

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

INFERTILITY

Human Infertility. By C. Lee Buxton, M.D., Med. Sc.D. and Anna L. Southam, M.D. With a Chapter on Endometrial Diagnosis by Earl T. Engle, Ph.D. Pp. x+229. 43 Figures. \$7.50. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

Human infertility is still one of the most complex problems the profession has to deal with. This publication covers the subject very widely and thoroughly. The authors' arguments are all very sound and important, simple and basic. Their approach, above all, is honest and they do not profess to have found any new therapy for the condition.

The chapter on endometrial interpretation by such a renowned worker as the late E. T. Engle, must add prominence to this work. The clinical material presented in the publication is based on patients seen at the Sloane Hospital Infertility Clinic and in the authors' private practice. The total number of cases analysed was 2,053 but those followed-up for a year or more, totalled 1,568. The figures submitted are well presented and of great value to other workers in this field.

The importance of the infertile couple to be treated as a unit is very strongly emphasized. This procedure has been accepted in the USA and is borne out by the fact that the Specialty Board allows the gynaecologist to accept and treat the infertile couple as a unit.

Except for the usual 'Americanisms', the book is extremely well written and provides easy and enjoyable reading. It is printed on high-gloss paper and the illustrations are excellent.

J.A.

VERLOSKUNDIGE PRAKTYK

Obstetrical Practice. 7e druk. Deur Alfred C. Beck, M.D. en Alexander H. Rosenthal, M.D. Pp. xiii+1115. Illustrasies. \$14.00. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1958

Die sewende uitgawe van hierdie Amerikaanse teksboek en naslaanboek in verloskunde het in 1958 verskyn. Hierdie boek vergelyk baie goed met ander standaardwerke. Die teks lees maklik want alle stellinge word breedvoerig verduidelik. Illustrasies is goed en volop. Aan die einde van elke hoofstuk is daar 'n volledige bibliografie. Die fisiologiese aspekte van swangerskap en kraam word genoegsaam beklemtoon.

Om tred te hou met die nuutste navorsingsresultate en ontwikkelings in obstetrisiese praktyk is daar 'n nuwe hoofstuk geskrywe oor placentale fisiologie. Daar word verder gewaarsku teen onnodige roetine X-straalondersoeke in swangerskap.

Interessante nuwerwetse idees, wat wel opgeneem is in hierdie boek, is o.a. roetine binnearse voeding in die eerste en tweede stadia van kraam, en die gebruik van binnearse pitocin vir uterine disfunksie in die eerste stadium.

In die behandeling van die derde stadium word die Brandt-Andrews-metode van die placentata uitdruk aangeraai, terwyl Crede se metode glad nie eers genoem word nie.

Daar is verder ook nuwe hoofstukke oor prolaps van die naelstring, veelvoudige swangerskap, mola hidatosa, hidramnios en perinatale mortaliteit.

Die persoon wat kan bekostig om hierdie boek te koop, kry waarde vir sy geld. Dit kan aanbeveel word by voorgraadse en nagraadse studente, sowel as by algemene praktisyns en spesialiste in die verloskunde.

J.N. de V.

HISTOPATHOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE

Handbook of Histopathological Technique. (Including Museum Technique.) By C. F. A. Culling, F.I.M.L.T., F.R.M.S. Pp. x+446+(27). 79 Figures. 51s. 9d.+1s. 8d. Postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

This book, written in a simple and basic style, is primarily intended for the training of medical technologists, and as such covers the field of histological practice very adequately. In addition, however, practising histologists, no matter what their professional status, will find it of considerable use. That the author is a man of considerable experience is immediately reflected in its contents. The descriptions of techniques and the discussion of

practical difficulties that arise, and the means of overcoming them, can only come from an individual long familiar with his subject. It is probably this quality most of all that recommends the book.

The chapters that deal with section cutting and museum techniques are particularly useful. Very often, in other contemporary works, a discussion of section cutting is confined only to the simplest descriptions of apparatus and museum techniques are omitted. Section cutting, probably the most important single procedure, is given the attention it deserves.

Many technologists, who commence their training without the benefit of preliminary courses in anatomy and physiology, must encounter a bewildering flood of new terms and phrases. For them the introductory and explanatory notes which preface certain chapters must also serve a useful purpose.

The staining procedures described are standard ones, and despite the fact that histochemistry is really beyond the province of this book, it is remarkable how much of it is covered.

