

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

STRABISMUS OPHTHALMIC SYMPOSIUM II

Strabismus Ophthalmic Symposium II. Edited by James H. Allen, M.D. Pp. 552. 251 Illustrations. 136s. St. Louis: The C.V. Mosby Company. 1958.

The New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology has previously published several valuable symposia which have enriched our Literature and increased our knowledge. The present symposium maintains the standard set by its predecessors. Under the distinguished editorship of James Allen, a number of acknowledged leaders in the field have contributed articles which bring the whole subject of Squint completely up to date. The subject is certainly a difficult one and the theoretical aspect is often very complex and technical. Nevertheless, the practising Ophthalmologist will find much to interest and instruct, particularly in the clinical chapters and the indications for the various operative and non-operative procedures.

The book opens with almost 100 pages on the Anatomy of the extrinsic muscles of the eye. Then 21 chapters follow on various aspects of strabismus. Unanimity of opinion can of necessity not be expected. The unorthodox views on the use of atropin and prisms, for instance, expressed by George Guibor, who recently visited this country, are given at length. The book ends with a round-table discussion with the whole panel. Many may find this the most valuable part of the book since many individual rather than general problems are raised and discussed. This is a book which should be a useful addition to the ophthalmologist's library. It is a handsome and well printed book. L.S.

PRINCIPLES OF GYNAECOLOGY

Principles of Gynaecology. By T. N. A. Jeffcoate, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. viii+669+(27). 436 Figures. 84s. 6d.+2s. 5d. Postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

This book, written by one of the foremost gynaecologists in Britain today, is intended primarily for the undergraduate student, but it is expected to carry him beyond the qualifying examination and into the period of his hospital residency and even into general practice. Moreover, as the author mentions in his preface, it is aimed at the student at the top of the class rather than the one at the bottom. Specialists will also find much of interest in this book which differs from the standard text-books because it reflects the author's own personal experience of gynaecological practice.

Prof. Jeffcoate did not attempt to keep to generally accepted views, nor are the differing views of various authorities mentioned, but instead he presents his own conclusions which he feels are as rational as present knowledge allows.

At first the book might seem slightly disappointing since it does not cover the whole field of gynaecology, and a number of less common conditions are unduly stressed, but on getting to know the book better, this in fact, becomes its greatest appeal. Two particularly good and useful chapters in this valuable book are 'Abnormal and excessive haemorrhage from the uterus and vagina,' and 'Sex hormone therapy'. It is certainly a book, not for the shelf, but for the desk of everyone interested in gynaecology. F.G.G.

EMBRYOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY

The Borderland of Embryology and Pathology. By R. A. Willis, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. ix+627+(33). 244 Figures. 101s. 3d.+2s. 3d. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1958.

Rupert Willis has written another 'best seller'. This book admirably proves his contention that the experimentalist and the histopathologist are mutually dependent and complementary. He has firmly wedded the embryologist, the pathologist, the experimental zoologist and the clinician to one another in a masterly review of a tremendously wide field which is searchlighted by his extensive experience.

Almost 20% of the book deals with normal development and he particularly focuses attention on the histology and functions

of the various tissues and organs of the embryo and foetus at different ages. The first 3 chapters are a *must* for every candidate for the Primary Fellowship because a tremendous amount of information scattered throughout the literature is brought together in a simple way which inspires and excites attention. The chapter on gross malformations depicts a dynamic instead of the 'museum' approach to developmental anomalies.

The author has selected malformations of certain organs and tissues which illustrate principles in the mode of genesis, the interdependence of parts, important associations, recognized factors in causation, etc. Of great value are the extensive lists of selected references at the end of each chapter.

In a book which is itself a landmark, it is difficult to choose the most interesting sections—all are vital and thought-provoking, and if there are minor errors they were certainly ignored and unnoticed by the reviewer in his first reading because of the vivid interest of each chapter and the desire (as in reading a good 'thriller') to get on with the next chapter.

Genetic aspects are dealt with and, in parts, comparative (experimental) anatomy is delightfully interlocked with pathological processes in the human e.g. in the chapter on regeneration and repair. The experimental approach is further enhanced by the chapter on transplantation and culture of tissues, while the appendix presents suggestions for research on each of the chapters dealt with. Let it not be said that a postgraduate student must struggle to find a title for a thesis—there are more than a hundred ideas here!

