

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

PRACTICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

Practical Electrocardiography. 2nd Edition. By Henry J. L. Marriott, M.D. Pp. xvi + 226. 158 Illustrations. 40s. net. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, Ltd. 1957.

The author describes the basic patterns encountered in routine electrocardiography in a very simple form. He is not wedded to unipolar electrocardiography and therefore points out the occasional advantages obtained by the use of CR and CF leads. Little time is spent on theoretical considerations and throughout the text is simple and practical, as the name of the book would indicate. The arrhythmias are well illustrated and only the important aspects described. The major patterns encountered in heart disease and in extra-cardiac disturbances are concisely and clearly shown. The student, in particular, will find this a very easy introduction to electrocardiography, with a minimum of theoretical considerations to confuse him.

This small book can be recommended to students and practitioners who are not specialists in this field of medicine.

S.V.

LABORATORY APPLICATIONS IN PEDIATRICS

Laboratory Applications in Clinical Pediatrics. By Irving J. Wolman, M.D. Pp. xi + 1019. \$15.00. New York—Toronto—London: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1957.

This book is a joy to possess.

The majority of books having titles similar to this one have the general characteristics of a good soporific. They are read of necessity and certainly not from choice. Dr. Wolman is to be congratulated on the skill with which he has compressed masses of scientific facts of a physiological, haematological, biochemical, bacteriological, and clinical nature into one compact yet extremely readable and interesting volume. This is a major achievement.

There are no diagrams of any kind, no graphs, no charts, and only a bare minimum of tables. The winnowing of the contents has been thorough and done by a master, not only of the many biochemical and other investigations, but also of their application to the patient and his problems. Many clinicopathological tests are described though there is no attempt to make a compendium of purely laboratory procedures. 'The criterion for inclusion is its usefulness for diagnosis.' There is an excellent and up-to-date bibliography at the end of each section and this is of the greatest value, even to research workers. The index is full and accurate.

The book was intended and justifies itself as one for 'every physician who deals with children' and certainly not for occupying a place on a laboratory shelf, though it would be perfectly at home there. The preface indicates that he, the physician, should be selective rather than indiscriminate when soliciting help from the laboratory. His task will be made infinitely easier if he is conversant with even a minor fraction of its contents. He, whoever he may be and whether he works in general practice or in some other sphere of paediatric activity, will certainly feel that in this as an addition to his reference library, his money has been well invested.

F.J.F.

HUMAN PARASITOLOGY

Blacklock and Southwell—A Guide to Human Parasitology for Medical Practitioners. 6th Edition. Revised by T. H. Davey, O.B.E., M.D., D.T.M. Pp. viii + 222. 119 Figures. £1 10s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1958.

It is indeed pleasant to meet an old friend, Blacklock and Southwell, again. Many medical men must have had their introduction to parasitology through the pages of this book. The present edition is, like its predecessors, severely practical, but one would have liked to have seen a little more of the philosophy of parasitism; possibly a short chapter dealing with the host-parasite relationship would not have been out of place.

It was disappointing to see no mention of the zinc sulphate technique for the concentration of amoebic cysts and helminth ova for, properly used, this technique is as effective as the formalin-ether technique for ova and is immeasurably superior for protozoan cysts.

There is an unfortunate perpetuation of the mislabelling of *Iso spor a hominis* when what is depicted is in fact *I. belli*, particularly when this is mentioned in the preface. Some authorities might question the existence of parasitic males of *Strongyloides*

stercoralis and no mention is made of the readily distinguishable genital rudiment in the distinction of the rhabditiform larvae of *Strongyloides* from those of the Hookworms. More stress might have been laid on auto-infection with this parasite.

Dealing with *Larva migrans*, the author states that this might be due to either infection with *Ancylostoma braziliense* or *Ancylostoma caninum*—infections with the latter worm are rare. Mention should perhaps also have been made of the visceral *Larva migrans* following on infections with *Toxocara*.

Despite the many criticisms, this is a book which can quite definitely be recommended for those interested in the animal invaders of man.

R.E.D.

BIOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

Biochemical Investigations in Diagnosis and Treatment. 2nd Edition. By John D. N. Nabarro, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi + 299. 25s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1958.

This small book is quite remarkable for the amount of information which has been compressed into it; occasionally the compression results in near obliteration, but as a rule great skill has been displayed in the selection of material. The book is intended for the clinician as a guide to the selection of biochemical tests and to the interpretation of the results obtained. Not much attention is given to the underlying scientific mechanisms. In addition to the commoner tests, some of the newer procedures are briefly but helpfully discussed; examples are the corticotrophin test for adrenal efficiency, the calcium infusion test for parathyroid tumour and the insulin-glucose and cortisone-glucose tolerance tests. It is recommended that some obsolete tests be discarded. The sections on electrolytes and on the adrenal are particularly good.

