

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### INTRODUCTION TO BIOSTATISTICS

*Introduction to Biostatistics.* By Huldah Bancroft, Ph.D. Pp. x+210. 37 Figures. \$5.75. New York: Paul B. Hoeber Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface. 1. Introduction. 2. Classification and Tabulation. 3. Tabular Presentation. 4. Graphs. 5. Frequency Distributions and Centering Constants. 6. Measures of Variation. 7. Sampling Variation. 8. Significance of Differences in Means. 9. Rates and Ratios. 10. Sampling Variation of Proportions. 11. Significance of Difference in Proportions. 12. Sampling—Adequacy and Size. 13. Chi Square Test. 14. Correlation and Regression. 15. Test for Small Samples. 16. Life Tables. 17. Modified Life Tables in Follow-up Study. 18. Bioassay. Index.

In the majority of papers now appearing in the literature some attempt has been made at statistical evaluation of the results. Unfortunately misapplications of the statistical method, either in planning, execution, or in the conclusions drawn from the work, are still all too common. It is important, therefore, for both author and reader to have some knowledge of the proper methods of statistical analysis; the former for adequate planning, execution, and presentation of the experiments and the latter for proper understanding of the implications of the results.

The neologism 'biostatistics' is being used for the application of statistics in medicine and this new book on the subject by the Professor of Biostatistics at Tulane University School of Medicine is written mainly for students of medicine and the medical sciences.

No higher mathematical knowledge is required to extract the full value of Professor Bancroft's text. A useful point is the provision of problems at the end of each chapter, although unfortunately the answers are not given.

Simplicity of approach and treatment of the subject should not cause this book to be eschewed by the more advanced worker. On the contrary, there is a place for it on the bookshelf of anyone concerned with medicine and the allied sciences.

A.G.R.

### A STUDY IN HUMAN POPULATION

*The Human Sum.* Edited by C. H. Rolph. Pp. vi+232. Illustrated. 18s. net. London—Melbourne—Toronto: William Heinemann Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface. Introduction. 1. World Population. 2. The Story of Family Planning. 3. Population Pressure and War. 4. The Dilemma of Medical Science. 5. The Family as a Legal Notion. 6. The Choice Before Man. 7. The Changing Families of East London. 8. 'The Last Refuge of Family Feeling'. 9. Changing Attitudes Within the Family. 10. The Dark Side of the Street. 11. Marriage and the Family: Some Theological Considerations. Index.

'The Human Sum' is concerned with the extraordinary increase in the population of the world. It consists of several essays by various authorities. Julian Huxley discusses the world population in which he records impressions and observations made in a recent world tour; Bertrand Russell examines the question of

over-population and war, and Dr. A. S. Parkes of the National Institute for Medical Research discussed the question of contraception. Interesting essays by Jacquetta Hawkes, Edward Blishen and Dr. Sherwin Bailey are included. The book is sponsored by the Family Planning Association, and should be read by every general practitioner who may be called upon to give advice on this subject. It is illustrated with dramatic and amusing line drawings, and 'Vicky' of the 'New Statesman' contributes a cartoon.

S.T.T.

### GLAUCOMA

*The Glaucomas.* Second Edition. By H. Saul Sugar, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. x+516. 164 Figures. \$13.50. New York: Paul B. Hoeber Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface to the Second Edition. Preface to the First Edition. I. Glaucoma Concepts During the Preophthalmoscopic Period of Ophthalmology. II. The Anatomy and Histology of the Eye in Relation to Glaucoma. III. The Aqueous Humor: Its Properties, Production, Circulation and Drainage. IV. Terminology. V. Physiologic Mechanisms in Normal and Increased Intraocular Pressure. VI. Tonometry. VII. The Classification of the Glaucomas. VIII. The Adult Primary Glaucomas. IX. The Etiology of the Adult Primary Glaucomas. X. The Pathology of the Adult Primary Glaucomas. XI. Chronic Simple Glaucoma (Open-Angle Glaucoma). XII. Tonography and Fluorimetry: the Resistance to Outflow of Aqueous Humor. XIII. The Diagnosis of Early Simple Glaucoma; Diagnostic Tests. XIV. Perimetry in Chronic Simple Glaucoma. XV. Gonioscopy in Chronic Simple Glaucoma. XVI. Acute Primary Angle-Closure Glaucoma. XVII. Gonioscopy in Acute Angle-Closure Primary Glaucoma. XVIII. The Diagnosis of Early Acute Primary Glaucoma. XIX. Drugs Used in the Treatment of the Glaucomas. XX. The Treatment of Chronic Simple (Open Angle) Glaucoma. XXI. The Treatment of Angle-Closure Primary Glaucoma. XXII. The Congenital or Infantile Glaucomas. XXIII. Goniotomy and Goniotomy. XXIV. The Secondary Glaucomas. XXV. The Antiglaucoma Operations in Adult Primary Glaucoma; Iridectomy. XXVI. Filtering Operations. XXVII. Cyclodialysis. XXVIII. Cycloclathery, Cycloelectrolysis, and Related Operations. XXIX. Other Operations. XXX. Glaucoma Clinics and Educational Programs. Index.

