

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Systemic Ophthalmology. 2nd edition. Edited by Arnold Sorsby. Pp. xiv+682+(19). 277 figures. 118s. 3d. + 2s. 3d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1958.

The first edition of *Systemic Ophthalmology* of 1951 immediately established itself as a reliable, lucid exposition of the wide field embraced by the study of ophthalmology today. The second edition will certainly prove equally popular. Under the same editorship, the whole subject has been brought completely up to date, with its ramifications into all branches of medical knowledge. Most chapters appear under the original authorships, but several chapters have been entirely rewritten in the light of modern knowledge by new and equally distinguished contributors, and with fewer pages withal. The work is highly recommended as a reference book adequately surveying the interrelationship of ocular conditions and the rest of the body.

L.S.

OPERATIEWE VERLOSKUNDE

Die Geburtshilflichen Operationen. Ihre Ausführung und Anwen dung. Ein Lehrbuch für Studenten und Gebrauchsbuch für Ärzte. Von Prof. Dr. H. Martius. 8., Verkürzte und verbesserte Auflage. xvi+281 Seiten. 253 Abbildungen. DM 29.60. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

Hierdie is natuurlik een van die klassieke boeke oor die onderwerp van operatiewe verloskunde. Die opstelling, feite-materiaal en afbeeldings was vanaf die eerste uitgawes van so 'n aard dat daar oor die laaste aantal jare feitlik geen verandering in die boek nodig was nie. Dit is een van die seldsame boeke wat sterk aanbeveel kan word by die mediese student en terselfdertyd van groot waarde is vir die nagraadse student en vir die spesialis-verloskundige. Dit is 'n boek wat maklik gelees, met helderheid bestudeer en met 'n mate van gerief onthou kan word.

Die eerste een-derde van die boek word gewy aan die anatomie en fisiologie van die baring. Daarop volg die verloskundige metodiek, en ingrepe en operasies by die abnormale verloskunde.

Die feitemateriaal wat in die teks bespreek word is uit die aard van die saak nie juis verskillend van die wat in die Engelse en Amerikaanse teksboeke behandel word nie, maar die boek van Martius verskil veral in twee opsigte:

Eerstens is dit 'n boek wat geskryf is om te bestudeer, en die materiaal word so aangebied dat die studie van die onderwerp aansienlik vergemaklik word. Hierby word ruim gebruik gemaak van verskillende soorte druktypes, van indeling van paragrawe en van uitstekende afbeeldings wat die teks verhelder en aanvul. Die manier waarop die belangrike feite op elke bladsy uitstaan verdien nabootsing in ander teksboeke.

Tweedens word die praktiese ingrypende verloskunde behandel volgens die opvatting wat heers op die Vasteland van Europa. Waar dit in sekere opsigte verskil van die verloskunde soos gedoseer in Engeland, is dit goed dat ons ook dit wat goed is in die Europese benadering, indikasie-stelsel, en metodiek onder die oë gebring kry.

Martius is die outeur van meer as een boek wat die ginekologie en die verloskunde behandel, maar 'Geburtshilflichen Operationen' is sekerlik sy beste.

D.A.H.duT.

CHIRURGIESE ONDERSOEKMETODES

Chirurgiese Ondersoekmetodes. Deur Charles F. M. Saint, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.A.C.S. (Hon.), en Jan H. Louw, Ch.M. Pp. xiv+149. 21s. Kaapstad, Wynberg, Johannesburg: Juta en Kie. Beperk. 1959.

Die bekende handleiding vir studente (Surgical Note-taking) deur prof. C. F. M. Saint, voormalige professor van chirurgie aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad en prof. J. H. Louw, die huidige bekleër van hierdie leerstoel, het nou ook in Afrikaans verskyn (Chirurgiese Ondersoekmetodes).

Daar het baie geslagte van studente deur die Universiteit van Kaapstad gegaan wat van hierdie nuttige boekie veel voordeel en plesier gehad het. 'Chirurgiese Ondersoekmetodes' is, soos die titel aandui, nie 'n uitgewerkte stelsel van die teorie en die praktyk van die chirurgie nie, maar dit is bedoel om die student te help om die kennis en die tegniek van die diagnose van 'n siekte-

toestand te bemeester deur sistematies te werk te gaan by die afneem en opskryf van notas in die siekesaal. As sodanig is dit 'n waardevolle boek en het dit reeds al sy waarde in die verlede bewys.

