

YEAR BOOK OF RADIOLOGY

The Year Book of Radiology 1957-1958. Radiologic Diagnosis. Edited by John Floyd Holt, M.D. and Fred Jenner Hodges, M.D. *Radiation Therapy.* Edited by Harold W. Jacox, M.D. and Morton M. Kligerman, M.D. Pp. 445. Figures 335. \$10.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

The diagnostic section, as usual, provides a wide review of the year's papers from journals received between June 1956 and June 1957. Radiation hazards, being the most discussed subject in this field today, earns a sober 4-page critical review by the editors and can be regarded as authoritative.

Under 'Technical Developments' are summarized useful papers on 'A Double Mirror for Stereoscopy', 'Log Etrougraphy' (for re-conditioning over-exposed films) and a new technique for reproduction by solarization using out-dated film.

On the clinical side it would be invidious to single out interesting sections, still less individual papers. What must impress any reader is the extensive use to which isotopes are put in diagnostic radiography overseas, and how meagre, if not altogether absent, the facilities in the Union are. Examples are the localization of renal calculi during surgery by portable radiography, using Thulium-170, and demonstration of the shape and structure of the liver, using radioactive tetraiodophenolphthalein or colloidal gold.

Since the price of this book was 37s. in 1947, 64s. 9d. in 1951 and the price at present is 92s. 6d., the book may soon be beyond our reach.

Abstracts from most of the important articles in the field of radiotherapy from June 1956 to June 1957 are contained in this volume, ably edited by Jacox and Kligerman.

In a pertinent introduction to the therapeutic section, emphasis is laid on the need to keep a proper balance between beneficial and harmful effects of irradiation, and as the editors say 'the confusion between the exposure to fall-out radiation of large population groups and the ill patient who must have diagnostic or therapeutic radiation is quite unfortunate'.

Every aspect of the subject is covered and a number of interesting articles are included giving an honest evaluation of various methods of treatment. There is also much of interest and real value in the radioisotope radiobiological and dosimetry sections.

Steady advances are being made in the application of very high voltage X-irradiation and cobalt teletherapy, and techniques are being perfected. Although the advent of these high energy radiations has not markedly improved the cure rates, yet very encouraging results are being obtained in certain lesions.

It is sad to reflect that we have still not availed ourselves in this country of these very real advantages that every radiotherapist knows.

I.M.S. and L.W.

ORTHOPAEDICS FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Orthopedics for the General Practitioner. By William E. Kenney, M.D. and Carroll B. Larson, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 413. 180 Illustrations. South African Price: £5 2s. 0d. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1957.

The question of whether the approach of a general practitioner to a medical problem should be any different basically from that of the specialist is one which often occupies the minds of medical teachers today. Is there, in fact, such a thing as medicine for the general practitioner, or is there only medicine?

It is generally assumed that an undergraduate training should fit a doctor for general practice and it therefore follows that undergraduate text-books should supply the needs of the general practitioner.

In *Orthopaedics for the General Practitioner*, however, the authors have produced a book which is neither an undergraduate text-book nor a book for the specialist, but is truly designed with the prime object of aiding the family doctor in the diagnosis and management of orthopaedic clinical problems. This does not mean, however, that the book is not a complete, well-written and up-to-date account of the subject. It is in its approach rather than in the subject matter that it is different.

The authors have listed, in age groups, all the orthopaedic conditions which affect each anatomical area of the body so that the general practitioner, presumably knowing the patient's age and the site of his complaint, simply turns to the correct page to find the diagnosis and treatment.

The result of this arrangement is that although the book is of value as a reference book, it lacks continuity and fails to convey the principles of the subject and, therefore, any overall picture of orthopaedics to the reader.

The book is well produced and illustrated with photographs and diagrams and it includes such items of value as advice on filling out insurance claims, assessing and estimating degrees of disability and permanent disablement, and even gives advice on one's approach when discussing such orthopaedic problems as cerebral palsy and poliomyelitis with a child's parents.

This book will be of value to many doctors in general practice.

T.L.S.

TUMOURS OF THE SKIN

Tumors of the Skin. By Herbert Z. Lund, M.D. Pp. 330. 265 Figures, 1 Color Plate. \$3.00. Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1957.

This book deals with the histology of tumours of the skin, excluding melanomata, but including tumour-like hyperplasias and malformations, and it is highly recommended for all who have to deal with these conditions.

There is an interesting discussion on the classification of cutaneous tumours, followed by descriptions of the individual lesions. A very large proportion of the available space has been devoted to black and white microphotographs. These are excellent, but the one colour plate whets one's appetite for more. It is to be hoped that the printing industry will soon make a big contribution to modern medicine by reproducing colour photographs cheaply.

Binding costs have been eliminated by stapling the pages together. At the same time provision has been made for the use of a loose leaf binder.

S.S.

PRACTICAL ALLERGY

Practical Allergy. By M. Coleman Harris, M.D., F.A.C.P. and Norman Shure, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P. Pp. xiii+471. 22 Figures. 60s. 9d.+1s. 9d. Postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

This work represents a summary of ideas and practice in the diagnosis and control of allergic diseases. Controversial aspects of this complex subject are avoided and the authors have designed a 'simple text-book which the doctor can use as a "vade-mecum".'

The information in the book is elementary knowledge to the practising allergist and is available to him in much greater detail

in any of the standard text-books on allergy which would similarly be used by a senior medical student seriously interested in learning about the subject.

The general practitioner, however, may find the reading of this book useful to obtain in compact form a general idea of the problems, methods and tools in allergy problems and perhaps also to find some guidance in the handling of his allergic patients.

D.O.

SUDAN MEDICAL SERVICE

The Sudan Medical Service. An Experiment in Social Medicine. By H. C. Squires, C.M.G., D.M., F.R.C.P., D.P.H. Pp. xii+138. Illustrations. 15s. net. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books—Ltd. 1958.

This is a factual history of the Sudan Medical Service—its establishment and growth. As writer, Dr. Squires is specially qualified by virtue of his 43 years service almost from its inception.

After the final battle at Omdurman in 1899, essential medical services were the duty of the army of occupation. The Sudan Medical Service became autonomous in 1904, but did not include the southern part until after World War I. This Service is traced from its earliest, personal pioneering days, through periods of rapid expansion, to its present comprehensive extent requiring almost £E3,000,000 annually to run. Interesting sections describe the epidemic and endemic diseases experienced.

The Service reached maturity during World War II when called on to play an important role in the Abyssinian campaign. Expansion thereafter was particularly rapid with its characteristic increasing medical specialization, and 'Sudanization'. The book is particularly important to the Sudan, but makes instructive and interesting reading for everyone.

H.R.A.