This book has one gross defect—it is too short! The reviewer feels that he would have liked more to each page, but that is how it should be.

Anyone who thinks in terms of embryology and pathology will find this book not only an inspiration but a great timesaving device for it reviews the entire field between the horizons of both subjects.

R.S.

LESIONS OF THE STOMACH

Diffuse Lesions of the Stomach. An Account with Special Reference to the Value of Gastric Biopsy. By Ian J. Wood, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.A.C.P. and Leon I. Taft, M.B., B.S. B.Sc. Pp. x+86. 35 Figures. 24s. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1958.

This informative monograph presents the results of 10 years of energetic research carried out by the gastroenterology team at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and Royal Melbourne Hospital. The title refers to clinical and pathological observations on acute and chronic gastritis, gastric atrophy and pernicious anaemia, and the rare condition of diffuse giant hypertrophic gastritis.

A most valuable first chapter outlines the standard methods of investigation adopted by the authors in cases of flatulent dyspepsia not apparently due to ulcer, cancer, gallstones or pancreatitis, and also in patients with suspected pernicious anaemia or sub-acute cord-degeneration. Test-meal techniques, radiology and gastroscopy are described and their usefulness assessed; but the authors' major contribution is their account of gastric biopsy with the flexible biopsy tube—devised in their unit—and its applications to clinical medicine. The results of this relatively safe and painless procedure, performed successfully 1,736 times on 1,046 patients, throw new light on the diagnosis of chronic dyspepsia, the recognition as a definite entity of active chronic gastritis, the elucidation of haematological problems, the understanding of achlorhydria, and the inter-relationships among gastric lesions.

This slender volume, full of interesting new facts attractively presented, will prove stimulating to both clinicians and investigators.

R.S.M.

EXAMINATION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Clinical Examination of the Nervous System. 11th Edition. By G. H. Monrad-Krohn, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xx+466. 17s. Illustrations. 40s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1958.

'Good wine needs no bush' and the constant demand and repeated editions and reprints of this book reflects this old saying. The

author maintains his original high standard with each new edition and he keeps good pace with the advances in neurology, though this must inevitably enlarge the book somewhat. The student will find here an unrivalled guide to the systematic examination of the nervous system and if he learns, with experience, to put it into ready practice, the subject will soon cease to mystify him and he will find himself working knowledgeably in this field.

S.B.

CLINICAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology. Vol. 1, No. 1. March 1958. This is the first number of a quarterly book series. Pp. 288. Illustrations. \$18.00 for four consecutive numbers. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology represents a worthwhile attempt to bridge the gap between original articles in medical journals, the findings of which are not by any means always acceptable, and the standard text-books.

People whom the editor regards as the leading American experts of obstetrics and gynaecology are asked to contribute articles on how they view various aspects of their specialty and how they handle their patients in practice.

The first issue is certainly a striking volume. The articles are admirably readable and brief. The print and paper are of the highest standard. Even the busiest practitioner will absorb a mass of valuable information with the very minimum of effort, by glancing through this volume.

The first issue deals with medical problems in pregnancy on the obstetrical side, and the management of endocrine problems on the gynaecological side. Although the majority of the articles are of a high standard and will inevitably be of great interest to obstetricians and gynaecologists there are some glaring omissions. For instance, the chapter on abortions completely omits the new knowledge on the incompetent internal os and its treatment. As this is one of the very few substantial advances in obstetrics in recent years the omission is indeed serious.

Nevertheless, if future issues are of this general high standard one can predict that most practicing obstetricians and gynaecologists are likely to become regular subscribers.

G.P.C.

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Progress in Psychotherapy. Volume III. Techniques of Psychotherapy. Edited by Jules H. Masserman, M.D. and J. L. Moreno, M.D. Pp. x+324. \$8.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

It would indeed be surprising if a collection of over 30 essays on psychotherapy showed an even admixture of competence and relevance. No such surprise hides in this 3rd volume of the series on *Progress in Psychotherapy*.

The essays are grouped under 5 headings but only the first 2 sections, the historical and the methodological, are of much importance. The remaining contributions are not sufficiently developed to be more than pointers in certain directions.