Van spesiale belang vir ons is dat hierdie boek nou ook in Afrikaans verskyn het en daardeur 'n definitiewe bydrae maak tot die nog skrale oes van mediese wetenskaplike boeke in Afrikaans. Daar sal baie wees wat teen die Afrikaans wat gebruik word besware sal kan opper—dit word verwelkom. Dat ons nou die stadium bereik het waarin 'n mens haas niks in Afrikaans kan skryf op mediese gebied sonder dat daar 'n sterk verskil van mening ontstaan nie, is 'n bewys dat dit goed gaan met die mediese terminologie in Afrikaans. Daar is met ander woorde 'n lewendige belangstelling in hierdie saak.

Ons wil die gebruik van 'Chirurgiese Ondersoekmetodes' sterk aanbeveel by alle studente van die vak en by almal wat te doen het met die onderrig van die chirurgie.

A.P.B.

ORTHOPAEDICS

Outline of Orthopaedics. 2nd edition. By John Crawford Adams, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii+428. 301 figures. 35s. net + 1s. 11d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

That the 'Outline of Orthopaedics' has appeared in a new edition barely 2 years after its first publication is high tribute to the excellence of this small but comprehensive volume which Mr. Crawford Adams has written. All aspects of orthopaedic surgery, apart from trauma, are completely covered and succinctly put down and the concepts of pathogenesis and treatment are up to date. One is able to obtain a clear picture of each disorder from aetiology to prognosis and treatment within a few minutes, without having to wade through pages of irrelevant detail. This makes it invaluable to the overburdened medical student and the busy general practitioner. The disorders of the locomotor system are first discussed in general terms. This is followed by regional accounts, each preceded by a description of the method of examination of the area, together with a table listing the disorders to be considered. The book has been completely revised and advances during the past few years are indicated where relevant.

To those uninitiated in orthopaedics this is an excellent volume, which will give a balanced approach and place the subject in its proper relationship to the other fields of medicine. The volume has been excellently printed on fine art paper and is profusely illustrated with excellent diagrams, line drawings, photographs and X-rays. These make for a clearer understanding of each disorder. The diagrams and drawings, in particular, enhance the value of this work.

I.J.

BACTERIA IN RELATION TO NURSING

Duke's Bacteria in Relation to Nursing. 3rd edition revised by Stanley Marshall, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. Pp. viii+216. 18 illustrations including 12 in colour. 21s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1958.

This book should be very useful to all nurses interested in this aspect of their profession, especially to sister tutors. The new edition includes additions covering recent discoveries with special reference to viruses and antibiotics. The rest of the book has not been materially altered, but certain minor alterations might bring it more up to date, e.g., the use of the now universally used 'doubling dilution' method of agglutination test instead of the old type of Widal reaction, as an example of a serological test. The description of an autoclave in a paragraph headed 'intermittent sterilization' is misleading. The substitution of the term 'megalo-sporon' for the 'trichophyton' of the old edition is no improvement. But these are minor faults in an otherwise useful book.

P.D.

HAVING A BABY

Having a Baby. 2nd edition. By J. F. Robinson, M.B., Ch.B. Pp. viii+100. 23 figures. 6s. 6d. net + 10d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

This little book may be recommended confidently to all young married couples who wish to start a family. The opening chapters

describe both simply and adequately what they need to know about conception and contraception. Subsequently, and indeed herein lies the main purpose of the book, the author describes for the benefit of the expectant mother the progress of normal pregnancy, the growth of the foetus, and finally labour and the birth of the child.

All the many aspects of having a baby which occupy the young mother-to-be are dealt with. There is a wealth of information concisely and pleasantly set down, while the advice given is at all times most useful and sensible. The price is reasonable.

E.M.S.

HANDBUCH DER TUBERKULOSE

Handbuch der Tuberkulose. Band I. Allgemeine Grundlagen. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. J. Hein, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. H. Kleinschmidt Prof. Dr. E. Uehlinger. xvi+832 Seiten. 244 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 178. Subskriptionspreis DM 142.40. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

It is an impossible task in a brief review to render justice to such a tremendous volume on so many different aspects of tuberculosis. The story dates from 2500 B.C. and depicts the devastating terminal effects as revealed by Egyptian mummies, especially of the XXI Dynasty and Malum Potti for instance. In subsequent chapters the authors refer to the great pioneers of the past, paying tribute to their valuable contributions. Methods of examination, morphology, diagnosis and prognosis are reviewed and the significance of prevention emphasized.

The reviewer must be content to say that this volume is a perfect combination of history, theory, diagnosis and treatment—one which cannot be summarized in a few words, even to indicate to the interested reader how much he will miss unless he studies the book for himself.

J.H.

DUKE-ELDER'S NEW SYSTEM OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

System of Ophthalmology. Edited by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, G.C.V.O., M.A., LL.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., M.D., D.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. Vol. I. *The Eye in Evolution.* Pp. xvi+843. 902 figures. 15 Coloured plates and 350 Marginal Illustrations. 126s. net. London: Henry Kimpton. 1958.