The book ends with lists of investigations on blood, urine and faeces with the normal limits of their results. Each list is divided into 'tests usually undertaken in hospital laboratories' and 'tests not regularly undertaken . . .'. This will have the approval of the laboratories, for few junior clinicians seem to realise the extra work an extra word on the request form may entail. Perhaps these lists could be reprinted for the laboratory workers to send to their clinical colleagues as a Christmas card.

References are given to general reading at the end of each chapter. Occasionally references on special subjects are given in the text. The tables of normal values give references to original papers. This assortment of references works out satisfactorily without waste of space.

G.C.L.

THE SKELETON IN CHILDHOOD

Das Skelett des Kindes. Entwicklung, Bildungsfehler und Erkrankungen. Von Doz. Dr. W. Swoboda, Wien. xii+184 Seiten. 199 Abbildungen in 222 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 48.—. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1956.

In his first chapter, the editor describes the principal features of normal radiology of the juvenile skeleton with special reference to the newborn. Following sections deal with the anomalies and diseases of the skeleton during childhood, classified according to etiology or differential diagnosis: congenital and endocrine disorders, bone pathology due to malnutrition and faulty metabolism, inflammation, infection, toxins and diseases of the lymphoreticulo-endothelial system. The last chapters give a selection of bone tumors and traumatic effects.

Although well illustrated, this book is not an atlas of radiology. It favourably combines clinical features and radiology, thereby serving as a valuable guide both to radiologist and clinician. It can be specially recommended to general practitioners attending to children, paediatricians, radiologists, orthopaedic surgeons, surgeons and endocrinologists.

G.H.M.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS

Recent Trends in Chronic Bronchitis. Edited by Neville C. Oswald, M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. vii+199. 74 Figures. 30s. net. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1958.

This is a very useful book and a few points are worth quoting: 1. There was a consistently high prevalence of bronchitis in smokers as found in England. 2. The relative importance of *H. influenzae*

and the pneumococcus in the causation of bronchitis and the great benefit of antibiotics in the form of Penicillin and Streptomycin in the treatment of the secondary infection in this condition. Penicillin and Streptomycin were found as effective as any other antibiotic. The Tetracycline drugs were perhaps the most useful of the wider spectrum antibiotics in this condition. If deterioration in the condition is to be arrested, the exacerbations should be suppressed as rapidly and effectively as possible with the antibiotics mentioned. To find the organism which is mostly responsible for this condition, many cultures must be taken from a single plug of sputum because often mucus hides the pus and a smear from the mucus may show nothing.

In the chapter on disturbance of respiratory function it is emphasized that quite useful information can be gained from simple methods of measurements and that complicated measurements, while useful, are not absolutely necessary. The value for instance of routine measurements of the vital capacity in following the progress of patients with bronchial asthma is stressed. The measurement of oxygen saturation in the arterial blood, which can be fairly simply done with an oximeter is valuable in emphysema, but is certainly much less sensitive than a routine examination of maximal midexpiratory flow rate.

In your reviewer's opinion this is a valuable and most comprehensive little book on chronic bronchitis and is recommended.

M.N.

INTRAVENOUS CHOLANGIOGRAPHY

Intravenöse Cholangiographie. Grundlagen, Technik, Ergebnisse. Von Priv.-Doz. Dr. Th. Hornykiewytsch, Giessen. Mit einem Geleitwort von Prof. Dr. R. Janker, Bonn, und einem Vorwort von Prof. Dr. H. Bohn, Giessen. xii+159 Seiten. 110 Abbildungen in 185 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 54.—. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1956.

This monograph is a description of intravenous cholangiography with Biligradin. (This contrast medium has been proved, to allow a rapid examination of the biliary tract and to be less toxic than other conventional contrast media.) By this technique, the bile passages could be demonstrated in 88% of 1,800 healthy individuals. A detailed description is given of the radiological symptoms in abnormal bile passages. This, and numerous impressive radiographs demonstrate how far radiological diagnostics can now be carried beyond ordinary cholecystography: e.g. cholangitis, various forms of stenosis of the bile passages, calculi, even dysfunction without anatomical changes, long ago postulated and described clinically by von Bergmann and his associates.

