

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### A STUDY OF PORTAL HYPERTENSION

*A Contribution to the Study of Portal Hypertension.* Jacksonian Prize Essay Royal College of Surgeons 1956. By Alan Henderson Hunt, M.A., D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Pp. xi+230. 120 Figures. 40s. net + 1s. 9d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

This contribution to the study of portal hypertension received the Jacksonian prize of The Royal College of Surgeons for the

year 1956. It reflects Mr. Hunt's unique experience in the management of portal hypertension and is based on an analysis of 250 personal cases. It is free from speculation and has as its purpose the examination of new findings and assessment of new methods of treatment. Therein lies its great value because cases were in no way selected, and included many desperately ill persons in the terminal stages of their disease.

The normal and applied anatomy of the portal vein and hepatic

artery is described and abnormalities found during the course of portal and splenic venography are illustrated.

The cases are classified on an anatomical basis—32 with extrahepatic obstruction and 218 with intrahepatic obstruction—and these are further subdivided according to the cause of the obstruction. A concise account is then given of the various abnormal porto-systemic communications which develop in portal hypertension.

Mr. Hunt lays great stress on the concept of portal stasis as opposed to portal hypertension and points out that pressure readings alone may give an erroneous impression as far as porto-systemic anastomoses are concerned. Other factors which are as important and require investigation are the speed of flow in the portal vein and portal stagnation.

The clinical manifestations and investigation of a case of portal hypertension are clearly set out and the preparation of patients for operation is fully discussed.

The emergency treatment of haemorrhage from varices by means of a Sengstaken-Blakemore tube and by various types of operations is described and the definitive treatment of the condition itself is dealt with in detail. The author prefers porta-caval anastomosis or, if this is impossible, lieno-renal anastomosis, above all other types of treatment, but emphasizes that further developments, especially along the lines of arterialization of the liver, may replace present day methods.

The complications of operation and effects of porto-systemic anastomosis are outlined and a special chapter is devoted to the choice of operation.

The technical details of the operative treatment and full descriptions of porta-caval anastomosis, lieno-renal anastomosis and proximal gastric transection and resection are set out in the 4 appendices. These illustrated descriptions are excellent.

This is an excellent monograph and one which should be in the possession of every physician and surgeon. It is of particular value to the surgeon who is interested in portal hypertension. The book is strongly recommended.

J.H.L.

#### THE FARMER'S LEGAL AND FINANCIAL HANDBOOK

*The Farmer's Legal and Financial Handbook.* By David Shrand, M.Com., A.S.A.A., C.A. (S.A.) and Gordon Davis, Q.C., M.A. (Oxon.), LL.B. (S.A.). Pp. vi+265. 29s. post free. Legal and Financial Publishing Company, P.O. Box 3461, Cape Town. 1957.

With the prominent position which farming occupies in the Union a book which sets out clearly the many legal and financial measures affecting farmers which are contained in the Statute Book will be welcomed. A glance at the table of contents of this new book will show the wide field covered and where necessary the text is illustrated by references to cases which have been settled.

Although the book was obviously written for the practical farmer as well as for the lawyer and accountant, it will no doubt also be of interest to the many doctors who are farmers in what spare time they may have.

A.H.T.

#### FELDMAN'S ROENTGENOLOGY OF THE DIGESTIVE TRACT

*Clinical Roentgenology of the Digestive Tract.* 4th Edition. By Maurice Feldman, M.D. Pp. xi+776. 728 Illustrations. 120s. Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1957.

The 4th edition of Feldman's clinical gastro-enterology shows considerable improvement on the previous edition. The double layout of the text conforms to the modern trend and makes for easier reading.

The illustrations of the radiographs, as in most American text-books, are reproduced in the dye-positive form. This entails a certain amount of artificial emphasis which is well used in the section on the biliary tract.

The references are extensive and not wholly confined to sources emanating from the American continent. This book does in fact present an extremely adequate survey of recent literature, rather than the crystalized opinion of the author on the various problems facing diagnostic radiologists.

Defects common to the sections devoted to the various systems, are a lack of an adequate approach to the problems of technique

associated with the investigation of the respective systems. The lack of emphasis on routine erect serial views of the dye-filled gallbladder is in the reviewer's opinion, a serious omission.

Inadequate attention is paid to the more recent developments and technique in examination of the abdominal blood vessels, in relation to identification of intra-abdominal masses.

The section on the gastro-intestinal tract is competently dealt with and the less common lesions are adequately detailed. More attention to the problem of hiatus hernia, together with an authoritative opinion of this subject, would have been welcome in view of the continual controversy associated with this particular problem. This edition has much to commend it, and the publishers are to be congratulated on the improvement of presentation.