Since its first appearance, Duke-Elder's 'Text-book of Ophthalmology' in seven volumes, has become the standard reference book on ophthalmology in the English language. As much of the content has become out of date in such a rapidly expanding subject as ophthalmology, the whole work has been rewritten and expanded by Duke-Elder and his colleagues of the Institute of Ophthalmology into a library of 15 volumes. The present volume is the first of the series. Written by the master himself, in his inimitable style, this masterpiece of the comparative anatomy and physiology of the eye is an expansion of the first 22 pages of volume I of the Text-book. It is profusely illustrated and there are striking marginal illustrations of common and strange-looking birds and animals and fishes. The practising ophthalmologist may not find this volume of such great clinical use but it certainly abounds in interesting and informative material and is a promise of more exciting things to come. It is certain that as they appear, each volume of the System will find its way onto the shelf and into the mind and affection of every ophthalmologist.

L.S.

X-RAY DIAGNOSIS

A Text-book of X-ray Diagnosis. By British authors in 4 volumes. 3rd edition. Edited by S. Cochrane Shanks, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. and Peter Kerley, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.E. Vol. 3. *The Abdomen.* Pp. xvi+883. 802 illustrations. £6 0s. 0d. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1958.

Volume 3 of this excellent, well established and well tried text-book, is now available. Volumes 2 and 4 are still in preparation. Those familiar with the earlier editions, particularly the second, will appreciate that the mixture is essentially as before. The book generally is larger but large slices of it have been carried forward; this is also true of the illustrative material.

It seems a pity, however, that a work of this standing still fails, even on its 3rd edition, to introduce uniformity into the reproduction of radiographs. To find positive and negative

reproductions of X-rays side by side on the same page (p. 545), is particularly irritating—at any rate to the reviewer, who likes barium and bones in white and wind in black. In a book of this calibre certain other small errors should have been eliminated in the proof stages; e.g. the reproducing of serial studies upside down of a gall-bladder designed to show floating stones (p. 494), and spelling mistakes such as pleurality for plurality (p. 558).

Apart from these quibbles, which are probably of no great importance, there is little with which to find fault. There can be no doubt that this volume should be included on the shelves of radiology students and of all practising radiologists.

W.J.L.

YEAR BOOK OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY, 1958

The Year Book of the Ear, Nose and Throat and Maxillofacial Surgery, 1957-58. The Ear, Nose and Throat. Edited by John R. Lindsay, M.D. *Maxillofacial Surgery.* Edited by Dean M. Lierle, M.D. and William C. Huffman, M.D. Pp. 383. 96 figures. \$7.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

The appearance of this and forthcoming volumes, dissociated from ophthalmology, is to be applauded; so is the decision to incorporate maxillo-facial surgery. However, maxillo-facial surgery accounts for only a small portion of the contents. In this part of the book, malignant disease of the nose and paranasal sinuses, the oral cavity including the tongue, and the larynx, pharynx and oesophagus, are adequately covered. In this section, too, benign diseases of the larynx are discussed and tumours of the salivary glands receive full attention. None of these subjects can be included in the province of the maxillo-facial surgeon and should be part of the ear, nose and throat section. Reconstructive surgery of protruding ears and rhinoplasty is included and, of course, fractures of the upper and lower jaws; also derangements of the temporo-mandibular joints, surgery of cleft palate and, lastly, surgical treatment of acne.

In the ear, nose and throat section, the latest advances in aural surgery, such as stapes mobilization and tympanoplasty, are described, but the material covered is out-of-date and of little help to the aural surgeon. On the whole this volume is disappointing.

B.T.B.

UROLOGY YEAR BOOK 1959

The Year Book of Urology 1958-59. Edited by William W. Scott, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 364. 83 figures. \$7.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

In maintaining its high standard as a comprehensive review of World urological literature, the publishers, and in particular Dr. W. W. Scott as editor, are once more to be congratulated. This is a Year Book which I look forward to each year and for which, in fact, I have a standing order with a local medical book-seller.

The Year Book as usual covers genito-urinary diseases in the wide sense, in that it encompasses teaching, research and experimental surgery, and allied medical and endocrinological subjects, as well as all the usual problems of the practising urologist. Its wide scope will enhance its reputation as a most useful reference for many general practitioners, surgeons, physicians and endocrinologists.

I believe I voice a genuine difficulty when I mention that one has considerable misgivings when trying to assess the true value of what one reads in medical journals. One is tempted to discard the value of an article unless one knows the author or the institution from whence it emanates. This is where the Year Book of Urology is so extremely helpful. One is conscious throughout of the watchful eye and the kindly, yet critical supervision of the editor, whose footnotes put statements and claims in their correct perspective.

