

YEAR BOOK OF RADIOLOGY

*The Year Book of Radiology, 1958-1959. Radiologic Diagnosis.* Edited by John Floyd Holt, M.D. and Fred Jenner Hodges, M.D. *Radiation Therapy.* Edited by Harold W. Jacox, M.D. and Morton M. Kligerman, M.D. Pp. 448. 336 figures. \$10.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

This year, as in previous years, good abstracts from a varied selection of articles by recognized experts in all sections of radiotherapy, are reported.

However, as in the diagnostic section, most of the articles come from the radiological journals and it seems a great pity that many excellent and authoritative articles in the general medical journals are not included.

Supervoltage irradiation is now becoming a standard procedure in most centres all around the world, and enough time has elapsed for 5- and 10-year results to be evaluated. These show no dramatic improvement in end results, but techniques are simplified and the various resultant reactions have been markedly reduced by the use of this modality. Kaplan, of Stanford University, in an excellent article discusses the deficiencies of American radiotherapy as compared to that of Britain and the Scandinavian countries and makes a strong plea for the complete separation of the two specialties which, he says, are bound together only by a common physical agent and nothing else.

This volume contains a stimulating and interesting résumé of all sections of radiotherapy and, although much has been achieved in all branches of the specialty, none of the contributors shirk to mention the difficulties which remain. I.M.S.

ACCIDENT SURGERY

*Modern Trends in Accident Surgery and Medicine.* Edited by Ruscoe Clarke, M.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Eng.); F. G. Badger, B.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Ed.) and Simon Sevitt, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H. Pp. xi + 330 + 16. 82 figures. £4 4s. 6d. plus 2s. 0d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1959.

This is an important book. It is, in effect, a report of the working arrangements of the Birmingham Accident Hospital which, founded in 1941, is now treating 50,000 new patients per year.

The book bristles with sensible advice and plain statements which could well be applied to all hospitals. Antiseptics, plain or coloured, never give as good results as mechanical cleansing with good plain soap and plenty of warm water, and this is recommended for the primary fresh wound. For the next stage, le Riche's famous dictum: 'The best antiseptic is the knife', is quoted but débridement must be carried out with intelligence and forbearance! How self-evident too is the truth of the statement, 'Taking a limb apart for information is not justifiable' and how often is this forgotten in the heat of operating!

Of the traumatic surgeon himself, the authors say in a telling phrase: 'It is the man, his interests, training and experience and not the terminology that matters'.

The cost of this accident service is without doubt very considerable, but the authors put the matter into its proper perspective: 'The cost per incident is not the basis of the fire-brigade or life-boat services'.

A vital book; never more necessary to read than today.

T.S.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

*Developmental Potential of Preschool Children. An Evaluation of Intellectual, Sensory and Emotional Functioning.* By Else Haeussermann. Pp. xvii + 285. 19 figures. \$8.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

A test of intellectual function allows the examiner to assess the child's current level of functioning, and also to predict how the child will respond to future educative influences. The standard tests in use cannot be applied to children with neurological lesions, or children with disturbances of perception.

Miss Haeussermann's test, devised during 25 years of work with brain-damaged and retarded children, is a clinical procedure in the form of a structured interview, providing a profile of the functional abilities and probable developmental potential of the child. The test was worked out and validated on children with cerebral palsy, but has been extended to other types of handicapped children.

The 'educational evaluation' obtained by the test procedure consists of an inventory of developmental levels, physical functioning, sensory equipment, language behaviour, etc., and appears an effective tool in the behavioural examination of young disabled children. H.W.

BASIC PHYSICS IN RADIOLOGY

*Basic Physics in Radiology.* By L. A. W. Kemp, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.Inst.P. and R. Oliver, M.Sc., F.Inst.P., A.M.I.E.E. Pp. xiii + 329. Illustrations. 35s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

The authors are to be congratulated on producing a text-book of considerable merit designed to present in a logical and lucid manner physics fundamental to an understanding of certain aspects of radiology.

The text is amply supplemented by diagrams, graphs and tables and is enhanced by illustrative examples and exercises constructed to elucidate the various facets of the subject as they present themselves. Six appendices are added, ostensibly to complete and extend the text.

Difficulty has obviously been encountered in deciding what to include or exclude. The volume suffers considerably in the virtual absence of radiation physics.

It forms, however, an appropriate companion to *A Student's Radiological Mathematics*. Both are admirably written. It is to be hoped that the authors will produce at least a further volume covering radiation physics and so add materially to the attractiveness of this fine work. J.M.G.

ORTHOPAEDICS AND FRACTURES

*A System of Orthopaedics and Fractures.* By A. Graham Apley, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 357 + (20). There are two editions of this book available, namely a standard edition, the price of which is 54s. 3d. + 1s. 9d. postage. The other edition is interleaved with blank pages for those who wish to add their own notes. The price of this is 75s. 9d. + 1s. 9d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1959.

This first edition is a very lucid and instructive handbook on the common conditions encountered in orthopaedic work by medical practitioners. It is the outcome of years of teaching and embodies rewritten and amplified notes as given to F.R.C.S. students through the years. The author puts his information down in clear and concise manner.

