

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

OPERATIVE SURGERY: REMAINING VOLUMES

Operative Surgery. Volume 4. Head and Neck and Clearance of Lymph Nodes. Vascular Surgery, Endocrine Glands. Pp. xiii + 163 (Part VI) + 144 (Part VII) + 66 (Part VIII) + 4 (Index). 631 illustrations. 1957.

Volume 5. Orthopaedic Surgery. Pp. xiii + 366 (Part IX) + 5 (Index). 584 illustrations. 1957.

Volume 6. Hand, Amputations, Plastic Surgery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Pp. xiii + 105 (Part X) + 71 (Part XI) + 131 (Part XII) + 123 (Part XIII) + 4 (Index). 679 illustrations. 1958.

Volume 7. Breast, Genito-urinary System. Pp. xi + 43 (Part XIV) + 273 (Part XV) + 3 (Index). 497 illustrations. 1958.

Volume 8. Neurosurgery, Eyes, Ear, Nose and Throat. Pp. xv + 57 (Part XVI) + 83 (Part XVII) + 196 (Part XVIII) + 3 (Index). 524 illustrations. 1958.

Progress Volume 1958. General Index. Pp. xiii + 100 + 9 + 76. 162 illustrations. 1958.

Under the general editorship of Charles Rob, M.C., M.Chir., F.R.C.S. and Rodney Smith, M.S., F.R.C.S. (This work consists of 8 volumes at £5 10s. 0d. for each volume and an index at £2 0s. 0d.) London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban.

With the publication of volume 8, this series, devoted to operative surgery and compiled almost exclusively by British authors, has been completed. Supplementary volumes illustrating advances in technique or omissions in the original selection will be added from time to time to keep the set thoroughly up to date. With the first progress volume already available, it is now possible to review the series as a whole and attempt an assessment of its worth. A work of this scope cannot possibly satisfy all who consult it, for individual requirements vary so widely. For this reason, criticism should be advanced cautiously.

There must be universal agreement that the set deserves a prominent place in every medical library. It is of inestimable value to the surgeon who is required to perform a relatively unfamiliar procedure at short notice and who wishes to obtain a clear visual picture of the approach and broader details of technique. It is consequently of greater assistance to the surgeon who must on occasion work outside his appointed speciality. Conversely, most trained surgeons tend to approve least of those chapters dealing with their own special fields, observing that these are covered in too general and simplified a fashion, omitting the finer details of techniques and those unobtrusive features that often present most difficulty. The series is outstanding, however, for the clarity and technical skill of the illustrations, and the magnificence of the production. This has, unfortunately, raised the cost of publication, making the series something of a luxury for the individual surgeon. It is, therefore, regrettable that separate volumes are not obtainable.

Volume 4 is devoted to the surgery of the head and neck, the vascular system and the endocrine glands. The anatomical details are beautifully clear in all the illustrations. It is noteworthy and most promising to observe that the over-simplification and paucity of technical detail in the description of the end-to-side femoral-popliteal bypass for arterial occlusion has already been corrected in the first progress volume. This awareness of current needs augurs well for the whole series. Criticism may be made of the description of radical thyroidectomy for carcinoma, where care is taken to remove all the anterior muscles of the neck and the internal jugular vein on one side, yet an appreciable remnant of a thyroid lobe is left *in situ*.

Volume 5 is concerned only with orthopaedic operations. It outlines these so clearly as to make many appear deceptively simple. It is to be hoped that this will not encourage the casual operator to attempt some of the more specialized procedures without realizing the implications of the individual operation.

Volume 6 deals mainly with plastic surgery and gynaecology. The former section will be more appreciated by the general rather than the plastic surgeon, who ordinarily requires far more detail than this series can provide. The section on 'the acute hand' is excellent and most pleasant to read. The common gynaecological and obstetrical operative procedures are meticulously detailed

and very easy to follow. The whole range of operation from evacuation of the uterus to Way's radical vulvectomy for carcinoma is covered in so clear a fashion that this section should be of great value to both the postgraduate student and the specialist. The description of 'salpingostomy' is particularly well presented.

Volume 7 is divided between operations on the breast and, in larger measure, the genito-urinary system. Indications and—more important—possible contra-indications to mastectomy are clearly stated and precede a masterly presentation of the operations by Riddell. Controversial issues such as the place of the McWhirter treatment are quite appropriately omitted. The section on urology is ideally suited to the needs of the general surgeon who has occasion to deal with a urological problem. The normal operative procedures are concisely and clearly described.

Volume 8 is comprehensive in its coverage of neurosurgical and ENT operations. The neurosurgical section adequately describes those operations which a general surgeon practising in a centre where no neurosurgical service is available, would be likely to perform in emergency. Apart from Penman's technique of trigeminal injection it is unlikely that the average neurosurgeon will find much of special interest.

The first progress volume is distinguished by an excellent section on the surgery of the pancreas and liver by Rodney Smith and illustrations of the approach to such topical subjects as the re-stenosed mitral valve and the strictured oesophagus of reflux oesophagitis. If the high quality of this supplement is representative of those to come in future years, the series will retain its present unique appeal to the postgraduate student and to a great body of surgeons who require guidance or rapid revision on special occasions. As a by-product it will serve as a living monument to the steady evolution of surgical progress. While each will have his own personal criticisms, surgeons will no doubt be highly appreciative of the almost forbidding task undertaken by the editors and their publishers, and the success that has attended their efforts.

