

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

SURGICAL TEXTBOOK FOR MEDICAL AUXILIARIES

Surgery: A Guide to Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment including Tropical Surgery. The Oxford Handbooks for Medical Auxiliaries. By W. G. Kerr, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.) Pp. viii + 410. 25s. London: Oxford University Press. 1957.

Contents: Part I. General Surgery. 1. Introduction. 2. Wounds and Injuries of Soft Tissues—Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue and Muscle. 3. Injuries of Soft Tissues—Tendons, Nerves and Blood-vessels. 4. Shock. 5. Burns. 6. Poisonous Bites and Stings. 7. Injuries to Bones and Joints. 8. Infection—General Principles. 9. Acute Infection. 10. Chronic Infection. 11. Tumours. 12. Degenerative and Endocrine Disorders. *Part II. Regional Surgery—The Limbs.* 13. Injuries and Infections of the Hand. 14. Injuries of the Upper Limb. 15. Nerve and other Lesions in the Upper Limb. 16. Injuries of the Lower Limb. 17. Arthritis in Lower Limb Joints. 18. Other Lesions of the Lower Limb. *Part III. Regional Surgery—Spine, Head and Neck.* 19. Injuries of the Spine. 20. Diseases of the Spine. 21. Injuries of the Head. 22. The Cheeks, Mouth, Nose Ear and Throat. 23. The Neck. *Part IV. Regional Surgery—Thorax and Abdomen.* 24. The Breast. 25. The Chest. 26. The Acute

Abdomen. 27. Abdominal Injuries. 28. General Condition of the Abdomen. 29. Hernia. 30. The Upper Bowel. 31. The Lower Bowel. 32. Liver, Pancreas and Spleen. 33. The Urinary System. 34. The Scrotum. 35. Gynaecology. *Part V. Operative Surgery and Ward Procedure.* 36. Admission, Examination and Pre-operative Preparation. 37. Anaesthesia and Analgesia. 38. Operative Surgery. 39. Post-operative Care and Ward Dressing Routine. Index and Glossary.

This book is written 'for the use of medical and hospital assistants in the tropics'. Your reviewer has no experience of this class of training and little contact with such auxiliaries, a term taken to mean not the technologist, masseur, physiotherapist, etc. as defined in this country, but the medical assistant who plays the role of doctor when the latter is not available. With the rapid developments of medicine in this country there is no place for such semi-educated practitioners; the skilled nurse is preferable to a half-trained doctor where medical aid is in short supply.

The book surveys in elementary fashion the field of modern

surgery. Addressed to a poorly educated group the total lack of pictures and diagrams is a striking omission. The style is friendly and conversational; this informality leads to a certain looseness of expression but, in general, the chapters are concisely presented.

There are some statements of fact which are very wide of the mark: 'Fortunately the African appears to be comparatively resistant to Tuberculosis;' and 'Keloids are excised and grafted,' without mention of deep therapy. Other statements, such as 'After intramedullary nailing of the femur weight can be taken almost immediately', and the description of nursing paraplegics in plaster shells, are unacceptable. No mention is made of underwater drainage in chest surgery.

The only disease of surgical interest in the pancreas is carcinoma; the widespread surgical manifestations of worm infestation in non-whites are not mentioned. There is an inadequate description of the variety of diseases commonly seen affecting the male genitalia. The author feels strongly about hospitals spending time and money circumcising patients who attempt to avoid tribal initiation ceremonies. Perhaps the ravages of carcinoma of this organ are not so apparent as they are amongst Southern Africans. Ano-rectal diseases are a constant source of varied pathology in the African, yet the author states that haemorrhoids, fissures, and fistulae are uncommon, as the normal African's diet does not cause constipation.

Apart from these factual criticisms the book has a failing common to texts on surgery in non-whites in Africa. The standpoint of standard European pathology is taken and diseases discussed simply in relation to the rarity or frequency of such conditions, without accurate statements of incidence and little discussion on the epidemiology and the modifying factors of diet, social custom, and home conditions on the indications for and methods of treatment.

This book is a condensed and simplified review of surgery, with some useful information on modern treatment of common diseases. It is designed for an elementary audience, which would be better served by a sound nursing text book; as a surgical text for medical students it is incomplete.

A.E.K.

HEWER'S HISTOLOGY

Hewer's Textbook of Histology for Medical Students. Seventh Edition. Edited by C. L. Foster, M.Sc., Ph.D. Pp. viii + 438. 418 Figures. 27s. 6d. net. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books—Ltd. 1957.

