

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

THE SICK AFRICAN

The Sick African. A Clinical Study. Third Edition. By Michael Gelfand, O.B.E., M.D. (Cape Town), F.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

D.M.R. Pp. 866. Fig. 164. 77s. 6d. Cape Town and Johannesburg: Juta & Co., Ltd. 1957.

Contents: I. The Patient. II. The Examination. III. Malaria. IV. Bilharziasis (Schistosomiasis). V. Hookworm Disease. VI. Leprosy. VII. Yaws (Framboesia

Tropical). VIII. Relapsing Fever. IX. Sleeping Sickness (Trypanosomiasis). X. Filariasis and Dracontiasis. XI. Yellow Fever and Minor Tropical Fevers. XII. Kala-Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis). XIII. Typhoid Fever and other Causes of Prolonged Pyrexia in the Native. XIV. Undulant Fever (Abortus and Malta Fevers). XV. The Exanthemata. XVI. Venereal Diseases in the Native. XVII. Tropical Phlebitis and other Possibly related Vascular Disorders in Tropical Africa. XVIII. Plague. XIX. Amoebiasis, Dysentery and Diarrhoea in the Native. XX. Nutritional Disorders in the Native. XXI. Respiratory Affections in the Native. XXII. Diseases of the Heart. XXIII. Disorders of the Nervous System. XXIV. Affections of the Genito-Urinary System. XXV. Disorders of the Liver. XXVI. Splenomegaly in the Native. XXVII. Affections of the Bones and Joints. XXVIII. Anaemia in the Native. XXIX. Affections of the Lymphatic Glands. XXX. Disorders of the Endocrine Glands. XXXI. Disorders of the Alimentary Tract. XXXII. Malignancy. XXXIII. Common Intestinal Parasites. XXXIV. Common Skin Diseases seen in the Native. XXXV. Some Considerations of the Effects of Certain African Diseases.

This book maintains its important place as the only available textbook dealing with the diseases of Bantu races. The author's object has been to describe their diseases as seen in Rhodesia together with full reference to the literature of the subject. He has fulfilled his purpose of assisting the European-trained doctor to obtain a realistic perspective of the diagnostic and therapeutic problems of the indigenous African. He wisely corrects a common fallacy that African medicine is largely the medicine of malaria, bilharziasis, ankylostomiasis and the other common tropical diseases and while stressing the importance of general medicine throughout the book, he covers both the tropical and general aspects of each system. This edition has been enlarged and, in large measure, rewritten. Not the least valuable section is the large bibliography listing many references dealing with Bantu medicine. A most valuable chapter for those unacquainted with the Bantu is the one on the African patient. It describes his domestic, social and cultural background. He gives good descriptions of clinical differences in disease incidence, geographical distribution of conditions and the difficulties met with in African practice. One might perhaps be critical of the chapter which tells us to examine the African patient carefully and thoroughly. Although many of his hints are helpful, the objective of the chapter can surely be expressed in one sentence—'Examine your patient thoroughly'. The chapters on the nutritional disorders, the diseases of the nervous system, the anaemias and malignancy are most important contributions. Approximately half the volume deals with the more important tropical diseases of Central Africa with the emphasis on the clinical aspects. The descriptions are comprehensive, accurate and contain a wealth of clinical detail based on the wide experience and wise judgments of the author.

Doubtless, in the not too distant future, specialized works on the various sections of medicine in the Bantu will appear bringing more precise clinical and pathological descriptions of the disease patterns. Further, too, one may anticipate a composite text-book written by several contributors each an expert in a limited field.

Such works will establish more accurately the various patterns and incidence of disease in the Bantu and evaluate significant difference as compared with other groups in Africa or elsewhere.

Dr. Gelfand's conclusions are, of necessity, based on accumulation of impressions and no doubt many reputed differences of reaction in the Bantu will not be substantiated when better statistical control is possible. Nevertheless, at the present time, his contribution to this vast field is most valuable and this book will be of assistance to all medical personnel who are concerned with the practice of medicine in the Bantu peoples.

G.H.J.

ATLAS OF EYE SURGERY

Atlas of Eye Surgery. By R. Townley Paton, M.D., F.A.C.S., Herbert M. Katzin, M.D., F.A.C.S. and Daisy Stilwell (Illustrator). Pp. viii+247. 463 Illustrations. \$15.00. New York—Toronto—London—McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1957.

