

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

The Neurologic Examination. Incorporating the fundamentals of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. 2nd edition. By Russell N. DeJong, M.D. Pp. xv+1078. 368 illustrations. \$20.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

The second edition of this valuable reference book follows 8 years after the first, and much new material has been added to cover the recent advances in many areas. The book is unique in that anatomy and physiology, physical examination and clinical diagnosis are treated concurrently. The extensive and excellent index adds to the book's usefulness as a source of neurological information. Current advances in neuro-ophthalmology, parietal-lobe function, the extrapyramidal motor system, and the brain stem reticular system, are dealt with. The meticulous description of methods of special investigation includes spectrophotometric tests of the cerebrospinal fluid. H.W.

BOECK SE SARKOÏDOSE

Der Lungenboeck im Röntgenbild. Von Prof. Dr. K. Wurm, Prof. Dr. H. Reindell und Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. L. Heilmeyer. viii + 220 Seiten. 180 Abbildungen in 214 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 78.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

Die Franse dermatoloog Besnier het in 1889 sekere velveranderinge beskryf wat hy 'lupus pernio' genoem het. Na 'n histologiese studie het die Noor, Boeck, in 1899 die toestand sarkoïed genoem, maar later die benaming verander na miliêre lupoïed.

Dit is vandag bekend dat Boeck se sarkoïdose (of beter, mision, Besnier-Boeck se siekte) 'n gestelsaandoening is, maar die etiologie is nog net so onseker soos deur die verskillende benamings te kenne gegee word.

In die huidige monografie word beweer dat min nuwe kennis by ons kliniese begrip van die toestand gevoeg is oor die afgelope 40 jaar. Hoewel die name van 'n paar vroeëre ondersoekers in die teks genoem word, word hoegenaamd geen bibliografie verstrek nie. Dit is 'n leemte, veral as daarop gelet word dat 'n standaard leerboek meer as vyftig verwysings na vroeëre werkers in hierdie verband het. Die werk van Snapper, bv., word net terloops genoem. Dit laat die vraag ontstaan hoe volledig die oorsig oor die vroeëre arbeid is.

Tot sekere hoogte word hiervoor vergoed deur die groot

hoeveelheid oorspronklike werk deur die skrywers self gedoen. Hulle het nie minder nie as 400 gevalle tot hulle beskikking gehad vir studiedoeleindes. Die meeste gevalle is ondersoek by 'n sentrale oogheelkundige kliniek, waarheen hulle verwys is vir aandoenings soos iridosiklitis en uveïtis.

Die longletsels in omtrent 60 afsonderlike gevalle word kortliks bespreek en geïllustreer deur middel van afdrucke van röntgenstrale van goeie gehalte. Die skrywers spreek hulle baie sterk daaroor uit dat die torakale letsels primêr in die mediastinale en bronchiale limfkliere setel, sonder enige longaantasting (stadium 1). 'n Uitbreiding in die lange dui stadium 2 aan, en in stadium 3 vind daar bindweefsel-woekering plaas. 'n Spontane verbetering vind plaas in 80% van gevalle in die eerste twee stadia.

In 'n klein reeks gevalle is gevind dat die long- en klierletsels verbeter gedurende swangerskap. Daar is 'n goeie differensieële diagnose. Ten spyte van die leemte hierbo genoem, is daar baie stimulerende gedagtes oor die verloop van Boeck se sarkoïdose in die longe, en oor die röntgenologiese verskynsels. A.D.K.

MEDICAL HYPNOSIS

A Handbook of Medical Hypnosis. 2nd edition. By Gordon Ambrose, L.M.S.S.A. and George Newbold, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H. Pp. xiii + 276. 27s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

With the increasing lively interest at present being shown in the clinical application of hypnosis, this handbook on the subject, in its clarity and balanced, reasonable approach, is a useful introduction for the practitioner or student. This second edition has been expanded to include new material and it will no doubt be as favourably received as its predecessor. A.H.T.

ANATOMY FOR SURGEONS : VOL. 3

Anatomy for Surgeons. Vol. 3. The Back and Limbs. By W. Henry Hollinshead, Ph.D. Pp. xii + 901. 785 illustrations. \$23.50. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

This volume deals with the anatomy of the back and upper and lower limbs. Each chapter is introduced by a detailed review of general considerations which is a valuable discussion of functional aspects of the appropriate anatomy. The individual chapters

are well written and cover the subject completely. The diagrams are excellent and consist of line drawings, many of them in colour. There are extensive references to the literature in the text, emphasizing that there is still controversy in detailed anatomy.