Contents: I. The Cell. II. Tissues. Epithelial Tissue. III. Connective Tissues. Blood. Lymph. IV. Development of Blood Corpuscles and their Destruction. Marrow. V. Connective Tissues (continued). Connective Tissue Proper. VI. Connective Tissues (continued). Cartilage. VII. Connective Tissues (continued). Bone. VIII. Muscular Tissue. IX. Nervous Tissue. Nerve Cells. X. Nerve Fibres. Nerve Endings. XI. Nerves and Nerve Ganglia. XII. Neuroglia. XIII. General Structure of Organs. XIV. Blood Circulatory System. Arteries. Veins. XV. Capillaries. XVI. Heart. XVII. Lymphatic System. XVIII. Thymus. Spleen. XIX. Suprarenal Glands. XX. Thyroid. Parathyroid. XXI. Pineal. Pituitary. XXII. Skin. XXIII. Respiratory System. XIV. Digestive System. Mouth. XXV. Digestive System (continued). Oesophagus. Stomach. XXVI. Digestive System (continued). Small Intestine. Large Intestine. XXVII. Digestive System (continued). Liver. Gall Bladder. Pancreas. XXVIII. Kidney. Ureter. Bladder. Urethra. XXIX. Male Reproductive Organs. Testis. XXX. Male Reproductive Organs (continued). Ducts and Glands. XXXI. Female Reproductive Organs. Ovary. XXXII. Female Reproductive Organs (continued). Ducts Placenta. XXXIII. Mammary Gland. XXXIV. The Eye. XXXV. The Ear. XXXVI. Central Nervous System. XXXVII. Certain Abnormal Variations in Minute Structure. XXXVIII. Protective Mechanisms in the Body. Appendix. Histological Methods. Index.

This textbook, first published twenty years ago and now in its 7th edition, has long been popular with medical students. Low cost and brevity of text are strong attractions to the students.

The photomicrographs are excellent and there is a fine series of photographs of brain stem sections. Many of the line drawings are, however, difficult to identify without the relative captions.

A short text has much to commend it to the student who has acres of print to absorb but demands the utmost in clarity of explanation and description. In this respect 'Hewer' is open to criticism, especially with regard to complex organs such as the liver and spleen.

This book should be adequate for nurses and other medical auxiliaries in their study of physiological histology but it is probably not sufficient for the present day courses in histology for medical students unless well supplemented by lectures and laboratory teaching.

R.A.G.

CUNNINGHAM'S MANUAL OF PRACTICAL ANATOMY

Cunningham's Manual of Practical Anatomy. Twelfth Edition. Volume I. General Introduction, Upper Limb, Lower Limb. Revised by James Couper Brash, M.C., M.A., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.S.E. Pp. xii + 394. 196 Figures. 25s. London: Oxford University Press. 1957.

Contents: General Introduction. Upper Limb. Introduction. Pectoral Region and Axilla. Dissection of the Back. Free Upper Limb. Shoulder (Scapular Region). Front of the Upper Arm. Cubital Fossa. Back of Upper Arm. Shoulder Joint. Forearm and Hand. Front and Medial Border of Forearm. Wrist and Palm. Back and Lateral Border of Forearm and Back of Hand. Deepest Structures in Palm and Forearm. Elbow Joint. Wrist Joint. Radio-Ulnar Joints. Joints of the Hand. Lower Limb. Introduction. Front of Thigh. Superficial Dissection. Deep Dissection. Gluteal Region. Popliteal Fossa. Back of Thigh. Medial Side of Thigh. Hip Joint. Trochanteric and Adductor Muscles and Profunda Femoris Artery. Leg and Foot. Front of Leg and Dorsum of Foot. Lateral Side of Leg. Medial Side of Leg. Back of Leg. Sole of the Foot. Knee Joint. Ankle Joint. Tibio-Fibular Joints. Joints of the Foot. Index.

A striking testimony to the popularity of this book and the esteem in which it is held, is the fact that it has been in existence for 78 years and that it is one of the most popular and widely used of dissecting manuals.

There are a few alterations in dissecting plan, the most obvious of which is the long overdue removal of the instructions for perineal dissection from the first volume. Some old illustrations and radiographs are replaced with new ones, including negative prints, of a high standard.

Professor Brash has had to face the recurrent problem of a changing nomenclature, this time by the 1955 Congress at Paris, and now called the Paris Nomenclature (P.N.). Where the name of a structure has altered, the alternate B.R. or P.N. name is given in brackets, principally in the index and partly in the text. It is to be hoped that agreement on this subject will soon be reached, for the unfortunate student entering his clinical years finds himself confronted with a host of alternative terms; old terminology, B.N.A., B.R. and now P.N. Professor Brash's approach will reduce confusion to a minimum until the final form of the P.N. is generally accepted.