The last chapter deals with the important post-cholecystectomy syndrome. Since, according to statistics, 47% of all patients are found to have complaints after cholecystectomy, the importance of improved cholecystography plus cholangiography—in addition to pre- and postoperative radiomanometry—becomes evident. This book, with an interesting preface by the clinician Bohn, is of particular value to radiologists, physicians and surgeons.

G.H.M.

AIDS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Aids to Public Health. 8th Edition. By Llywelyn Roberts, M.D. (Hygiene), M.R.C.P., D.P.H. Pp. viii+335. 10s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1957.

This little publication is, as its author so carefully states, only a pocket edition for the assistance of students preparing for examinations in public health and preventative medicine.

Perusal of its well-set-out format reveals a number of rather controversial statements, one of which gives the mortality rate of typhoid fever as varying between 10% and 15%. Perhaps these figures refer to the pre-antibiotic days; they certainly do not in any way reflect the figures and rates obtaining in this country, where typhoid fever is endemic with seasonal epidemic outbreaks. A further somewhat surprising statement that typhoid organisms are recoverable from the faeces during the first week of typhoid fever is hardly in keeping with present-day knowledge of the pathological and bacteriological aspects of this disease.

Apart from minor errors of this sort, this book covers a very wide field with chapters, of necessity greatly abbreviated, on industrial health, social care, problems of the aged and personal hygiene, all facets of public health which have only recently come into prominence. It is, however, surprising to note that in the last-named chapter very little mention is made of accidents in the home and their prevention. Surely this most fruitful field for

both the general practitioner and the health visitor should have received more emphasis?

A very interesting and useful appendix listing suitable text books for additional reading is added. The index for such a small publication is full and accurate.

I have no hesitation in recommending this little aid to those individuals who prefer their facts potted and who realize the shortcomings and limited applicability of such a publication.

E.D.C.

PSYCHIATRIST AND PAINTINGS

The Door of Serenity. By Ainslie Meyers, M.B.B.S., B.Agric. Sc., D.P.M. Pp. 110. Coloured Plates 24. 21s. net. London: Faber & Faber, 1958.

Art as a form of occupational therapy has for long been encouraged and many an invalid has found comfort and stimulus in dabbling with paint and canvas. As a specific means of psychotherapy, however, it serves a more direct purpose and is used, as are the verbal communications, to interpret the patient's unconscious feelings which are here pictorially represented.

This book is a short work describing the use of a schizophrenic girl's paintings in bringing her through the door of serenity back to sanity. The paintings are in no way a conscious pictorial representation of her feelings but are the spontaneous product of forces within her mind of which she is not fully aware; they follow no logical laws and only grotesque phantasy determines the symbolism so that quite bizarre inconsistencies are seen. The ideas are always horrible, at any rate until near the end, and the paintings caused great distress even though the patient had no conscious understanding of their meaning and in fact the ideas expressed verbally could hardly be expressed in words.

Every psychiatrist will find this book interesting but most will have the feeling that much of the therapeutic success was due to the warm-hearted understanding achieved by a psychiatrist dedicated to the cure of this particular patient.

S.B.

ANAESTHESIA AND OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Anesthesia and Otolaryngology. By Donald F. Proctor, M.D. Pp. xvi+268. 33 Illustrations and Drawings. 56s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1957.

As a practising anaesthetist, I cannot find myself in agreement with several of Dr. Proctor's techniques, for example his recommendation of topical anaesthesia for the passing of an endotracheal tube, in a patient with a full stomach.

A whole section is devoted to otolaryngological procedures under local anaesthesia. The techniques are well described and easily followed. In these days of modern anaesthetic techniques, however, I feel that bronchoscopies, and in fact most other otolaryngological operations need only be done under local anaesthesia when no anaesthetist is available.

There is, however, much to be learned from him, and his book is full of sound advice, more particularly the chapters on pre-operative and post-anaesthetic care.

Section four of the book is particularly valuable, and the chapter on respiratory resuscitation should be carefully read and the advice given followed in every hospital in this country.

There are numerous references and the book is well printed.

M.B.B.

YEAR BOOK OF PEDIATRICS

The Year Book of Pediatrics—1957-1958. Edited by Sydney S. Gellis, M.D. Pp. 469. 153 Illustrations. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1957.

The 1957/1958 edition is well received.

Since 1952 the Year Book of Pediatrics has been under the editorial command of Dr. Sydney S. Gellis; from then onwards Dr. Gellis has maintained the high standard of his predecessors and this 1957/1958 Year Book carries on this tradition.