The sections on special procedures deal with autoradiography, vital staining, micro-incineration and injection techniques, but do little more than outline the principles involved in these procedures. Although a section is devoted to microscopy, these are really too skimpy to be of real use to anyone.

It is disappointing that a chapter on the principles of photography, with special reference to macrophotography and photomicrography, has not been included in a book otherwise as comprehensive as this. Other than its role in teaching, publication and research, photography, from the point of view of recording, forms an indispensable procedure to even the humblest routine histological laboratory, and no technologist can be regarded as adequately trained unless he has some knowledge of it.

The contents of this book is of such a fundamental nature that it could profitably be included in the library of every histological laboratory.

C.J.U.

CHEMOTHERAPY OF TUBERCULOSIS

The Chemistry and Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis. A compilation and critical review of existing knowledge on the chemistry of tubercle bacilli and their products, chemical changes and processes in the host, and chemical aspects of the treatment of tuberculosis. 3rd edition. By Esmond R. Long, M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D. Pp. xviii+450. Illustrations. Sterling price 96s. Published in England by Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd., London. \$12.00. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1958.

The 3rd edition of this review by Prof. E. R. Long represents the gleaned information, gathered over a period of 35 years, of our present knowledge of tuberculosis.

For those engaged in anti-tuberculosis work, this book will be invaluable, since it extracts the essentials from a voluminous literature and allows the reader to grasp the facts, while presenting him with lists of the original articles.

The general layout of the book is excellent and every chapter is provided with its own list of references.

As a critical review of our present knowledge of tuberculosis, its cause and effect, this book fulfils its purpose; and it is, moreover, a handy reference book on the subject as well, thanks to the excellent indexing.

J.B.P.

DISEASES OF WOMEN

Diseases of Women. 10th edition. By 10 teachers under the direction of F. W. Roques, C.B.E., M.D., M.Chir., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., edited by F. W. Roques, John Beattie and Joseph Wrigley. Pp. viii+556. 209 figures. 36s. net. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1959.

It is 40 years since this book was first published and it must have been found of great value to many thousands of students. Not only have there been 9 previous editions, but there have been 10 additional reprintings.

The present editors have maintained the effort of their predecessors to keep pace with developments in the practice of gynaecology, and while several chapters have been expanded, a section on vaginal cytology has been included.

This edition has some 75 more pages and 32 more figures than the last edition, and there is no doubt that it will meet with the same success as those it follows.

A.H.T.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL

The Medical Annual. A Year Book of Treatment and Practitioners' Index. Editors: Sir Henry Tidy, K.B.E., M.A., M.D. (Oxon), F.R.C.P. and R. Milnes Walker, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. Pp. xl+580+23+4. XLII plates. 30 figures. 42s. + 1s. 9d. postage. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1958.

This Medical Annual appears under a 'new look'. The subject matter has been grouped along different lines to that followed in previous editions. The publishers hope that this arrangement will facilitate reference to subject matters. This may prove to be the case. I doubt the superiority of the present to the old arrangement; however, it may prove useful in other respects.

An alphabetical order is purported to be followed in presenting the contents but this is not consistently followed. Thus, 'Special Article' might have taken its place after 'Skin Diseases', and its subdivisions require arrangement alphabetically too. Similarly, the subdivisions under 'Alimentary Diseases' do not follow one another alphabetically giving the impression of haphazardness

in their grouping which does not facilitate finding a particular point easily. The same applies to almost every other major subdivision in the book.

'Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery' might profitably have been grouped with and following 'General Surgery' under the heading 'Surgery', instead of being widely separated from each other.

On the medical side, some new articles appear: 'Changing Emphasis in Paediatrics'; 'Psychopharmacology' with special reference to pharmacological agents for influencing behaviour and aberrant mental and nervous states; a discussion of 'Carcinoma in Lung Scars'—a recent observation, and new ideas and advances in connexion with 'Nutrition and Vitamins'.

On the surgical side, attention is drawn to spectacular advances in cardiac, pulmonary, and gastro-intestinal surgery; the use of ileum in bladder and ureteric replacement in urology; the percutaneous vertebral angiography, and radiation dangers.

The book is packed with specialized information on all branches of medicine culled from British and American sources and, therefore, useful to specialists with here and there also something for the general practitioner. One would like to find more guidance in matters of treatment for the general practitioner, for he is more interested in this than in academical discussions.

G.C.A.v.d.W.