

BEAUMONT'S MEDICINE

*Medicine: Essentials for Practitioners and Students.* 7th Edition. By G. E. Beaumont, M.A. D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.). Pp. xviii+847. 70 Illustrations. 45s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

When Dr. Beaumont set out to prepare a text book on general medicine he was singularly successful in including the essentials and excluding extraneous matter. The result was a book which has been of immense benefit to senior students and of considerable value to practitioners in establishing diagnoses. It has kept its place in medicine for over 25 years and this new seventh edition maintains the high standard one expects of it. It has been thoroughly revised and the recent advances of the last four years have been included. One finds thus that there are 28 new articles while a new chapter (Chap. VI) on Water and Electrolytic Balance, written by Dr. P. H. Friedlander, has also been included. Many other sections of the earlier edition have been rewritten, new notes added and references made to the therapeutic use of more than 30 new preparations.

The value of Dr. Beaumont's works is so well known that this new edition will be welcomed by all who have appreciated his other writings.

T.A.

FRAZER'S OSTEOLOGY

*Frazer's Anatomy of the Human Skeleton. Fifth Edition.* Edited by A. S. Breathnach, M.D., M.Sc. Pp. viii + 247. Illustrations 197. Many in colour. 50s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

Professor Frazer's intention when writing his text-book on the 'Anatomy of the Human Skeleton,' which first appeared in 1914, was to relegate the pure description of the dry bone to a secondary place and to present the bones as they exist in the body in their intimate relationship to surrounding structures. A great attraction of this work has always been the detailed accounts of muscular and ligamentous attachments on the bones, based on specimens specially dissected for this purpose, and it is probable that no other book presents such exact analysis of these features.

The new editor has carefully maintained the original character and text of Frazer's work, perhaps too carefully as regards the text. E.g., some out of date terminology such as process of Kerckring (p. 185) and canal of Huguier (p. 192) could have been omitted with

advantage. The present 5th edition has been expanded to include a number of X-rays, altogether 8 plates, each plate with 2 or 3 skiagrams. These are well chosen and illustrate anatomical levels of the skeleton, epiphyses in young bones, joints in varying positions, etc. Dr. Breathnach emphasizes in his preface that certain sections of the skull have been almost entirely re-written and that the paranasal sinuses have been given fuller treatment. Having decided on X-ray plates as a new feature, it seems strange that the author should have neglected to present at least one skiagram to illustrate the air sinuses of the skull. Other chapters which have received new treatment are those on the pelvis and the arches of the foot. In the description of the bones of the foot there is a valuable reference to recent work on the ligamentous versus muscular control in the maintenance of the arches, and the question of their relative importance seems to have been answered. When the feet support the weight of the body in standing, the arches are maintained entirely by the osteo-ligamentous mechanism for short periods of about 30 seconds, alternating with periods of muscular contractions. This has been shown by electromyograph recordings with electrodes strapped to the back of the leg. The lists of references at the end of each chapter were not seen in previous editions, and they form a valuable addition to the book.

We welcome this new edition of a well-established anatomical text-book, and have no doubt that it will continue to appeal to students studying for higher surgical qualifications, or intending to become anatomists.

J.A.K.

YEAR BOOK OF DRUG THERAPY

*The Year Book of Drug Therapy 1957-1958.* Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D. Pp. 518. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

This book consists of summaries of the most important articles relating to drug therapy published during the past year. The articles cover a wide range of medical disorders in which drugs are used, but the selection with a few exceptions is confined to literature printed in English with the accent on American work. European work is virtually neglected.

In my opinion the most valuable form for a Year Book to take would be a series of critical reviews of the work done in the various branches of a subject, rather than a collection of abstracts such as is the case with this book. However, the papers chosen for sum-

marizing are so grouped as to provide a comprehensive survey of the work done in each field. With puckish humor the author frequently places conflicting articles alongside one another. Thus an article, lauding the superiority of the new hypotensive drugs over a control series treated with phenobarbitone, is placed next to an article proving as convincingly that phenobarbitone is at least as effective as other antipressor drugs and much less harmful. Brief but pertinent comments by the editor are to be found at the end of many of the articles. These comments considerably enhance the value of the book.

In an introductory Editorial the editor delivers a spirited attack on the 'obfuscation, specious double talk and downright deceit billowing out of some of the pharmaceutical houses'. His sentiments will be echoed by many a harassed doctor overwhelmed and numbed by the propaganda which accompanies the unceasing shower of new products rained upon them.

This book should be of value to the general practitioner and specialist anxious to keep abreast of advances in drug therapy.

B.G.S.

#### MEDICAL TELEOLOGY

*Medical Teleology and Miscellaneous Subjects.* By F. Parkes Weber, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.S.A. Pp. viii+86. 15s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1958.

The first portion of this book is mainly a revised edition of chapters which appeared in 'Some thoughts of a Doctor'. In the second two-thirds are notes on miscellaneous subjects.

