

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### POLYMYOSITIS

*Polymyositis.* By John N. Walton, M.D., M.R.C.P., and Raymond D. Adams, M.D. Pp. x+270. Plates 47. 32s. 6d. net. Postage abroad 1s. 3d. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

Medical literature has long since reached proportions which make it impossible for any single individual to read even a fraction of the vast output, and the stage has probably been reached where even within some special fields it is not feasible, unless one becomes a full-time reader and nothing else, to keep completely abreast of the mass-production efforts of zealous workers whose worth is measured, quite ridiculously of course, only by the number of their publications. Ask the medical librarian for references to the literature on a certain subject and one receives a list yards long that would take months to wade through were it all available, and one despairs of acquiring full knowledge of a subject. Fortunately, there are workers like Walton and Adams, the authors of this excellent monograph—careful and meticulous clinical observers and patient investigators who are able to record their observations accurately and to think clearly and logically about the conclusions to be drawn from their material—and they present us with a book which solves the problem of the literature on polymyositis in a brilliant manner.

Polymyositis is as common as muscular dystrophy in adults and it is essential for every clinician to be fully aware of the condition and its pleomorphism which may be very confusing to the uninitiated. The authors classify the cases into four main groups,

which they describe clearly; the pathological features are dealt with in great detail and here it is important to recognize the non-specificity of the changes in any individual case and the need to be aware of the variations that may occur at different stages and in different muscles. The book has an appendix giving full case protocols, a most laudable innovation in this type of work and one which adds life to the subject.

I can only give this book the highest of recommendations. It must be added to the shelves of every medical library, and the physician, neurologist and pathologist would be well advised to include it in his own personal collection of valued books.

S.B.

### ANAESTHESIA FOR NURSES

*Anaesthesia for Nurses.* By Eric Godwin, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. 98. 12 Figures. 9s 6d. + 6d. Postage. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1957.

The Lectures which the author has given to student nurses and pupil midwives have been adapted for the purpose of this book. In it the author seeks to give the nurse a wider understanding of anaesthetics and to stimulate her interest in an effort to prevent accidents which sometimes follow both ignorance and lack of experience.

For those nurses who may be called upon to assist in emergencies with the administration of an anaesthetic, the guidance of this little book will provide invaluable. It should be a reasonable addition to the bookshelves of the keen nurse.

A.H.T.

## OPHTHALMOLOGY

*The Year Book of Ophthalmology*, 1957-58. Edited by Derrick Vail, B.A., M.D., D.Oph. (Oxon.), F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Hon.). Pp. 423. 90 Figures. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

*The Year Book of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat* has been appearing for more than 50 years. This shows that a definite need exists for annual reviews of this type where the reader can with the minimum effort find all the important articles summarized for him, summaries of sufficient length to be readable and containing the requisite detail and accompanied by editorial criticism and assessment.

The present issue is the first of the year books to be devoted entirely to the eye and the same system of adequate summarization of important articles and critical comment is followed. As there is now more space available, more articles have been extracted and the range is more extensive. In addition there is a complete survey by Irving H. Leopold on recent advances in ocular therapy, in which the whole regime of treatment of many eye conditions is remarkably well classified.

This then is a worthy successor of a long line of distinguished ancestors and deserving the continued support of all those interested in ophthalmological and allied topics.

L.S.