'When one estimates that there are approximately 980,000 individuals suffering from glaucoma in the United States, and that 800,000 of these are not aware of its presence, it is obvious that early diagnosis is extremely important.'

This statement which opens Chapter 13 is in itself sufficient reason for the publication of the second edition of this informative and important book.

The book deals in detail with the physiology and anatomy of the eye especially in regard to their relationship to glaucoma and gives the latest view of all authorities on the etiology of the glaucomas. Special attention is paid to differentiating between the diagnosis and treatment of closed angle and open angle glaucoma with particular stress on the part played by gonioscopy.

An estimation of the efficiency of the various provocative tests in the hands of the author as compared with those obtained by other ophthalmologists is made.

The latest methods of conservative treatment, particularly with diamox, are given and then the whole range of operative procedures outlined. This last deals particularly with surgical approach for the different types of glaucoma.

An outstanding feature of this book is the very valuable and comprehensive bibliography which is appended to each chapter. Obviously an immense amount of work has been done in compiling this and it will make the task of any surgeon who is interested in the subject and who requires references, very easy.

The last chapter deals with the establishment of glaucoma clinics. This is a very stimulating idea and may well prove the forerunner for the establishment of similar clinics throughout the world.

The book is well printed and liberally illustrated and will be a distinct acquisition to all ophthalmologists.

M.F.

#### YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL SURGERY

*Year Book of General Surgery*—1957-1958. Edited by Michael E. de Bakey, B.S., M.D., M.S. With a Section on *Anesthesia*, edited by Stuart C. Cullen, M.D. Pp. 560. 128 Figures. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Evarts A. Graham (1883-1957). Introduction. General Considerations. Shock, Fluids and Electrolytes. Wounds and Wound Healing. Neoplasms. The Thyroid and Parathyroids. The Breast. The Thorax and Mediastinum. The Lungs and Pleura. The Heart. The Aorta and Peripheral Arteries. Peripheral Veins. Abdomen—General. The Liver and Spleen. The Biliary Tract. The Pancreas.

The Esophagus. The Stomach and Duodenum. The Small Intestine. The Appendix. The Colon and Rectum. Hernia. The Extremities. *Anesthesia*. Depressant Drugs. Ventilation. Circulation. Inhalation. Relaxants. Barbiturates. Regional Anesthesia. Spinal Anesthesia. Miscellaneous.

The familiar face of this well-known year book has, alas, required some alteration. The editor, Dr. Evarts A. Graham, whose death took place in 1957, and who has been mourned by all men of medicine, has been succeeded by Dr. Michael De Bakey. The mantle of the master has fallen on worthy shoulders, and the spirit of its first editor is easily seen throughout the whole book in the choice of articles and more particularly in the editor's annotations. Graham's annotations were a joy to read; pithy, pointed and humorous. Dr. De Bakey carries on in the same tradition, perhaps not with the same humour—he is a 'new boy'—but the signs are there that he will be a worthy successor to a great man.

The book contains summaries of many of the major and important articles on surgical advances that have appeared in world literature in the year under review. As usual, the growing points of surgical effort occupy large sections. The vermiform appendix, one time surgical stamping ground of all and sundry, now occupies two pages! *O quae mutatio rerum!*

As always, this book will have to be read by all senior students of surgery and all practising surgeons. The chapters on anaesthesia appear to contain rather more articles than in previous editions, but the number of articles of physiological interest is something that can never be overdone.

S.T.T.