The author gives nine examples of reactions which are purposeful in the sense indicated by the title, beginning with the ophthalmic sign of death, the fragmentation of the columns of blood in the retinal vessels. This he interprets as a purposeful reaction to obstruction, using the term in its broadest sense, in this case, interference with the circulation owing to cessation of the heart-beat. He does not discuss the interesting fact that arteries are empty of blood post mortem, and are so called because of that.

In the chapter on 'Vicious circles in disease and nature's efforts to deal with them,' he builds up the conception that certain episodic diseases are the result of periodic accumulations of toxic substances which are got rid of by reactive crises. The reviewer does not subscribe to these 'purposeful' manifestations in the group of diseases discussed, nor to the author's examples and interpretations of safety-valve actions and reactions. This is not to say that he does not believe that 'blowing-off steam' and 'getting it off your chest' or aggressive reaction in certain situations may not be beneficial.

Parkes Weber is always at his best on the rare case. In the second portion of the book, 'Miscellaneous Subjects,' we have sketchy references to unusual diseases or peculiar symptoms as well as to such diverse subjects as Greek vases, collections of coins, tombstone inscriptions and remembered happenings in his intern and registrar days—a veritable miscellany.

F.F.

#### INTRACARDIAC ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

*Electrocardiographie Endo-Cavitaire.* Par H. Latour et P. Puech. Pp. ix plus 294. Figs. 132. 3.200 fr. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1957.

This highly technical and very specialized work is the product of two members of the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier in France, working in the department of cardiology which is directed by Professor G. Giraud. It deals with the electro-cardiographic findings obtained by intra-cardiac electrodes, the right side of the heart being reached by venous catheterization, the left side by retrograde arterial catheterization. Different regions of the auricles and ventricles are carefully explored both by unipolar and bipolar electrodes and the findings obtained from numerous patients, suffering from diverse cardiac conditions, constitute the kernel of the book.

The factors which bring about the varying differences in potential, as revealed by intra cardiac electrography, are carefully analysed by the authors whose diligent research carries them over a wide field of investigation. The book abounds with diagrams and reproductions of electro-cardiograms from the authors' many patients and each case is discussed with meticulous detail. Each tracing receives close attention and explanation so that the book must be a very rich fund of information for those engaged in this kind of work. It certainly is a worthy addition to the list of brilliant monographs published by Messrs. Masson et Cie of Paris. A

proper appraisal of its scientific value could only be offered by someone with a highly specialized knowledge and experience of electro-cardiography. These qualifications this reviewer does not possess. But I can record the impression it conveys of a scholarly survey of the electrical changes in the normally functioning heart—and that means dealing with the auricles, ventricles, aorta, pulmonary artery and other anatomical regions in great detail—ranging over hypertrophy of the auricles and ventricles, disturbances of conduction, myocardial infarct, aberrations of rhythm to a lengthy consideration of the Wolff-Parkinson syndrome.

There are 283 pages of text and 132 illustrative figures, many of which have as many as a dozen electro-cardiographic tracings. While the exhibition of such a profound knowledge of this subject is a testimonial to the authors' ability and a credit to the medical faculty of Montpellier, the uneven, uncut pages in a poorly bound, flimsy, paper cover are hardly a suitable vehicle for the presentation of such a work.

C.K.O'M.

#### GLAISTER'S MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE

*Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology.* Tenth Edition. By John Glaister, J.P., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.F.P.S.(Glasg.), In Collaboration with Edgar Rentoul, M.B.E., M.A., LL.B., M.B., Ch.B. Pp. xi + 720. 225 Illustrations, 72 in colour. 47s. 6d. net. Postage 1s. 7d. Abroad. Edinburgh: E & S Livingstone Ltd. 1957.

The first edition of 'Glaister' was published as long ago as 1902, and through the years there has been a steady expansion of the work to its present unique status in the field of Forensic Medicine. The 9th edition was published in 1950; there was a revised reprint in 1953, and the present edition has been fully revised with significant additions. These additions reflect the legislative changes which have taken place in the United Kingdom during recent years and include references to several areas of advance in the science of Forensic Medicine. Of particular interest is the reference to the anti-human globulin test for human blood. There seems little doubt that the use of this test in the examination of forensic exhibits may substantially improve the test criteria which have been used in the past to establish blood stains as human blood stains.

It is extremely difficult in a work of such a comprehensive nature to direct attention to specific sections of the book, but of particular value are the cases described and illustrated in the sections on deaths from drowning, suffocation, hanging, strangulation, electrical injuries, burning, fire-arm wounds and visceral injuries.

The book contains some 225 illustrations of which 72 are in colour. Many of these illustrations, and in particular those showing the characteristics of the different kinds of wounds caused by blunt force, are of an outstanding nature and should serve as a most valuable guide to students and medical practitioners.