TRIFLUOPERAZINE

Trifluoperazine. Clinical and pharmacological aspects. 25 original reports with an introduction by Henry Brill, M.D. Pp. 219. Illustrations. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger. 1958.

Whereas hundreds of articles on chlorpromazine have been published, far too few studies have been made on other phenothiazine derivatives which are rapidly being placed on the market with special claims made by their manufacturers.

This monograph contains 23 papers on the clinical aspects of trifluoperazine and 2 on pharmacological and toxicity studies. They appear under 5 headings: Pharmacology, Functional Psychoses, Brain Disorders, Psychoneuroses, and Side-effects. The drawbacks of the compound seem to be counterbalanced by its virtues, and it appears to be of value in a wide variety of psychotic and neurotic disorders—resolving hallucinations and delusions, and of service in the care of severely regressed patients.

Extrapyramidal reactions occur rather frequently and early during treatment, but are controllable with anti-parkinsonian drugs. With proper management of such complications the drug can take its place in psychiatric pharmacotherapy. The possibility of side-effects such as occur with other phenothiazine derivatives must constantly be borne in mind. N.S.

ORTHOPAEDICS

A Guide to Orthopaedics. By T. T. Stamm, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. 115. 19 figures. 12s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

In writing this small book for the non-specialist, the author states that the opinions expressed are his own personal approach to the problems involved and as such may be open to criticism. In it he has endeavoured to deal with the general principles of orthopaedics rather than individual conditions, which are only considered as illustrations.

This is not a book for the orthopaedic surgeon, but general practitioners and others interested in the care of cripples and the victims of orthopaedic conditions will find it of interest. A.H.T.

BLOOD MORPHOLOGY

Leitfaden der Blutmorphologie—Manual of Blood Morphology. Von L. Schudel. Englische und französische Übersetzung von J. Meng. 9 Verbesserte Auflage. 54 Seiten. 18 farbige Tafeln. DM 13.30. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

During the past 22 years 9 editions of this manual have been published, which is a sign of its popularity. Schudel's aim is to demonstrate the morphology of blood cells, not to explain clinical details as is done in text-books of haematology. He gives a short introduction on how to prepare blood smears and how to do blood stainings and blood counts. Then there are 18 coloured tables which display leukopoiesis, genesis of platelets, myeloid leukaemia, lymphoid leukaemia, megaloblastic anaemias, haemolytic anaemias and other haematological conditions. The text is very short but explains the tables adequately. The tables are as excellent as in the former editions, and this manual can be recommended wholeheartedly to medical students studying the elementary principles of haematology. The German text is repeated in English and French in the same volume. H.W.W.

INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM

Inborn Errors of Metabolism. By David Yi-Yung Hsia, M.D. Pp. 358. 58 figures. \$9.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

Garrod's four 'inborn errors of metabolism' have now expanded into well over 50, all of which are reviewed in this book. In such small space it is plainly impossible to describe each anomaly in detail, but the summaries appear to be accurate, clear and remarkably up to date, comprising as they do, work published in 1958.

There is very little to criticize. It is noticed that the subject of atheroma in general in relation to hypercholesterolaemia in families has been avoided (only the real 'familial hypercholesterolaemia' being discussed). Resistant rickets is assumed to represent a congenital lack in renal transport for phosphorus, and is not separated from the rarer adolescent resistant osteomalacia.

An appendix gives 74 biochemical methods of diagnosis of the various conditions, with references.

I am not sure exactly for whom this book is intended; certainly for anyone interested in metabolic diseases, particularly if dealing with children or working in a biochemical laboratory.

W.P.U.J.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Medical Education. Annotated bibliography 1946-1955. Pp. 391. 35s. French edition in preparation. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1958. Local Sales Agent: Van Schaik's Bookstore (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 724, Pretoria.

An exhaustive search of world literature on medical education published between 1946 and 1955 provided the basis for this select bibliography. Over 4,000 references were collected, virtually all of them were examined, and finally some 2,500 were selected for inclusion. Brief annotations have been given for all articles written in a language other than English or, if published in English, where the scope of the article cannot be deduced from its title. The references have been classified alphabetically by author under the following headings: History of medical education; Aims, trends, and general considerations; Special subjects ('allergy', 'anaesthesiology', 'anatomy', etc.); Pre-medical education; Students; Teachers; Curriculum; The patient in medical education; Academic teaching; Audio-visual aids; Research in medical education; The medical school in the community; Internship and licensure; Countries and continents. An author index is included.

INDUSTRIAL CANCER

Industrial Carcinogens. By R. E. Eckhardt, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xi + 164. 43 figures. \$6.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This is another of the series of monographs edited by A. J. Lanza and R. H. Orr. The development of industry based on discoveries in the science laboratories has brought, and will no doubt continue to bring, new hazards to the workers. Cancer due to contact with certain substances is one of these new hazards. Dr. Eckhardt's monograph gives an up-to-date account of many of these hazards. It must be accepted beyond any reasonable doubt that cancer is an occupational disease in certain industries and processes. One of these is in connection with exposure to asbestos dust, and this type of occupational cancer occurs also in South Africa. The monograph is well written, excellently printed and very informative. It is also well indexed. A.J.O.