It should however be borne in mind that the student and the younger radiologist will again be disappointed by the appearance of yet another book devoid of a vital and detailed review of diagnostic techniques.

M.D.

#### MODERN TRENDS IN GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY

*Modern Trends in Gastro-Enterology.* (Second Series.) Edited by F. Avery Jones, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xix+416+(23). 143 Figures. 84s. 6d. + 1s. 11d. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1958.

After 6 years Dr. Avery Jones has produced another volume of articles on selected subjects of gastro-enterological interest. Although there are several American and Scandinavian contributors, this book primarily reflects British and Commonwealth views. South Africa is represented by Dr. W. P. U. Jackson of Cape Town, with a definitive chapter on massive intestinal resection.

A wide range of topics is covered and Dr. Avery Jones who has provided well for most of his readers. There are several chapters of basic physiological interest, but on the whole the emphasis is clinical. The general discussions on antibiotics and corticosteroids in relation to the alimentary tract are most useful, and the reviews of carcinoid tumours, the Peutz-Jeghers syndrome, the blind-loop syndrome and massive intestinal resection cannot be bettered. There is a comprehensive account of gastro-intestinal exfoliative cytology from the Chicago school. Acknowledging that it is impossible to please everybody, this selection should not disappoint any one; it is good to know that a third series is promised.

Together with the first series, this volume provides an unexcelled source of reference for many of the difficult and interesting problems of organic gastro-intestinal disease, and will as such be of greatest use to the specialist. Psychosomatic aspects are somewhat played down—while the editor does not 'dispute the importance of the emotional load affecting the alimentary tract' he finds it 'difficult to believe that it is a primary aetiological factor for organic conditions such as peptic ulcer and ulcerative colitis'. Perhaps in the next edition an advocate of the psychosomatic school could be invited to review advances in that field.

D.M.K.

#### RECENT ADVANCES IN OTO-LARYNGOLOGY

*Recent Advances in Oto-Laryngology.* 3rd Edition. By F. Boyes Korkis, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.L.O. Pp. ix+438. 144 Figures. 60s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

This volume is the third edition of a book known to all English speaking otologists. It is, however, more than a new edition. It is an entirely new work edited by Mr. F. Boyes Korkis. He has been responsible for the entire contents.

The author is an authority on blast-injury of the ears and the chapter on this subject is very full and contains all the latest available information and should be most useful for all practising otologists. The chapter on audiology is concise and comprehensive, whilst the problem of the deaf infant is dealt with in detail.

The pathology and treatment of Meniere's disease receives full attention whilst the latest advances in tympanoplasty and mobilization of the stapes are adequately covered. Naturally the reader in search of the very newest information must still rely on specialist journals.

Laryngeal carcinoma is dealt with in some detail, as this subject is still of the utmost importance. The controversy on whether prophylactic neck dissection should be performed, receives the

fullest consideration and here again the author writes from his own extensive personal experience. This chapter is perhaps the most valuable in the book; the entire subject of therapy, whether surgical, radiation or combines, is exhaustively dealt with. The question of operation in cases of tumour of the hypopharynx is also discussed in detail.

This book can be recommended without hesitation to all Ear, Nose and Throat specialists. It is well up to the standard of the first and second editions so ably edited by Mr. R. Scott-Stevenson.

B.T.B.

#### MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF CANCER

*The Medical Management of Cancer.* By Henry D. Diamond, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. vii+179. 40 Figures. \$6.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

The author describes the role of the physician in the treatment of certain types of cancer. While only those kinds of cancer which are treated by medical means are discussed, the natural history of certain specific cancers is detailed.

Two broad groups of cancer are considered, viz. those in which medical therapy is the primary treatment and those in which this form of treatment is only used after surgery has been attempted and has failed.

The drugs considered fall into 3 main groups, viz. hormones, alkylating agents and ionizing radiations linked to various elements such as I 131 for thyroid carcinoma and radioactive gold (AU 198) for ascites caused by ovarian cancer.

It is an important book, up-to-date and concise; the future of oncology is within its covers.

T.S.

#### PSYCHIATRIST AND PAINTINGS

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

An unfortunate printer's error occurred when the above-mentioned book was reviewed in the *Journal* of 6 September 1958 (32, 902). The author of the book (wrongly given as Ainslie Meyers) is Ainslie Meares.

