

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

NEUROPATHOLOGY

Neuropathology. By J. G. Greenfield, M.D., F.R.C.P., LL.D., W. Blackwood, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., M.R.C.P.E., W. H. McMenemey, M.A., D.A., F.R.C.P., A. Meyer, M.D., and R. M. Norman, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. vi+640. Illustrations. £5 5s. 0d. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1958.

A study of the pathology of the nervous system has attracted many distinguished scientists over the last 60 years. One has only to think of Cajal and Nissl to be reminded of the quality of the work done by these pioneers and how very well much of it has stood the test of time. As is the case in every branch of medicine it has been the special interests and devoted energies of able practitioners of their skills that have created the specialties which in turn have determined the very great advances in recent years. Neuropathology has long since achieved its mature independence, however unwilling some general pathologists may be to permit it, to leave the fold, and its experts of this generation have contributed many distinguished achievements to our new knowledge of the nervous system.

The modern neuropathologist must integrate the two disciplines of topography, where a study is made of the lesions in their anatomical relationships to nuclei and tracts, and that of determining the nature of the pathology of the individual neuronal cells. He must be not only a pathologist, but also an anatomist and something of a clinical neurologist and psychiatrist. The chief contributor to this new text, the recently deceased and much lamented, J. G. Greenfield, was such a scientist and that almost half of the book that he contributes reflects his deep knowledge and great experience of his subject. In dealing with each topic he discusses in turn the etiology, and where necessary the epidemiology, the pathology (both naked eye changes, distribution

of the lesions and the histology) and finally the clinical pathology. He even refers to some relevant clinical facts. He has chosen his fellow contributors well and the whole book is a credit to the British school of neuropathology. It must be stated that cerebral and spinal tumours are not dealt with at all; they are to be the subject of a companion volume. The text, the printing, the illustrations and a good bibliography all add up to make it a thoroughly recommendable book.

S.B.

FUNKSIONELE ANATOMIE

The Tissues of the Body—An Introduction to the Study of Anatomy. 4th Edition. By W. E. le Gros Clark, F.R.S. Pp. xii+415. 127 Figures. 40s. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1958.

Dit is verblydend om te sien dat hierdie werk soveel aandag geniet dat die 4de uitgawe daarvan nou verskyn het.

Vir die doel waarvoor dit geskryf is—'n inleiding tot die studie van die anatomie—is dit 'n meesterstuk. Dit is lewende en funksionele anatomie in die wydste en volste sin van die woord. Hierdie werk dra die stempel van die vermoë van 'n groot leermeester om uit 'n massa feite en informasie, die kerngedagtes te sorteer en dit aan te bied op die vlak waarin 'n nuweling die vak betree.

In hierdie land, waar daar in die meeste mediese skole 'n ongelukkige en kunsmatige verdeling bestaan tussen die onderrig van anatomie en histologie, is 'n boek van hierdie aard die ideale hulpmiddel om die student weer terug te voer na die essensiële eenheid van hierdie twee vakke.

In 'n reeds beknopte tweede-jaar kursus sou min gemiddelde studente tyd vind vir hierdie werk, maar vir die beter student en vir gevorderde studente is hierdie boek 'n uitstekende skakel tussen die anatomie in sy engere sin en die baie wyer veld van

biologie en algemene wetenskap waaruit geput moet word om werklik anatomie te begryp as 'n lewende en dinamiese vak.

Hierdie 4de uitgawe het weinig in formaat toegeneem en dit in sigself sê al baie vir die skrywer se vermoë om hom te beperk tot die vooropgesette doel van die boek. Die veranderinge in teks en in illustrasie is ook bestis verbeteringe in 'n reeds bevredigende werk.

J.C.deV.

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Psychotherapy by Reciprocal Inhibition. By Joseph Wolpe, M.D. Pp. xiv+239. 10 Figures. 32s. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press. 1958.

This publication of the author's work on experimental and clinical neurosis is an interesting contribution to the psychiatric literature. He describes in detail some of his experiments with cats and refers extensively to comparable work by others. He maintains that the causation of clinical neurosis in man is essentially similar to that in experimental animals and concludes that neurotic behaviour is learned behaviour and that the 'persistent habit of unadaptive behaviour' can be unlearned (conditioned inhibition) resulting in cure.

He uses many of the well-known adjuvants to therapy including relaxation exercises, carbon-dioxide therapy, hypnosis etc., the action of which he explains within the framework of his theory. He claims 90% success in a series of some 200 cases. This could be significant but we must agree with the author about the necessity for independent confirmation.

W.J.B. and M.B.

BONE AND JOINT INJURIES IN CHILDREN

Knochenbrüche bei Kindern. Von W. P. Blount, M.D. xii+250 Seiten. 311 Abbildungen. DM 45.-. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1957.