The abstracts this year cover the usual wide field and are spread over the world's literature. Although inclusive of American publications, they also have increased coverage of the literature of other countries. Their selection has again been very well made.

The abstracts are grouped under the same 17 headings as in previous editions and many of them are followed by editorial comment or the invited comment of various experts in their particular fields. Most of these comments are undoubtedly of value and interest but a few are controversial. The abstracts also

provide the stimulus to refer to the complete articles and papers in their respective journals.

This book is similar in production to the previous editions—maintaining its excellence in this respect and it is also suitably and well indexed. It is recommended reading to all interested in infant and child care but one would be happier with the price a little reduced.

I.K.

MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGERY

Fortschritte der Kiefer- und Gesichts-Chirurgie. Ein Jahrbuch. Band II. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Karl Schuchardt und Prof. Dr. Martin Wassmund. viii+268 Seiten. 291 zum Teil mehrfarbige Abbildungen. DM. 60.—. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1956.

This book is the second volume of papers dealing with maxillo-facial surgery. It is an exceedingly well-illustrated book which can be also recommended to those not quite proficient in reading German. The book is partly written in English; the papers are followed by a summary in English. This volume contains a mass of technical advice which cannot be reviewed in detail but which is undoubtedly of value to the expert. The illustrations of the book impressively demonstrate to the non-expert that much better results can be achieved in maxillo-facial plastic surgery than it seems to be known to many general practitioners. For example: 'The technique of neutralization of colour in capillary haemangiomas of the face by intradermal injection (tattooing) of permanent pigments' by Conway and Stark, Cornell Medical Centre, New York, 'The surgical treatment of bilateral congenital facial paralysis' by Webster, Columbia University, New York, 'Additive face lifting and eye-lifting in facial paralysis' by Schroeder, Kieferklinik, University of Hamburg. A study of this book is recommended to plastic surgeons, neurosurgeons and ENT specialists.

G.H.M.

DERMATOLOGIST AND ALLERGIC THERAPY

Thérapeutique Dermatologique et Allergologique. Évolution et Tendances. Published under the Direction of Jacques Charpy. Pp. 380. 22 Figures. 2.500 fr. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1957.

This book is a collection of papers presented at the 7th annual gathering of the Marseilles branch of the Société Française de Dermatologie in October 1956. There are about 60 papers of varying quality from French, Italian, German, Spanish and other continental contributors, and they give a good survey of contemporary views on dermatological therapy in Europe. Those who do not habitually read the continental journals will find it interesting and profitable.

J.M.

HANDBOOK OF MIDWIFERY AND GYNAECOLOGY

A Practical Handbook of Midwifery and Gynaecology for Students and Practitioners. Fifth Edition. By W. F. T. Haultain, O.B.E., M.C., B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G. and Clifford Kennedy M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x+410. 50 Illustrations. 30s. net + 1s. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1957.

This book is not designed as a complete text-book of obstetrics and gynaecology but as a book for quick reference, or, in the case of students, for revision. The text is written in note form and deals with the practical aspects of clinical diagnosis and treatment. Theories of aetiology are conspicuous by their absence and are only mentioned when they have some bearing on treatment.

The section on obstetrics is, I think, the best and the chapter dealing with extra-uterine gestation is particularly good. My only criticisms in this chapter are, firstly, that insufficient emphasis has been placed on the danger to the baby when either internal or bipolar version is performed—in most instances Caesarean Section is a safer alternative—and, secondly, the inclusion of foetal indications for therapeutic abortion, namely Rhesus incompatibility with foetal deaths and rubella at less than two months gestation, is controversial and might not be upheld in a court of law.

The retention of a section on the use of bougies and the hydrostatic bag is surprising in such an up-to-date book.

The section on infections of the genital tract follows logically

on the section dealing with puerperal sepsis. It is very well presented and should be a great help to the student who wishes to clarify the vague term 'chronic pelvic infection'.

Tubal insufflation is described using air; this is extremely dangerous and several fatalities have occurred from air embolism. Carbon dioxide insufflation does not carry this danger and should always be used in preference.

Despite these criticisms this is an ideal book for revision and can be recommended to both the final year student and the general practitioner.

D.M.

ANATOMY OF CONGENITAL PULMONARY STENOSIS

The Anatomy of Congenital Pulmonary Stenosis. By Sir Russell Brock. M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. (Hon.). Pp. xiii+114. 76 Illustrations. 30s. net. London: Cassell and Company Ltd. 1957.