P.J.M.R.

YEAR BOOK OF DRUG THERAPY 1959

The Year Book of Drug Therapy 1958-59. Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D. Pp. 569. 43 figures. \$7.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

Those who are familiar with the Year Book series will not be disappointed in this volume dealing with drug therapy. As is to

be expected in a subject that is rapidly expanding, and advancing on many fronts, there is much that is new. The reader is provided with good abstracts from a great variety of journals, most of which can only be seen by those who 'live' in well-stocked medical libraries. In the present volume there are 493 articles from 23 countries and 108 journals. The field is considered up to September 1958. Additional useful items are the subject and author indexes, 43 figures, and numerous tables.

A valuable feature is the editorial comments (all too few) which indicate, for example, that a particular drug is really of value, possibly better than its predecessors, or that a particular study is unacceptable because the investigation was uncontrolled. Criticism is particularly levelled against the spate of publications covering hurried trials of so-called 'tranquillizers' and 'energizers'; 'there quickly follows a breathless report transparently betraying its author's desire to get into print before the other fellow does'. The Year Book is not merely a collection of abstracts.

N.S.

CARDIOVASCULAR REFLEXOGENIC AREAS

Reflexogenic Areas of the Cardiovascular System. By C. Haymans, M.D. and E. Neil, M.D., D.Sc. Pp. viii+271. 89 figures. 56s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

This book is written by a professor of pharmacology and a professor of physiology and it is difficult reading. To the experimental scientist, it will be of inestimable value, but the clinician will find the subject matter confusing. The literature is extensively reviewed, even when contradictory, and often no clear statement of the authors' own views is forthcoming. In the reviewer's opinion, a short summary at the end of each chapter, of the most important views expressed would add greatly to the value of the book. The names quoted are at times most irritating and detract from the interest of the text. The clinical interest of the book is limited, for most of the text is taken up on animal work. The sections on the 'carotid sinus syndrome' and 'Takayasu's disease' are very incomplete, but this is perhaps justifiable in a book devoted to physiology and pharmacology. 'Neurogenic hypertension' is well done, but as the condition is merely of theoretical interest in human hypertension, this section again has a limited value.

The book is well produced on art paper and the illustrations are, for the most part, excellent. Despite its drawbacks, it serves as an excellent reference book and it is presumed that the extensive review of the literature was intended by the authors for this purpose. It should be readily available in all physiological laboratories where work on the baro- and chemo-receptors of the cardiovascular system is in progress, and should also be available to clinicians interested in the study of the cardiovascular systems and its reflexes.

B.A.B.

CHILD HEALTH

Child Health and Paediatrics. For nurses, health visitors and social workers. By R. McL. Todd, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. Pp. ix+238. Illustrations. 21s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1958.

The proper care and nursing of children, particularly when they are ill in hospital, requires not only a love of children, but a great deal of specialized knowledge. This little book, written especially for nurses, health visitors and social workers, has much to recommend it. The material is up to date and well described, and care has been taken to cover essential problems. The chapter on the handicapped child is particularly well presented. This book should be very useful to those for whom it has been intended. Medical students, too, may find it a good introduction to their paediatric course.

I.M.

CLEFT PALATE AND SPEECH

Cleft Palate and Speech. 4th edition. By Muriel E. Morley, M.Sc., F.C.S.T. Pp. xx+271. 86 figures. 27s. 6d. net + 1s. 5d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

The fourth edition of this book, the most comprehensive and best known in its field, is welcomed. It is of particular interest to all those in medical fields and related ancillary services who are concerned in the treatment of these handicapped patients.

During the past decade, the many advances in cleft-palate surgery and modifications and changes in treatment have necessitated a new approach by the logopaedician. The goal has changed from intelligible speech to normal speech. Consequently, this book is of primary interest to the speech therapist, but the excellent sections on the incidence, aetiology and inheritance of cleft lip and palate are of wide interest to pathologists, paediatricians and all practitioners working with infants.

The section on anatomy and physiology of the nasopharyngeal closure mechanism is the finest and most comprehensive account of this region in the English language. A good understanding of this mechanism is a necessary basis for the understanding of many speech aberrations. The dental surgeon will find the account of obturators and the new light plastics of interest. The clear account of surgical techniques and post-operative assessment and the critical analysis of post-operative results are of major importance to surgeons working on cleft lip and palate.

The book is well published and clearly illustrated. The emphasis throughout is on practical management and team work. This new edition gives us the benefit of the author's vast experience at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and her concise, lucid account of every aspect of the cleft palate, make this book a 'must' for all those responsible for any phase of the treatment of these patients.

B.G.