The emphasis constantly falls not so much on the perfection of factual knowledge as on the methodical approach which the author has adopted. Thus the first chapter appropriately discusses 'diagnosis in orthopaedics' fairly exhaustively from the practical angle and this is aptly followed up with a chapter on 'inflammation of bone and joint'. In this connection one wonders whether nowadays it still is necessary to use the terms 'periostitis'

and 'osteomyelitis' which surely are fully covered by the term 'osteitis'. Inflammation in bone always in some degree affects all parts of the bone.

Dealing as it does with fractures and orthopaedics, this book should prove useful to all who handle cases of this nature as well as to final-year medical students interested in this direction. The text is interleaved with blank pages for note taking when necessary.

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

### SURGERY FOR NURSES

*Modern Surgery for Nurses.* 4th edition. Edited by F. Wilson Harlow, M.B., B.S. (Durham), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. xxiv + 883. 419 figures. 30s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1959.

This excellent text-book for nurses first made its appearance in 1948. Its popularity is obvious in the fact that it is now in its 4th edition and has had 4 reprintings. One can well understand why it should have found such favour, for it is simple, clear and concise, well printed and produced, and profusely illustrated. It is in fact more than a text-book, for not only does it cover the normal syllabus for the surgical nurse but it also is a useful reference book for the trained nurse. Sister-tutors will find it of great value.

A.H.T.

### HERNIA

*Hernia.* By Sir Heneage Ogilvie, K.B.E., M.A., M.Ch., M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. 135. 51 figures. 28s. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1959.

Anatomical knowledge and surgical skill are acquired in the operating theatre and the mastery of hernia surgery depends to a large extent on the apprenticeship served. Nevertheless, all too frequently the pupil slavishly follows in the footsteps of his master and either forgets or is unaware of the techniques practised by others. It is in counteracting this tendency that much of the value of such books as this lies.

Sir Heneage succeeds admirably in condensing his wealth of personal experience into 130 pages and gives reasons for accepting or rejecting the various procedures he has employed over the past 30 years. Many of his dogmatic views will not find general acceptance, but this is to be expected in so controversial a subject. Written in his usual effortless style, illustrated with clear line drawings, of convenient format, it serves as an excellent background for the postgraduate student.

This is not the complete text-book on hernia surgery but it provides much food for thought. All aspirant surgeons who read and digest this stimulating little book will benefit.

H.P.

### MODERNE BEHANDELING

*Modern Treatment Yearbook 1959.* Silwer Jubileum-uitgawe. Geredigeer deur Sir Cecil Wakeley Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. Pp. xix + 312. 2 afbeeldings. xxiii afdrukke. 30s.

Londen: Uitgegeev vir 'Medical Press' deur Baillière, Tindall en Cox Bpk. 1959.

Met die deurlees van die boek kom 'n mens onder die indruk dat die samesteller daarin geslaag het om 'n deeglike oorsig te gee, op 'n breë front, van die moderne ontwikkeling op mediese gebied.

Die boek is bedoel vir die algemene praktisyn want dit bied 'n deeglike opknappingskursus, waarin die essensiële benadruk word, sonder om aan oorvereenvoudiging mank te gaan. Ook vir die spesialis is dit nuttig, veral om hom uit sy eng groef te ruk.

'n Mate van kritiek is juis weer dat sake bespreek word wat buite die terrein van die algemene praktyk val. Die heel eerste hoofstuk oor plastiese snykunde van die hand is hiervan 'n voorbeeld. Dit is baie interessant en verduidelik aan die algemene praktisyn wat gedoen kan word, maar is van weinig nut vir hom in sy werk.

Die hoofstukke oor hipertensie, pertussis, tuisbehandeling van kardiaale infarksie, behandeling van asma, en bedaarmiddels, ens., is nie alleen verfrissend insiggewend nie, maar gee praktiese wenke wat met goeie gevolg toegepas kan word.

As geheel is die Silwer Jubileum-uitgawe 'n waardige hoogtepunt vir die uitgewers en kan die boek sterk aanbeveel word by alle praktisyns.

I.S.S.

### MENSTRUAL DISORDERS AND STERILITY

*Mazer and Israel's Diagnosis and Treatment of Menstrual Disorders and Sterility.* 4th edition. By S. L. Israel, M.D. Pp. xii + 666. Illustrations. \$15.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1959.

This publication is divided into two sections, each of which is so different that it could well have been published as a separate book. The first section, which comprises two-thirds of the volume, deals with menstrual disorders, and the second with sterility. This is the 4th edition of a well-known American text-book, and appears 8 years after its predecessor. It very successfully incorporates advances made in the subject during this time.

The work differs from most text-books of gynaecology in that every type of menstrual disorder is considered as a clinical entity. The discussion of their hormonal aspects is indeed the outstanding feature of the book, and could hardly be bettered.

The section on sterility is comprehensive. Chapters are included which deal with the male factor, artificial insemination, and recurrent abortion. Few gynaecologists have had as great an experience as the authors in the use of low-dosage irradiation in the treatment of amenorrhoea—their views on this topical problem are well worth studying.

There are few statements that are controversial, or that are not supported by abundant references to the literature. This book could be read with much profit by postgraduate students and specialists. However, although the presentation is essentially a clinical one, the work is hardly a practical one for the busy general practitioner.

F.B.