This book is a model of clear exposition, in short, forceful and unequivocal English. As always, Sir Russell Brock speaks from a thorough personal study and observation of both pathological specimens and of the living heart. The author confines himself to a study of anatomy, from its embryology to its development into normal or abnormal structures and includes function as deduced from form as seen at operation. A clear and minute description of the *bulbus cordis* forms the centre of the early chapters, and deviations from normal development are followed from pure pulmonary stenosis to its various associations with septal defects and aortic root displacements, ending with transpositions and common ventricle. These variations are classified, perhaps, in too clearly separated groups, and the consequent radiological and angiographic appearances are well presented. From these studies, surgical rationale is discussed, and certain difficulties and mistakes made in the early days are explained. In one chapter the author shows how, after division of a pulmonary valve stenosis, the hypertrophied muscle of the infundibulum may yet spoil the result by obstructing the outflow tract. Another cause of failure, this time produced by the infundibular punch, is the closeness of the infundibular stenosis to the septal cusp of the tricuspid valve. Of Sir Russell's 168 cases of Fallot's tetralogy, 3 were associated with a short fibrous diaphragm and were amenable to punch excision.

In his last chapter he puts forward evidence, from personal observation, from Keith's anatomical observations and from Prinzmetal's film, of a peristaltic form of action of the infundibulum, which has certain consequences in cases of Fallot's tetralogy. One of them is the tendency, during periods of increased tonus of the infundibulum, to decreased pulmonary flow and cyanosis with or without syncope. Another is the occasional anomalous pressure change seen in the infundibulum during cardiac catheterization, sometimes leading to misdiagnosis.

With all its wealth of knowledge and information the book is short, and must be followed with close attention, but it is relieved from any hint of dryness by its lively language and its occasional flash of humour, in keeping with its author's previous works. It contains numerous and clear photographs and diagrams, as would be expected from the teacher who wrote it. It is a classic in its subject and must be read by all physicians or surgeons interested in cardiac surgery.

L.F.

FELLOWSHIP IN SOCIAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Report to the World Health Organization on a Fellowship in Social and Occupational Health (including workmen's compensation, accident prevention and rehabilitation) Spent in Great Britain, The Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and Germany (1957). By Gerald Machanik, M.R.C.S. (Eng.). L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Rand). Pp 113. Pretoria: Workmen's Compensation Office, 1957.

Edgar L. Collis, in his retrospect of prehistoric industry writes: 'The statement may be made that the intelligence of a race is measured by its industry, and that the primary *raison d'être* of industry is safety and health. In other words industry is the means human intelligence employs to insure the existence of the race.'

This essential purpose of human endeavour has become ob-

scured in the involved processes of industrial development. It is with the fate of the individuals making up the working force of the nations that Dr. Machanik is concerned. Thus his World Health Organization fellowship took him to Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and Germany to study the developments that have taken place there in the fields of Social and Industrial Health.

In his report, which is divided into sections, he deals with the subject in considerable detail. At the end of each chapter, however, its noteworthy features are presented. These are analysed and discussed with balanced judgment in the final chapter of each section.

The subject is treated in a broad, philosophical manner. Emphasis is placed upon the enhancement of the physical and mental well-being of the individual and the consequent harmonious functioning of the population.

Passing from the opening chapters in which the various compensation schemes of the countries visited are summarized, the author introduces the reader to a wider concept of the problem of occupational disablement. He points to the general recognition that much more is needed than the simple monetary compensation and medical aid that has been accepted until recently as the full entitlement of workmen sick or injured as a result of their work. It is through preventive and rehabilitative measures and positive promotive health programmes that the most rewarding develop-

ment can be expected. The different systems of supervision of industrial health and safety are skilfully described and compared. The section on rehabilitation is particularly outstanding. Reference is made to the former attitude which accepted the wastage due to sickness and injury as inevitable and gave little thought or attention to hastening the return to work of the sick and injured or to the employment of handicapped persons. A more humanistic attitude and changed circumstances, in which the productive effort of each individual is essential to the well-being of the nation, have caused a new attitude to the restoration to health, working capacity and social independence of the incapacitated. This has led to the establishment of occupational therapy and vocational training centres, retraining workshops and rehabilitation centres for the industrially injured, fatigued and maladjusted.

The advantages of the various schemes operating in the different countries are discussed and evaluated, and the conclusions drawn are clearly stated. This is a most valuable document in which is revealed an acute awareness of our human obligations and social responsibilities in a world of rapid technological advance and industrial achievement. It merits the careful study of all who are concerned with the efficient functioning of industry and the welfare of the industrial worker. Included in this category are all those medical practitioners who have as their patients the workers of industry.

M.G.W.