

BURNS

Burns—Pathology and Therapeutic Applications. By Simon Sevitt, M.D., M.Sc., M.A., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H. Pp. xii+364. 85 Figures. 43s. 3d. + 1s. 7d. Postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1957.

This book is the first comprehensive volume to be devoted to the subject of burns together with the pathology and therapeutics thereof. When virtually all that is known about the subject is correlated and presented by one with such a wealth of personal experience as has Dr. Sevitt, it becomes necessary to study the contents in detail.

The subject matter is logically arranged. The author traces what happens in the burned area, the effects of hyperthermia on epithelial and other cells, and the acute inflammatory changes that follow. Excellent chapters are those on the role of infection in burns, on the epidemiology of infection, and on the control of the organisms causing infection.

Of inestimable value to the clinician are the chapters on burn shock, which has such severe effects on the circulation and on the distribution of body fluids and electrolytes. One is left in no doubt about the extreme urgency of the adequate plasma and electrolyte therapy that is necessary if burned patients are to be resuscitated in the early stages.

The effects of burning on the internal organs and on hormonal mechanisms are accorded due prominence, and the closing chapters are devoted to a brief, but interesting and instructive resumé of what is known concerning electrical, chemical and atomic burns, and the effects of radiation.

The basic trend of experimental and histopathological discussion is nicely offset by recommendations in regard to therapy in its widest sense, including the judicious and timely application of surgical measures. The author has brilliantly succeeded in his aim of 'letting all schools of thought contend', but equally has not shirked from giving his own opinions which are highly practical and extremely valuable.

This work is yet another fine contribution from one of the team at the Birmingham Accident Hospital, who have done so much to advance our knowledge of burns. Effective treatment of the burned patient is essentially a matter of team-work and in this volume every member of the team will find ample food for thought; and sound advice for application in his own special field.

D.McK.

ELECTROTHERAPY AND ACTINOTHERAPY

Clayton's Electrotherapy and Actinotherapy. A Text-book for Student Physiotherapists. 3rd Edition. By Pauline M. Scott, M.C.S.P., T.E.T., T.M.M.G. Pp. x+427. 207 Figures. 27s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

The 3rd edition of this well-known text-book for student physiotherapists has been revised to meet the requirements of the electro-

therapy section of the syllabus of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. The book provides an excellent account of the physical principles underlying electrotherapy and actinotherapy, and is therefore a useful reference book for practising physiotherapists, as well as for members of the medical profession who use electrical apparatus. It is regrettable, however, that no reference is made to ultrasound, due perhaps to the fact that this subject does not appear in the syllabus of The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. The new chapters contain an account of the important advances in the production of valve generated muscle stimulating currents opening up the fascinating field of exponential currents. A short chapter on long wave diathermy provides an anachronism in a modern book, but is of historic and academic interest.

A.R.

THE GUINEA PIG IN RESEARCH

The Guinea Pig in Research. Biology—Nutrition—Physiology. By Mary Elizabeth Reid, Ph.D. Pp. 87. 7 Figures. Washington: Human Factors Research Bureau, Inc. 1958.

The term 'guinea pig' has long been used to signify a living being which is experimented upon. It is indicative of how much the gentle cavy has been used for this purpose and of how valuable it has been. Dr. Reid's publication is a mixture of review article and testimonial, but nevertheless contains a good deal of useful information.

Practically the whole range of biological research in which the guinea pig has been used, is reviewed and a fairly good selection of reference material cited. The 227 listed references are, of course, not not exhaustive of the literature on guinea pigs. Dr. Reid has been necessarily selective, but one feels that some important reference material has been omitted. No reference, for example, has been made to the contributions made by H. M. Bruce and A. S. Parkes to the knowledge of guinea pig nutrition, growth, and breeding.

This small volume should prove to be of value to anyone interested in the physiology of the guinea pig and the uses of this animal in biological research.

A.G.R.

SURGICAL MANAGEMENT

Principles of Surgical Management. By H. A. F. Dudley, F.R.C.S.E. With the Assistance of B. C. Paton, M.R.C.P.E., I. F. McLaren, F.R.C.S.E., I. B. Tait, F.R.C.S.E. and G. F. Murnaghan, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E. Pp. viii + 203. 68 Figures. 27s. 6d. net + 1s. 9d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

Every now and then a medical book appears which one feels really needed to be written. It would be hard to equal Ham's *Histology*—perhaps the best text-book in the English language for clarity and comprehensiveness in a basic science; but amid a welter of publications on pre- and post-operative care *Principles of Surgical Management* stands out like a beacon.

The modern surgeon must have a physiological background. This much is common cause, but there is no doubt that the dog-

surgeons have inflicted a vast amount of tedious writing on long-suffering readers of surgical literature. Thus, they have terrified the older surgeon out of his wits with their disquisitions on intravenous therapy so that he has come to regard their milli-equivalents with almost superstitious awe. There is much more in surgical care than chemical juggling and it is the virtue of this book that this is recognized. For the trainee and for the older surgeon, who wants to brush up painlessly on the surgical facts of life, this product of

the Edinburgh school is to be recommended. Professor John Bruce in a foreword writes: 'I have enjoyed reading this little book, indeed I have profited from the opportunity and I commend it unreservedly'. The present reviewer heartily concurs in these sentiments.

The authors have been fortunate in their choice of publishers. The paper and printing and illustrations are quite outstanding.
G.S.