Of the two historical essays, that by Professor Veith is of most interest and contains some unusual information, particularly the Askalepian inscriptions and his quotations from Soranus. And who of us knew that the man who invented the term psychotherapy was Johannes Reil, of island fame?

Professor Frank introduces the question of brain-washing and muses on Chinese 'thought reform' (a euphemism worthy of Kai Lung), pondering whether permissiveness on the part of the therapist is not the consulting-room equivalent of this cogitative reformation. Dr. Ehrenwald writes a stimulating and erudite essay on doctrinal compliance and likens the physicians's therapeutic activity and 'psi-induction' to Heisenberg's principle of indeterminacy, all of which are notable efforts to bring psychology to terms with quantum physics, even though we may not take it very seriously.

What might have been one of the most interesting essays in this collection is the attempt by Dr. Reich to analyse the reasons behind the success and appeal of the analytical-psychological group of therapists in the United States over the group which he labels 'directive-organic' psychiatrists. Unfortunately all he says in favour of the analysts could be equally well applied to the other

group. As Humpty-Dumpty pointed out to Alice, 'a nice knock-down argument' can be used in more ways than one.

One must, however, judge a book such as this on the merits of its best contributions, and on these grounds one can say that the standard of this volume is possibly beyond the standard of its two earlier companions.

J.M. MacG.

SURGERY IN INFANCY

Surgery in Infancy and Childhood. A Handbook for Medical Students and General Practitioners. By Matthew White, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.) and Wallace M. Dennison, M.D., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.I.C.S. Pp. xii+444. 266 Figures. 45s. net+2s. 1d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

The surgery of infancy and childhood has advanced rapidly during the last decade and it has become obvious that the understanding of the surgical problems of the tender months and years is dependent on a sound academic basis. In spite of the enormous advances in anaesthesia, surgical technique, pre- and post-operative management and nursing services, naught would avail if an early diagnosis were not established. In many cases it is necessary only to be aware of a condition to be able to make a diagnosis. It has been shown repeatedly that a delay in diagnosis significantly raises the mortality rate. The general practitioner is the first to see the sick infant and it is his awareness of the probable surgical lesions that makes an early diagnosis possible.

This volume admirably suits the purpose which the authors have set out to achieve. It serves as an introduction to the senior student and is also of great value to the busy general practitioner. While one may not agree entirely with the way in which some controversial problems are presented, the authors must be credited for their practical approach. I have no hesitation in recommending this volume to both the general practitioner and the senior student as a guide to the early diagnosis and consequent early treatment of surgical problems of infancy and childhood.

A.K.

LUPUS NEPHRITIS

Lupus Nephritis. By Robert C. Muerchke, M.S., M.D., Robert M. Kark, F.R.C.P., F.A.C.P., Conrad L. Pirani, M.D. and Victor E. Pollak, M.B., M.R.C.P. Pp. 145. 43 Figures. 24s. net. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

Clinicians in recent years have fully realized the grave prognostic significance of renal involvement in disseminated lupus erythematosus (D.L.E.). The title of this monograph *Lupus Nephritis* may offend the purist, but it has at least the virtue of focusing attention on the kidney.

The study is based on the chemical and pathological investigation of 33 patients with D.L.E. who have been followed up for periods of up to 2 years. The use of percutaneous renal biopsy has proved valuable in gaining an insight into the early renal lesions of D.L.E. although the influence of prior steroid therapy should have been more seriously considered since no less than 22 of the 33 patients had received corticotrophin or cortisone before the first biopsy was done. Of the 10 patients who died, 6 died of severe renal failure.

The morphological findings obtained by repeated renal biopsy and at autopsy are fully described and the illustrations are selected to depict various aspects. The morphological findings were correlated with the clinical tests of renal function. There was good correlation between the grade of kidney damage and the degree of proteinuria and the degree of renal functional impairment.

The difficulties of differentiation from chronic glomerulonephritis on morphological grounds may be considerable. Case 31 seems to illustrate the importance of early renal biopsy in helping to establish the diagnosis of D.L.E.; at autopsy the features were those of chronic glomerulonephritis. Dr. Muerchke *et al.* would no doubt be the first to admit the difficulties in differentiating at least some of the cases, since the renal lesion may be the first recognizable manifestation of D.L.E.

This is a valuable reference book for all those interested in renal disease. The book is well produced and profusely illustrated with good microphotographs.

L.E.