The production remains of a high standard, with clear illustrations and print in a book of reasonable size. Your reviewer proved the truth of the claim that the binding is waterproof with water, tea and alcohol (commercial).

Written primarily for British Schools, it may be thought too detailed for South Africa, where the course of dissection is completed in 1 year. However, the book is recommended to those preparing for the higher examinations, by whom it will be found most useful.

P.G.L.

STUDIES ON SECRETION OF THE PANCREAS

Sekretionsstudien am Pankreas. Experimentelle und anatomische Pathologie. Von Priv.-Doz. Dr. V. Becker. VI + 120 Seiten. 54 zum Teil mehrfarbige Abbildungen in 77 Einzeldarstellungen. Kartoniert DM 29.50. (Zwanglose Abhandlungen aus dem Gebiet der normalen und pathologischen Anatomie, Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. W. Bargmann und Prof. Dr. W. Doerr, Heft 1). Subskriptionspreis für Bezieher der gesamten Reihe DM 23.60. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1957.

Inhaltsverzeichnis: Vorwort. Einleitung. I. Histophysiologie und-pathologie der Bauchspeicheldrüse. 1. Morphologische Kennzeichen der Sekretion. 2. Sekretionsreize. 3. Dyschylie. II. Pathologische Anatomie der sekretionsgestörten Bauchspeicheldrüse des Menschen. 1. Autolyse. 2. Untersuchungsgut. 3. Altersveränderungen. 4. Dyschylie. 5. Parachylie, Sekretion gegen Hindernisse. 6. Krankheitsbilder. Schluss. Literatur. Autorenregister. Sachregister.

The book is a histo-pathological study of the pancreas during different stages of disease. The endocrinology is discussed accordingly. The histo-pathology is described as observed in conditions of ethionin poisoning and other forms of chronic irritation. The influence of radio-active sulphur on the pancreas is discussed.

The histological changes which occur in the pancreas subsequent to other systemic diseases are described with special reference to radio-active sulphur as a means of determining cell activity, permeability and its influence on pancreozymin secretion.

The enzymes pancreozymin and secretin are discussed and their influence on the type and quantity of pancreas secretion is pointed out. A theory is formulated to explain why pancreozymin produces a viscid in contrast to the more aqueous secretion pro-

duced by secretin. The influence of nervous and humoral stimulation on the glandular filtrate is discussed in detail. The specific effect of alloxan on the pancreas is demonstrated by means of appropriate photography.

An explanation is sought for obstruction of the secreting gland of the pancreas neck cells and theories are advanced on a basis of probability and the practical importance in carcinomatosis and its sequelae.

The effect of vitamin-A deficiency is mentioned as a potent cause of cell metaplasia. The changes which occur in cases where secretion occurs against obstruction and the incidence of metaplasia in elderly patients are illustrated by convincing statistics.

A synopsis is furnished of the different types of pancreatitis. Its histology and causes are discussed on experimental and clinical basis.

J.H.D.

SYSTEMIC ARTERIAL EMBOLISM

Systemic Arterial Embolism. By John Martin Askey, M.D. Pp. x + 157. Illustrated. \$5.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1957.

Contents: Preface. Introduction. Historical Review. *Section 1.* Heart Disease as a Cause of Arterial Embolism. *Section 2.* Death and Disability from Systemic

Arterial Embolism in Heart Disease. *Section 3.* Clinical Correlations of Cardiac Mural Thrombosis and Systemic Arterial Embolism. *Section 4.* Pathogenesis of Vascular Thrombosis. *Section 5.* Pathogenesis of Cardiac Mural Thrombosis. *Section 6.* Pathogenesis of Systemic Arterial Embolism in Heart Disease. *Section 7.* Differential Diagnosis of Rheumatic and Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease. *Section 8.* Prophylactic Antithrombotic Measures for Systemic Arterial Embolism. *Section 9.* Continuous Antithrombotic Drug Therapy in Heart Disease. Bibliography. Index.

This monograph deals with arterial embolism and is, therefore, concerned essentially with mitral valve disease and cardiac infarction. The incidence of embolism, the dangers of recurrence, the organs affected and the mortality rate are all statistically analysed, using data from the literature. The nature of the valve lesion is stressed, as embolism occurs more commonly in mitral stenosis than in mitral incompetence. The influence of auricular fibrillation on this condition receives due emphasis.

Emboli from cardiac mural thrombosis are far less important and the common cause is cardiac infarction. It is a pity that systemic embolism from myocardial failure of unknown origin, as it occurs in Africa, receives no mention or discussion.

The prophylaxis with anticoagulants is considered in the latter half of the book. The subject matter is naturally very restricted, but for those interested in this specialized aspect there is much of interest and the bibliography is full.

S.S.V.