

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

TIDY'S SYNOPSIS OF MEDICINE

A Synopsis of Medicine. By Sir Henry Tidy, K.B.E., M.A., M.D., B.Ch., F.R.C.P. Tenth Edition. (Pp. 1253 + xix, 35s.) Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1954.

Contents: Section (1). Specific Infectious Diseases. A. Bacterial Diseases. B. Diseases due to Mycoses. C. Protozoan Infections. D. Diseases Due to Metazoan Parasites. E. Diseases Due to Spirochaetes. F. Diseases Due to or Probably Due to Filterable Viruses. G. Diseases Due to Rickettsia Bodies. H. Infectious Diseases of Unknown or Doubtful Aetiology. Section (2). Diseases Due to Physical Agents. Section (3). The Intoxications. Section (4). Diseases of Metabolism. Section (5). Diseases of Deficiency. Section (6). Diseases of the Digestive System. Section (7). Diseases of the Liver, Gall-Bladder, Pancreas, and Peritoneum. Section (8). Diseases of the Circulatory System. Section (9). Diseases of the Respiratory System. Section (10). Diseases of the Kidney and Urinary Tract. Section (11). Diseases of the Blood and Spleen. Section (12). Diseases of the Endocrine Glands. Section (13). Diseases of the Muscles, Joints, and Bones. Section (14). Diseases of the Nervous System.

The 10th edition of this book retains its familiar form. It does not replace the standard text-books of medicine, where descrip-

tions of disease are often better, but it provides a valuable addition because of the ready accessibility of facts.

Since the previous edition, the author has found a full revision necessary, but even so there are some surprising omissions. Isonicotinic acid hydrazide is not accorded a place in the treatment of tuberculosis, information on the use of anticoagulants for coronary thrombosis is inadequate, and cortisone is not included under the treatment of acquired haemolytic anaemia.

The field covered is very wide and rare diseases have not been excluded. A South African reader would, however, be surprised to find no mention of kwashiorkor, which is by no means uncommon in Africa as a whole.

Nevertheless, Tidy's *Synopsis of Medicine* remains a remarkable book, both for its wealth of information and for its very extensive index.

E.B.A.