdruk verskyn, wat 'n bewys is van die bruikbaarheid van die inhoud.

Dr. Verboom het die gawe om met min woorde die hoofsaak saam te vat en tog die bysake nie te vergeet nie. Vir die behandeling word die beste voorskrifte gegee met opgawe van dosisse; die aanwysing en die teen-aanwysing vir die behandeling met sulfonamiedes, met die allernuutste antibiotika en ander middelle, is met die grootste sorgvuldigheid aangegee.

Nuut-herkende siektes, soos kattekrabsiekte, galaktosemie, ens. is ingesluit. Alles is tot op hede bygewerk.

So gee die boek 'n saamvatting van al die siektes van die suigeling, wat so volledig is soos daar in 'n ander taal nog nie een sy verskyning gemaak het nie.

Vir die algemene praktisyn wat in 'n oomblik inligting betreffende 'n suigeling se siekte wil hê, kan hierdie boek besonder nuttig wees.

E.J.

IN LIGHTER VEIN—GLIMLAGGIES

Storkie's Footsteps, captions by Oom Harry and Lino-cuts by Joan. Pp. 53 with illustrations. 7s. 6d. Obtainable at C.N.A.

A well-known colleague, who is an anaesthetist in Pretoria, has written in rhyme the old, old story from the time the footprints of the stork appear on the bed coverlet to the 'happy event' which so inevitably follows. The little book is illustrated by his daughter Joan with admirable lino-cuts which appear on each page over her father's captions.

There is an Afrikaans version entitled 'Ooievaarspore', and both will be found amusing by the doctor and his patients.

Ooievaarspore, woorde deur Oom Harry en lino-cuts deur Joan. 53 bladsye met illustrasies. 7s. 6d. Verkrygbaar by die Sentrale Nuisagentskap.

'n Welbekende kollega, 'n narkotiseur in Pretoria, vertel in rympeenvorm die ou-ou storie vandat die ooievaarspore op die deken verskyn totdat die gelukkige gebeurtenis plaasvind. Die boekie is geïllustreer deur sy dogter Joan, met pragtige lino-cuts wat op elke bladsy verskyn met haar vader se opskrifte daarop.

Daar is 'n Engelse uitgawe met die titel 'Storkie's Footsteps' en genesheer en pasiënt sal beide boekies amasant vind.

A.H.T.

THE STORY OF THE BROMPTON HOSPITAL

The Brompton Hospital. The Story of a Great Adventure. By Maurice Davidson M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.) and F. G. Rouvray O.B.E. Pp. 152+viii. with illustrations. 21s. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1954.

The authors of this book describe the establishment of the Brompton Hospital as 'the story of a great adventure'. This description could truly be amplified by saying that it proved to be the realization of a great ideal.

In the spring of 1841, a poor clerk in the employ of a firm of London solicitors became gravely ill with consumption. One of the partners, Mr. Philip Rose, repeatedly endeavoured to obtain admission for him into hospital. All his efforts were of no avail. Neither the metropolitan nor the provincial hospitals would admit

as an in-patient any person with any infectious disease and specifically one 'whose case shall be consumptive'.

The efforts of the humane and public-spirited Mr. Rose led to the establishment of a hospital for the treatment of sufferers from pulmonary tuberculosis. This book unfolds the fascinating story of the growth and development of the premier chest hospital in the world. Reproductions from old journals and pictures illustrate this interesting record.

The numerous special chest hospitals all over the world, in many cases staffed by men who received their training at the Brompton Hospital, are a testimony to the idealism of a handful of men just over 100 years ago.

Everyone interested in diseases of the chest will want to read this chronicle.

W.L.P.

RADIOLOGY OF OESOPHAGUS, STOMACH AND DUODENUM

X-Ray Atlas and Manual of Esophagus, Stomach and Duodenum. By Dr. T. J. J. H. Meuwissen. Pp. 687+xiv, with 1,201 illustrations. £8 15s. Amsterdam: Houston: London: New York: Elsevier. London: Cleaver-Hume for Elsevier. 1955.

Contents: Chapter I. The Pharynx and Esophagus. A. Buccopharyngeal Section of the Alimentary Tract. B. The Esophagus. Chapter II. The Stomach. A. Shape and Position of the Stomach. B. Mucosal Changes Attending Gastritis. C. Gastric Ulcer. D. Carcinoma of the Stomach. E. Sarcoma of the Stomach. F. Benign Tumors of the Stomach. G. Diverticulum of the Stomach. Chapter III. The Duodenum. Appendix. Index.