#### LECTURES ON PSYCHOSOMATICS

*Psychosomatics.* A Series of Five Lectures. Edited by J. Booij. Pp. viii+125. 2 Figures. Amsterdam, London, New York, Princeton: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1957.

These 5 lectures were delivered at a meeting of the Dutch Psychiatric and Neurological Society held in conjunction with the Association of Dutch Internists in 1954. We are not told why their publication in the form of a monograph was delayed until August 1957. The purpose of the series, namely, 'to inform readers abroad of current views in Holland', is further defeated by the poor standard of English in the translation. Some sentences are incomprehensible, and in others considerable guess-work is necessary. In other instances the meaning was obvious, but neologisms abound like 'aggressivity', 'attachedness', 'conditional reflex', 'psychopathized individual', etc.

In my opinion the 3 noteworthy features in the book from the clinicians viewpoint are: (1) The neat presentation of the concept of 'syndrome shift' and 'syndrome suppression', and the fact that the good clinician, even if his efforts result at best in syndrome suppression or shift, can still accomplish something by ensuring a shift in a direction acceptable to the patient and his environment. (2) The concept of a specific personality type developing a specific psychosomatic disease is challenged when tested against the clinical experience of internal medicine. (3) The results of psychotherapy in the 'psychosomatoses' when ultimately reduced to their essence, reveal the time-honoured conclusion that one third of patients recover, one third partially recover and one third make no improvement or deteriorate.

F.F.

#### HEALTH SERVICES IN NORWAY

*Health Services in Norway.* By Karl Evang. Pp. 161. Illustrations. Oslo: The Norwegian Joint Committee on International Social Policy. 1957.

This most interesting and informative publication sets out very clearly and in a most readable manner the present-day health services of Norway.

With the distances to be covered, the geographical features of high mountains and deep valleys and the climatic conditions which exist, it could only have been possible to provide these services on the basis of using the general practitioner in both the preventative and curative fields.

Since 1956 a National Insurance scheme has been made applicable to the whole population, but the costs of the medical service provided are not wholly met by funds available from this scheme, the balance being provided by the patient himself. The practitioner, be he general practitioner or specialist, is remunerated on the basis of 'services rendered' and not on a capitation fee basis as is applicable in Britain. Notwithstanding this arrangement the hospitals as such are free to all.

It is rather surprising to learn that dental caries is a problem in Norway, especially with the high consumption of fish by this population. No mention is made of any deficiency in the fluorine content of the public water supplies.

The tragic account of the diphtheria epidemic occurring in an unimmunized population during the German occupation could not better drive home the lessons of the importance of full immunization against this killing disease.

Provision for the aged makes interesting and enlightening reading and it is heartening to observe the important part that local authorities are expected to, and do, play in catering for and providing the social services for their own local population groups.

The photographs are excellent, the type clear and legible and the translator must be complimented for a most creditable bit of work.

I can heartily recommend this little publication as a means of enlightenment into just how a small nation of three and a half million people have solved or are solving their socio-medical problems with benefit to all as is reflected in the vital statistics reports of this beautiful country.

E.D.C.

#### THE CARE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS

*The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals.* 2nd Edition. (Greatly Enlarged.) Joint Editors: Alastair N. Worden, M.A., B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., F.R.I.C. and W. Lane-Petter, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. Pp. xix+951. Illustrations. 70s. net. London: The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. (Distributor: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London.) 1957.

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an organization of scientists and other professional men and women and university students in a number of British Universities that strives to promote humane behaviour towards wild and domestic animals. Apart from the humanitarian point of view, it is essential that laboratory animals be given proper care to be in the best condition for medical research.

Such rapid advances are being made in this field that a greatly enlarged edition of the UFAW handbook is now available, 10 years after the first edition appeared. Advances in care and management of laboratory animals are being reported all the time from many countries in a variety of journals, and more than 70 experts with special experience have contributed to this volume the best facts and hints available at this time.

In part I, comprising 16 chapters, there are general considerations applicable to all laboratory animals. In part II (chapters 17-75) more than 50 species are considered individually; there is much information on less common species as well as on the more common species of laboratory animals. This book must be available to all workers in institutions where animals are kept and used for research work and the teaching of students. Technicians who have more dealings than anyone else with laboratory animals should be properly trained and be particularly well versed in the subject matter and applications of this book. There are numerous illustrations of animal houses and their interior equipment, of animals in different stages of development and activity, diagrams of useful apparatus for laboratory confinement and handling of animals, many useful tables with all sorts of summarized information, and examples of microscopic preparations. The book is a most instructive study and reference volume and a mine of information.

N.S.