This is a most useful anatomical reference book, well written but unfortunately highly priced and, on the admission of the author, failing in the original intention of making it a portable reference. A.E.K.

BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Biochemistry and the Central Nervous System. 2nd edition. By Henry McIlwain, Ph.D., D.Sc. Pp. vii + 288. 45 illustrations. 45s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

The author of this excellent book has contributed much through his own research and teaching to the rapid development of biochemical studies of the central nervous system. He presents a reasoned exposition of the current status of the chemical aspects of the cerebral structures and of their origin, in regard both to individual cells and the brain as a whole. Biochemistry of the central nervous system overlaps and adjoins pharmacology (neuropharmacology and psychopharmacology), endocrinology, and other subjects. The various applications of chemistry to the study of the nervous system now receive the collective designation of neurochemistry, with some 6 groups and 40 sub-groups within the specialty; much of the work has appeared in journals of neurology and psychiatry. This book is essentially biochemical, but there is sufficient reference to neighbouring subjects to illustrate where they are applicable to biochemistry of the nervous system, and to the neighbouring subjects. Space limitation does not permit more than to state that this volume is a 'must' for students and research workers in medicine and science.

N.S.

A NEW SURGICAL TEXT-BOOK

Text-book of Surgery. Edited by Guy Blackburn, M.B.E., M.Chir., F.R.C.S. and Rex Lawrie, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 1122. Illustrations. 84s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

This new text-book of surgery written by the staff of Guy's Hospital is aimed at serving the needs of undergraduate students. The editors and authors of the various sections are men with a wide experience in the teaching of students, and they have attempted to cover in a comprehensive manner the whole field of general surgery. They have succeeded admirably and the student, already overburdened by the ever-increasing complexities and scope of the various subjects with which he has to contend, will find the book a valuable ally in his battle with the examiners. Certainly some chapters are better than others, a situation which is inevitable in a multi-author book, but the general standard is extremely high. A very welcome feature is the sections dealing with radiology and radiotherapy, and a very practical account of the mysteries of water and electrolyte requirements in surgical patients. In the mind of this reviewer there is no doubt that the book will run through many editions. The editors are to be congratulated on the birth of this new contribution from Guy's Hospital.

B.S.

THE DEAF CHILD

Hearing Therapy for Children. 2nd revised edition. By Alice Streng, M.A., Waring J. Fitch, M.A., LeRoy D. Hedgecock, Ph.D., James W. Phillips, M.D. and James A. Carrell, Ph.D. Pp. 353. Illustrations. \$6.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

This book should be of immense value to doctors, teachers and parents of children with hearing impairments. It stresses the teamwork necessary for the rehabilitation of these pupils, giving an outline and bird's-eye view of the medical aspect and treatment of deafness, the educational programmes advisable for children with varying degrees of hearing loss, and their social development.

Of particular interest are the sections on audiometry, stressing the importance of speech as well as pure tone audiometry and the emphasis placed on using every scrap of hearing. Excellent advice is given on the training of residual hearing. This is a book which

contains very valuable advice on the needs of the hard-of-hearing and deaf child. B.K.W.

PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES

Kinderärztliche Notfallfibel 4., ergänzte Auflage. Abwehr akuter Lebensbedrohung. Von Prof. Dr. B. de Rudder. viii + 205 Seiten. 34 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 18.60. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

The author gives the essential features of diagnosis, differential diagnosis and emergency treatment of every disease in childhood which usually does or can present itself as an emergency. This calls for the utmost brevity in style, which makes reading difficult. To be thoroughly familiar with the booklet before any emergency arises seems therefore essential. So as not to waste valuable and often essential time in differential diagnosis, it is whenever possible set out for a whole group; for instance in meningitis the question is discussed how far the diagnosis has to be pushed before a basic treatment common to all forms of meningitis can be introduced. Advice on treatment is limited to the actual state of emergency, but the possibilities and requirements of a hospital in dealing successfully with these cases are outlined. Technical procedures required in emergency treatment are clearly and simply explained and an alphabetical list of all medicines mentioned in the text is given, with the appropriate dosage for the different ages. Since, however, most of the specialities mentioned in the book are not obtainable in this country this is of little help. Well reproduced photographs illustrate typical features of a disease where possible. W.G.H.

HAEMATOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE

Haematological Technique. 2nd edition. By E. M. Darmady, M.A., M.D. (Camb.), F.R.C.P. and S. G. T. Davenport, F.I.M.L.T. Pp. viii + 244. 4 coloured plates and 23 text figures. 24s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

The second edition of this book serves as a most useful addition to other books on this subject, and covers both the theoretical and technical sides of haematology. Besides its undoubted value to medical technologists it should be of use to both medical students and trainee pathologists.