Dr. Meuwissen has produced an X-ray atlas of pathological conditions of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum which is outstanding for the excellent choice of illustrations as well as their reproduction. Each represents a case examined by the author and a history is given. The scope is complete, except for the absence of paediatric cases.

It is when the book is referred to as a manual or even a textbook that weaknesses emerge. The author clearly intends the work primarily for gastro-enterologists like himself who do their own radiology, and with this there can be no quarrel, but what manner of clinician is it who has to be told that 'surgical treatment is applied to the stomach to remove a gastric or duodenal ulcer... or to cure stenosis as the result of an ulcer', and yet is expected to interpret X-rays? And the phrase 'If examination of the patient has convinced the radiologist that an ulcer is responsible for the symptoms', surely does not indicate the conventional places of physician and radiologist in gastro-enterology.

Moreover the text is not sufficient for examination purposes.

That the book is a translation may explain expressions like 'The gastric wall barely follows respiration after perforation', 'Gastric juices are seldom revelatory as to the presence of a gastric ulcer', 'Serviceable mucosal pattern', 'Therapeutic treatment', and 'Contour is kinky', and the statement that the 'Onset of gastric carcinoma may be ostensibly acute, so much so that the patient is able to give the exact date of its commencement. This is usually after some banquet...'

But it is not only translation that accounts for other statements, e.g., 'A pericardial effusion involves little or no displacement of the oesophagus' or 'Hiatus hernia in which the oesophagus herniates laterally into the stomach', or for certain unnecessary verbosity. Proof-reading too has overlooked numerous misprints.

Nevertheless, it will not be easy for a student or radiologist to find a collection of skiagrams of comparable scope or clarity. It is hoped that the text will be drastically edited before the next edition, so that this book, in the form intended, can take its rightful place as a classic on the upper gastro-intestinal tract; and, if in the process it becomes cheaper, no one will complain.

L.W.

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE

Lectures on the Scientific Basis of Medicine, Volume II, 1952-53. By the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, University of London. Pp. 380+xi, with plates. 35s. London: The Athlone Press, University of London. 1954.

Contents: 1. The Methodology of Clinical Science. 2. Selective Toxicity. 3. Recent Progress in Antibiotics. 4. Virus Adaptability in Relation to Human Disease. 5. Carcinogenesis. 6. The Functional Significance of Connective Tissue. 7. Silicosis. 8. The Principles of Ganglionic Block. 9. Cholinesterases and Anti-Cholinesterases. 10. The Metabolism of the Adrenocortical Hormones. 11. Biochemical Genetics. 12. Chromatography in the Study of Amino-Acid Metabolism. 13. The Physiology

of Parturition. 14. Preservation of Living Cells at Low Temperatures. 15. The Life-Span of Red Blood-cells. 16. Human Haemoglobins. 17. The Life History of the Malaria Parasite. 18. The Physiological Effects of Gravity. 19. The Physiology of the Autonomic Nervous System. Complete List of Lectures. Plates.

Advances in the knowledge of fundamental ideas or the refutation of erroneous concepts are always of the greatest interest to the medical scientist, for it is upon these beliefs that the whole of medicine stands.

This book contains 19 of the lectures that were arranged in 1952-53 by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation for younger research workers and postgraduate trainees. The subjects of the lectures have been chosen from fields of research in which there have been advances in the knowledge of basic principles. The lecturers themselves are actively engaged in original research; as a result many of the lectures have the freshness of a first-hand account and a number are made eminently readable by the use of an intimate style reminiscent of the printed broadcast talks in *The Listener*.

The lectures, as is to be expected, fall naturally into one or other of the fields of bacteriology, pathology, biochemistry and physi-

ology and almost all are of absorbing interest and have applications in every branch of medicine. Some examples are carcinogenesis, the preservation of living cells at low temperatures, recent progress in antibiotics, and the physiology of parturition. There is one lecture on the metabolism of the adrenocortical hormones, and an important related topic is discussed by A. H. T. Robb-Smith in a masterly lecture entitled *The Functional Significance of Connective Tissue*. This is about the nature, source, functions and pathology of collagen, reticulin, elastic tissue, and their matrix of ground substance.

The book is of convenient size and the print is large and clear. Adequate references are given at the ends of the lectures, but it is a pity that all the plates are at the end of the book.

Many of the lecturers are well known and a few are famous; their names and the mention of broadcasting above lead to the reflection that reasonably-priced magnetic tape recordings, or long-playing records, of future lectures in this series should be as popular as this book ought to be.

J.C.E.K.