Contents: 1. General Preparation. 2. Preliminary Consideration. 3. Anesthesia. 4. Operations for Cataract. 5. Operations for Glaucoma. 6. Operations for Retinal Detachment. 7. Corneal Transplantation. 8. Enucleation. 9. Evisceration. 10. Operations on the Extraocular Muscles. 11. Operations for Pterygium. Index of Instruments.

There have been numerous text-books on Ophthalmic Surgery. Among recent volumes, we have had some encyclopaedic, such as Spaeth; some personal techniques such as Stallard. There have also been previous Atlases on the subject, such as Arruga's. The last, while mainly concentrating on the author's personal techniques, has attempted to be more general and therefore has had a largish amount of accompanying text. The present volume is practically all illustrations (and what wonderful ones they are!) with the running commentary reduced to a minimum. For teaching purposes obviously unbeatable.

The authors are extremely well known and Paton is the author of the authoritative 'Keratoplasty'. In an extremely well-produced volume they have given the routine management of the operations for cataract, glaucoma, retinal detachment and so forth, as performed by the authors. If one wishes to perform the straightforward, routine, safe operation or to standardize one's own technique, no better means could be found to assist. Of course one may adopt one's own modifications, for example, it is not necessary to use the Berens muscle clamp or catgut in squint surgery or to do a double iris pillar inclusion in iridencleisis, but every book cannot be encyclopaedic.

A useful point is that all the illustrations are drawn as seen by the surgeon from the position he usually adopts, namely from above and behind the patient's head. This book can be recommended to every eye surgeon, beginner or experienced.

S.L.L.

BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CANCER

Biological Aspects of Cancer. By Julian Huxley, F.R.S. Pp. 156. 16s. net. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1958.

Contents: Preface. A. Comparative and Genetic. I. Introduction. II. Comparative Distribution of Neoplasms. III. Tumour Genetics. B. Viral and Epigenetic. I. Carcinogenic Viruses. II. Other Viruses. III. Tumours and Epigenetics. C. Summary. References. Index.

The publication of Dr. Julian Huxley's book on cancer as a biological problem is an event of importance to all who are engaged on research in this field.

The author spent a few years of hard labour in making himself familiar with the vast mass of literature on cancer that has appeared in the last decades, and has assessed the information obtained from it against his profound knowledge of biology in general and genetics in particular. The result of his efforts is a work containing an amazing diversity of information on many disciplines concerning cancer that was hitherto not available in a comprehensive survey by an author of high scientific standing.

It is not a book for the medical practitioner whose mind is far removed from modern biology or fundamental research on cancer. Nor is it easy to read for research workers who are not familiar with the science of genetics. In fact, the author seems to expect of the reader a scientific background almost as wide as his own. It is a stimulating book that should inspire the research worker to broaden his outlook on the many sided aspects of the cancer problem.

J.v.R.

SCHIZOPHRENIA IN OFFICE PRACTICE

Schizophrenia in Psychoanalytic Office Practice. Edited by Alfred H. Rifkin. Papers presented at the 1956 Symposium of the Society of Medical Psychoanalysts held in New York. Thirty Contributors. Pp. x+150. \$4.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1957.

Contents: Contributors. Foreword. Concepts. Special Problems: Panel I. Transference and Related Problems. Panel II. Anxiety, Panic and Other Problems. Treatment.

The problem of schizophrenia has been exercising the minds of psychiatrists since the end of the last century, and at no time more than the present. Its importance is felt to be so great that one of the authors suggests that the borderline schizophrenic is 'the neurotic personality of our time'. It was therefore inevitable that psychoanalysts in all countries have been called upon to treat schizophrenics both in mental hospitals and in office practice, and as a result different groups have evolved varying theoretical concepts and techniques of treatment.

This volume is composed of seventeen papers presented by the members of a New York group. Although due consideration is given to the many etiological causes, both organic and otherwise, which have been put forward, the preface states that 'implicit in all these discussions is the premise that the development of schizophrenia is intimately related to the conditions of life'.

The first section consists of three papers on the nature of extramural schizophrenia, schizophrenic consciousness in practice, and the conceptual vicissitudes of the idea of schizophrenia, together with a summary of these concepts. Each paper is discussed by two or three contributors, and serves to illustrate how considerable are the differences in opinion.

The second section deals with the difficulties met with in the transference, and some very practical issues, such as suicide, hospitalization, and the role of the family.

The third section deals with the selection of patients, treatment of a-social attitudes, and a paper on the psychic structure and

therapy of schizophrenia. This also has a summary and a discussion.

This symposium, while offering no final answers to the understanding and treatment of schizophrenia, shows a constructive and hopeful approach and supplies some helpful ideas and suggestions.