As the authors state, this book is primarily intended for medical laboratory technologists preparing for examinations, and as such its scope and content is naturally limited as compared with other books on haematology. However, with the introduction of chapters on blood grouping and serology, and the inclusion of a number of relatively new techniques which are now generally accepted in the investigation of certain blood disorders, this book well deserves a place in any routine haematology laboratory. S.J.R.

A NEW GYNAECOLOGICAL QUARTERLY

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology. Vol. 1. No. 2. June 1958. *Toxemias of Pregnancy.* Edited by Louis M. Hellman, M.D. *Fibromyomas of the Uterus.* Edited by Robert A. Kimbrough, M.D. No. 3. September 1958. *Symposium on Special Diagnostic Aids.* Edited by C. Paul Hodgkinson, M.D. *Symposium on Abnormal Uterine Bleeding.* Edited by John I. Brewer, M.D. No. 4. December 1958. *Symposium on Operative Obstetrics.* Edited by J. Robert Willson, M.D. *Symposium on Genital Cancer.* Edited by Daniel G. Morton, M.D. Published 4 times a year, over 1,100 pages. Illustrations. Sold by subscription only, \$18.00 for 4 consecutive numbers. New York: P. B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

I was very disappointed in the first number of *Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, but in numbers 2, 3 and 4 there has been a remarkable improvement in the contents as well as the arrangement. If this standard is set in the forthcoming numbers, the series is well recommended to the busy gynaecologist who wishes to keep up to date and whose reading time is limited.

In the second number the physiological aspects as well as the clinical application of fluid metabolism and electrolyte balance is discussed in a simplified manner and to those of us who are not physiologists, but clinicians, it is of particular value. The authors have tried to give a full account of most of the well-known aetiological factors of toxæmia of pregnancy, but have

remained objective in their views on aetiology. Again we realize that we are no nearer to the solution than many years ago, but valuable suggestions are given on treatment. The symposium on fibromyomata of the uterus makes interesting reading in spite of the fact that most of it is text-book knowledge. The prominence lent to vaginal hysterectomies for fibromyomata of the uterus is however very dangerous, for it may persuade the inexperienced gynaecologist to attempt vaginal hysterectomies for fibromyomata which should have been treated by the abdominal route. We all know how difficult it may be to judge the size of fibromyomata, especially in the obese woman, and also how often other tumours are misdiagnosed as fibromyomata.

In number 3 the symposium on special diagnostic aids is to be commended; in no other book are all these aids discussed in such a compact manner. Although many of them, such as peritoneal washings and gynograms, are not practised in this country, it is well to know about them so that research on these lines may be carried on in our teaching hospitals. Abnormal uterine bleeding is discussed in detail and many aspects often forgotten by the practising gynaecologist are stressed. Functional uterine bleeding, which has always been a headache to most gynaecologists, is discussed in detail that is well worth reading.

Number 4, the symposium on operative obstetrics, can be recommended for the student studying for higher examinations. Many practical points which are often overlooked are discussed. It is however a pity that trial forceps are coupled with failed forceps under the same heading and that the advantages and importance of trial forceps are not discussed in more detail. The symposium on genital cancer is the best in this series so

far and is discussed in an extremely readable and unbiased manner. The authors have stressed the aids to early diagnosis and also the importance of early diagnosis. What is very encouraging is the discussion of radiotherapy and surgery as adjuncts to teach other and not as the one versus the other as in most writings.

R.W.A.N.

FERTILITY

Studies on Fertility, Including Papers Read at the Conference of the Society for the Study of Fertility, Exeter, 1957. Being Volume 9 of the Proceedings of the Society. Edited by R. G. Harrison, M.A., D.M. Pp. x + 169. Illustrations. 25s. net. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

This collection of papers on fertility include studies in the human male and female as well as the results of animal experiments in both sexes and biochemical assays of spermicidal agents.

A further interesting report on the questionable therapeutic effect of tubal patency tests is presented from Soho and University College Hospitals, where research in the matter is continuing. It would appear that pregnancy is just as likely to follow salpingography, insufflation, endometrial biopsy, or the mere passage of a uterine sound.

Amongst the animal experiments a study of the relationship between obesity and sterility in mice, and another on the mechanical influence of the vasa efferentia on the transport of radiopaque medium through the rat epididymis, are worthy of special mention.

J.P.R.