A great deal of information has been included in the section on Toxicology, but in the very nature of this subject, with the development of new pharmaceutical, commercial and household products, it is virtually impossible to provide information which can be applied in all the emergencies of forensic medical practice. The descriptions of acute arsenical poisoning, acute carbon monoxide poisoning and acute alcoholic intoxication will be found to be of value to practitioners in the field.

Apart from the unnecessary use of 'full points' at the end of headings and sub-headings, the production of this book cannot be faulted. It is well bound and the publishers have used a most attractive double colour style on the spine. The high quality coated art paper shows the illustrations to the greatest possible advantage.

The 10th edition of 'Glaister' maintains the tradition established by the present author's father at the turn of the century, and it should prove a most useful reference work for those engaged in medico-legal practice in this country.

I.G.

#### SURGERY OF THE LENS

*Symposium on Diseases and Surgery of the Lens.* Edited by George M. Haik, M.D., F.A.C.S. and Elizabeth M. McFetridge, M.A. Pp. 260. 233 Illustrations. South African Price: £4 9s. 3d. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1957.

This is a beautifully produced and well-edited book. It has been evolved from a symposium on diseases and surgery of the lens

held in New Orleans. It avoids all the repetitions and over-lapping which is usually found with multiple authorship. Seven distinguished ophthalmologists, including Derrick Vail, Paul Chandler and Frederick Cordes are responsible for it.

Much space is devoted to the treatment of congenital cataract. Because of the associated abnormalities and the age of the patient, congenital cataract has a much poorer prognosis than in patients with senile cataract. Since most congenital cataracts are stationary it seems advisable to leave the patient alone if the vision is 6/15 or better. In any borderline case it is important not to hurry into operation in early life. Cordes does not operate on the first eye before 6 months of age.

Linear extraction as a primary procedure results in fewer complications than multiple needling of the lens. The necessity of a dilated pupil both at and after operation is much stressed. Atropine should not be discontinued before all the cortex is absorbed, to avoid an occlusion of the pupil. Zieglers V shaped through and through dissection and intracapsular extraction are both condemned as disastrous procedures.

Techniques of cataract extraction are clearly described with much emphasis on the mechanics and reasons for each manoeuvre. This teleological approach is exceedingly helpful and rewarding to the ophthalmologist. Lowering the tension by firm pressure on the eyeball, applied after injection of the anaesthetic agent, is believed to be the most important single factor in the prevention of vitreous loss.

Perhaps the finest feature of this fine book is the round table discussion in which over 200 questions are answered.

The book must fascinate and enlighten every eye surgeon.

S.A.

#### SIDELIGHTS ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

*Sidelights on the History of Medicine.* Edited by Sir Zachary Cope. Pp. x + 246. 18 Figures. 45s. + 1s. 9d. Postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

The section of the History of Medicine in the Royal Society of Medicine has heard many papers over the past 40 years and this book presents a selection of these. Most of the papers are printed without alteration. It is quite a shock, for example, to see a reference cited as being a personal communication from Sir William Osler! The selection of papers is wide and covers many fields from Ancient Egyptian and Greek medicine to as recent events as the

discovery of X-rays or the bombing of the Royal College of Physicians in the 2nd World War.

It would be invidious to select any article as more worthy of mention than any other for as might be expected a high standard is maintained throughout. But there is at least something for most of the specialties, Humphrey Davy on Anaesthesia, the parturition chair and the history of ovariectomy for the Gynaecologists, the discoverers of auscultation and percussion and the story of William Withering for the physicians, surgical lectures of 150 years ago for the surgeons—and so on. But there is much of general interest for all—the fees of our predecessors, for example!! Even the patient is not forgotten!!

It is a book for an idle moment, for a sick bed—or perhaps even to be taken in small doses as a soporific at bedtime.

M.C.

#### DISEASES OF CHILDREN

*A Handbook on Diseases of Children—Including Dietetics and the Common Fevers.* Eighth Edition. By Bruce Williamson, M.D.(Edin.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.). Pp. xi + 483. 27s. 6d. net + 1s. 6d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1957.

This small volume, which is as remarkable as ever for its concise and nevertheless full contents, retains its familiar original form. The handy size, the arrangement of the chapters and the bold-type sub-headings are retained and greatly facilitate easy reading and quick reference. The larger size of this 8th Edition reflects new additions to the text and full revision, especially as regards therapy.

New syndromes are included and recent advances in treatment have occasioned the rewriting of many sections, bringing the book up to date. The book is well written, covering the essentials of modern pediatric practice, and is probably the best hand book on the subject of diseases of children available at present. The sections on dietetics and the common fevers are particularly noteworthy and will undoubtedly prove most useful.

This book is not intended to be a reference book for specialized graduates in paediatrics but is a concise, lucid and comprehensive manual for students, graduates and trained nurses requiring a convenient volume for study, revision or reference purposes in the field of Children's Diseases. For this purpose the book is strongly recommended.

R.M.