S.A.W.

AIDS TO ANAESTHESIA

Aids to Anaesthesia. 4th Edition. By Victor Goldman, F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Pp. vii+359. 92 Figures. 12s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Preface. I. History of Anaesthesia. II. Biographies. III. The Anatomy and Physiology of Anaesthesia. IV. The Pharmacology of Anaesthetic Agents. V. General Considerations: The Stages of Anaesthesia. VI. The Examination and Preparation of the Patient. VII. Inhalation Anaesthesia. VIII. Nitrous Oxide. IX. Closed Circuit Anaesthesia or Complete Rebreathing. X. Vinyl Ether—Vinesthene—Divinyl Oxide. XI. Cyclopropane. XII. Intravenous Anaesthesia. XIII. Endotracheal Anaesthesia. XIV. Premedication. XV. Complications of Anaesthesia. XVI. Anaesthetics for Diseased Patients. XVII. Anaesthetics for Special Operations. XVIII. Muscle Relaxants. XIX. Controlled Hypotension. XX. Analgesia and Anaesthesia in Midwifery. XXI. Anaesthesia for Dental Operations. XXII. Anaesthesia in the Tropics. XXIII. Local Analgesia. XXIV. Spinal Analgesia. XXV. Appendix of Useful Information. Index.

This book contains a brief outline of most aspects of anaesthesia. The information given is for the most part of an extremely elementary nature, especially those sections dealing with Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology. The author makes no pretence of providing detailed description of apparatus or techniques or of discussing them, but has deliberately confined himself to summarizing common practice.

The section on anaesthesia for dental operations is the fullest in the book. As one would expect from Victor Goldman who is best known in this field, it contains a fund of practical information based on vast personal experience.

As a whole, this little book should be most valuable to nursing staff engaged in theatre work, as it contains all they need to know concerning anaesthetic methods and their underlying theory. For the undergraduate, it gives a fair outline of current anaesthetic practice. The post-graduate student or the specialist anaesthetist should find the appendix of useful information a source of great joy and a real aid to his practice.

A.B.B.

DISEASES OF BONE

Bone Diseases in Medical Practice. By I. Snapper, M.D. Pp. x+229. 48 Plates. \$15.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1957.

Contents: Preface. 1. Physiology of Bone. 2. Semantics of Bone Disease. 3. Osteoporosis. 4. Rickets and Osteomalacia. 5. Hypervitaminosis D. 6. Hypervitaminosis A. 7. Infantile Cortical Hyperostosis. 8. Hyperparathyroidism. 9. Renal Osteitis Fibrosa. 10. Metastatic Calcification after Medical Treatment of Peptic Ulcer. Burnett's Syndrome. 11. Boeck's Sarcoidosis. Nephrocalcinosis and Skeletal Involvement. 12. Hyperparathyroidism and Pseudohypoparathyroidism. 13. Paget's Disease of the Bone. (Osteitis Deformans). 14. Osteoporosis Circumscripta Cranii. 15. Hand-Schüller-Christian's Disease; Letterer-Siwe's Disease; Eosinophilic Granuloma. 16. Osteitis Fibrosa Disseminata (Albright) or Polyostotic Fibrous Dysplasia. 17. Leontiasis Ossea. 18. Bone Changes in Hemolytic Anemias. 19. Bone Lesions in Lymphomatous Diseases (Hodgkin's Disease, Lymphosarcoma and Reticulum Cell Sarcoma). 20. Skeletal Lesions in Leukemia and Leukemia-like Conditions. 21. Multiple Myeloma. 22. Goat. 23. Gauscher's Disease. 24. Osteopetrosis, Albers-Schönberg's Disease. Marble Bone Disease. 25. Neurofibromatosis of Bone. 26. Hypertrophic Osteoarthropathy. 27. Scleroderma. 28. Charcot Joints. Neurotrophic Osteoarthropathy. 29. Skeletal Lesions in Cancer of Breast, Prostate and Thyroid. 30. Fungus Diseases and Actinomycosis. 31. Differential Diagnosis of Bone Lesions. Index. Plates.

Dr. Snapper has been a Professor of Medicine in four Medical Schools in three Continents and has contributed a great deal of original work and thought in a number of fields of medical practice, not least diseases of bone. This book is the result of a life-time of study in this field. In it he sets out to cover bone diseases which occur in medical practice. Naturally enough the subjects closest to his field of original work receive greatest consideration, e.g. Osteomalacia and hyperparathyroidism—but he has also written very adequate simple descriptions of many of the other diseases of bone. There is little that is controversial. The book seems to be written at a level which a general practitioner might aim at achieving, and certainly contains little more than a good final year medical student might be expected to know. But what it does contain is authoritative, factual and eminently readable.