Bone and joint injuries in children are far different from those which occur in adults. Fractures are commonly greenstick and open reductions and internal fixations are rarely required. Joints can safely be immobilized for long periods without fear of their becoming stiff and non-union is never a problem. On the other hand, epiphyseal injuries are common and certain complications, for example Volkmann's ischaemia, is an ever-present danger when dealing with an elbow fracture in a child.

Walter Blount, therefore, has done a real service to orthopaedics in general and fracture treatment in particular by describing Fractures in Children as a separate entity.

The book is beautifully produced and fully illustrated with reproductions of X-rays, drawings and diagrams, not the least of which are the cartoons which are used to good advantage to emphasize and illustrate various points, such as the avoidance of all passive exercises in the rehabilitation of elbow fractures, e.g. the cartoon 'Doctor, treat the child not the X-rays!'

This book can safely be recommended to all Orthopaedic Surgeons and those especially interested in the finer points in the treatment of fractures in children.

T.L.S.

OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS

Operative Obstetrics. By R. Gordon Douglas and William B. Stromme. Foreword by Nicholson J. Eastman. Pp. xi+735. Illustrated. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1957.

The Authors are to be complimented on their fine publication, *Operative Obstetrics*. This book is described by Prof. Nicholson J. Eastman in his preface as a great credit to the authors and to American obstetrics, and it reflects the seasoned judgment of the writers on the experience of the New York lying-in Hospital.

According to the authors, the last publication on operative obstetrics appeared in 1870; it is therefore a very welcome and timely addition and should prove of inestimable value to the post-graduate student specializing in obstetrics.

The print and the illustrations, both photographic and drawing, are magnificent. The chapter on forceps takes up over 150 pages, is well done and beautifully illustrated. High forceps, so seldom used nowadays, if ever, is also given a certain amount of space.

There are fine chapters on pre-operative and post-operative care in the management of systemic complications. The chapter on version and breech extractions is well done but some of the newer

methods of managing the shoulders and after-coming head are not referred to.

What is particularly rewarding to the reader is the wealth of information on the many practical details which are seldom found in textbooks on obstetrics.

A.I.G.

NEOPLASTIC DISEASE

Neoplastic Disease at Various Sites. General Editor: D. W. Smithers, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. Volume I. *Carcinoma of the Lung.* Edited by J. R. Bignall, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. xii+298. 62 Figures. 55s. net+2s. 1d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

This book is the first volume of a series of monographs on neoplasia at individual sites. The detailed clinical approach to carcinoma of the lung—the most important malignant growth encountered in present-day medicine—can possibly contribute to more effective treatment. Available worthwhile therapy is still that which is brought to bear on the local lesion and further progress will result from earlier treatment before the lesion has ceased to be a local problem.

Very careful consideration is given to present-day knowledge of the causation of carcinoma of the lung and a powerful case is built up to prove that smoking of tobacco is a very real factor in the genesis of this condition. However, it is clear that other factors such as certain specific industrial causes, atmospheric pollution, respiratory infection and heredity, also have a part to play even though it may be relatively small.

There is an excellent description, well illustrated, on the pathology of this malignant condition together with details on spread and laboratory diagnosis.

The course of lung carcinoma and the modifying factors are carefully traced and it is concluded that 3 factors largely govern this: The malignant capabilities of the tumour, its situation in the lung and the age of the tumour. These factors are not considered independent, nor are they controllable. It appears that the chances of influencing the course of the disease are at the present small.

The chapter on treatment reflects a most unhappy state of affairs. In suitable cases surgery offers a 25-30% chance of survival for 5 years, but this figure has not advanced significantly in recent years and it seems unlikely that further technical improvement will be forthcoming.

Radiotherapy has served patients well in the relief of symptoms, particularly with regard to superior mediastinal compression, haemoptysis and painful metastasis. No real trial of supervoltage irradiation in selected operable cases has yet been made, and radioactive isotope methods are being tried out, though most of these offer little prospect of success.

Of the chemotherapeutic methods nitrogen mustard has a direct, if limited, effect on the growth of bronchial carcinoma. The other alkylating agents have not proved superior to nitrogen mustard.

The whole subject is well presented and the book is adequately illustrated. Judging from this volume, medical men in all fields should derive great benefit from the detailed and particular information on the various malignancies which are to be dealt with in the series as a whole.

A.J.B.

REHABILITATION IN INDUSTRY

Rehabilitation in Industry. Edited by Donald A. Covalt, M.D. Pp. xi+154. Illustrations. \$6.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

In a small excellently printed book of 11 chapters and a foreword the authors discuss with a praiseworthy economy of words, and yet clearly and helpfully, rehabilitation in peripheral vascular disease, soft tissue injuries, fractures, amputations, nerve lesions, head and back injuries, industrial hand injuries, and the problems of vocational placement of disabled workers.

The importance of careful early diagnosis and resort to specialist advice, particularly from the point of view of restoration of working capacity, are rightly stressed. Industrial medical officers should find this book very informative and useful.

A.J.O.