The X-rays are beautifully reproduced. The emphasis has been on the later stages of disease where the pictures are more striking, but some of the earlier changes on X-ray are also shown; more of the latter might have been included. It is a pity however that the X-ray plates have had to be collected together at the end of the book for this interferes with easy reading.

The book has other slight defects. There is a tendency to use proprietary names for drugs which may be unfamiliar to many readers, e.g. Basal-jel with small doses of Hytakerol as recommended for the treatment of Paget's disease. More careful proof reading might have eliminated a few errors. For instance 'Coomb's test' and the 'Ashly' technique for measuring red-cell survival as well as a quite incomprehensible sentence on page 36. But these are really only minor criticisms of a book which maintains as high a general standard as this one does.

What should be included in a book with the title of 'Bone Diseases in Medical Practice'? Clearly Dr. Snapper regards this as including more than metabolic bone disease. If one includes leukaemia, Hodgkins disease and gout what justification is there for omitting primary tumors on bone, many of the inflammatory diseases of bone or all the developmental diseases of bone? The author gets round this problem by ignoring it completely and since the reviewer can think of no better solution perhaps he has adopted the wisest course.

M.C.

THE CLINICAL APPLICATION OF HORMONE ASSAY

The Clinical Application of Hormone Assay. By John A. Loraine, M.B., Ph.D. (Ed.), M.R.C.P. (Ed.) with a Foreword by J. H. Gaddum, Sc.D., F.R.S. Pp. xii+368. 66 Figures. 30s. net+1s. 5d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

Contents: I. General Principles in Hormone Assay. II. Pituitary Gonadotrophins. III. Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin. IV. Thyrotrophin. V. Adrenocorticotrophin. VI. Growth Hormone. VII. Prolactin. VIII. Antidiuretic Hormone and Antidiuretic Substances. IX. Oestrogens. X. Progesterone and its Metabolites. XI. Corticosteroids. XII. 17-Ketosteroids and Androgens. XIII. Adrenaline and Noradrenaline. XIV. Insulin. Index of Authors. Subject Index.

Few publications have come at a more opportune moment. Interest in clinical endocrinology is becoming more and more widespread, and until now there has not been a 'ready reference book' to guide the clinician in the theory and practice of hormone assays: surprisingly few doctors who order these estimations have any idea exactly what they are asking for, or of the limitations of the methods used, or of the validity of the results which are taken as gospel truth by so many. The publishers have described the book as 'For experimentally-minded clinicians'—I would like to suggest 'For all doctors who order hormone estimations' as a more suitable label.

In his preface, the author says that the book was written with a three-fold purpose: to review existing methods of hormone assay, to discuss their application to clinical work, and to suggest further fields for their application. These purposes have been admirably fulfilled, and though the book is intended primarily for the endocrinologist, Dr. Loraine is to be congratulated on having put a very involved subject well within the compass of any present-day physician.

The first chapter is a succinct summary of the general principles that underlie assay procedures: in the other chapters, the hormone, or group of hormones, is discussed under the headings of—chemical nature, theories about function, methods of assay, and the possible clinical application of these methods. Reference to subject matter is greatly facilitated, and one is not compelled to wallow through the slough of pseudo-essay that characterizes so much contemporary endocrine writing. In discussing adrenal diagnostic procedures, proper emphasis is laid on the work of Norymberski *et al.*, and it is high time that these methods succeeded the estimation of the less specific 'formaldehydogenic' or 'reducing' steroids. The noteworthy chapter on pituitary gonadotrophins is of the high standard that one would have expected from the author who has made signal advances in the methods of their assay. Incidentally, many endocrinologists will be interested to own a book that has only one reference to Selye!

Messrs. Livingstone have produced the combination of excellent printing and reasonable price that we have learnt to expect of them, though they would endear themselves to Natal doctors if they could ever devise a cockroach-proof cover!

I can recommend this book to all modern physicians and clinical pathologists as a 'must', and to all prospective writers of medical textbooks as an example of how one should be written, short, clear, concise: its effect on endocrine practice will be immeasurable. Professor Gaddum says in his foreword—"No clinical endocrinologist can afford to be without it: all those that are interested in the clinical application of hormone assays will find it valuable." There could be no better tribute than such words from a distinguished scientist.

G.D.C.