

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### AIDS TO ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

*Aids to Organic Chemistry for Medical Students.* 5th Edition. By George A. Maw, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. Pp. vii+176. 10s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

The last example in the 'Aids' series—that support of the student in the days of his training—to appear is the 'Aid to Organic Chemistry'. As ever, the information is carefully selected and packed. The coverage is thorough and the knowledge concentrated. The medical student will find that he will not be let down by this representative of the series.

T.S.

### REHABILITATION AFTER ILLNESS

*Rehabilitation after Illness and Accident.* Edited by Thomas M. Ling, M.D., M.R.C.P. and C. J. S. O'Malley, C.B.E., M.B. Pp. vii+119. 12s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

All the contributors to this excellent work are or have been in some way associated with St. Thomas's Hospital, London. It is a product of which this seat of teaching and healing may well be proud and it is greatly to be regretted that Group Captain O'Malley, the co-editor, did not live to see the book from the printing press. The rehabilitation and resettlement of the disabled is a subject which is evoking increasing interest not only among medical practitioners and workers in ancillary fields, but its prime importance is being recognized equally by social workers and industrialists.

In this book authoritative opinion in all the important branches of the subject is collected and expressed with wisdom and practical good sense. The difficulties to be overcome by the mentally and physically disabled are dealt with in detail and there are few aspects of the problem that do not receive well-balanced and

imaginative consideration. Stress is laid upon the essential need for teamwork and education in the task of helping handicapped persons in their struggle towards social and industrial independence.

Physical procedures in the field of rehabilitation are well known and generally accepted. One is struck, however, by the emphasis placed by all the contributors on the psychological and emotional factors influencing recovery of function and the restoration to a useful and productive life of the sick and injured. In my opinion there are few works more capable of elevating the level of practice in all branches of medicine. The book is strongly recommended.

M.G.W.

### AUTONOMIC IMBALANCE

*Autonomic Imbalance and the Hypothalamus.* Implications for Physiology, Medicine, Psychology and Neuropsychiatry. By Ernst Gellhorn, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. xiv+300. 101 Figures. English Price, approximately 48s. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 1958. Local Distributors: Oxford University Press.

This book contains two parts. Part I, the experimental section, deals with autonomic 'tuning', and describes states of autonomic imbalance produced by altering the excitability of the hypothalamus, through physiological and pharmacological means. In Part II the author discusses the clinical significance of sympathetic and of parasympathetic predominance, in health and disease.

The book is well written and stimulating, because it challenges the adequacy of both the older, and well-known, theories and classifications of psycho-physiological reactions and functional disorders. It should be of interest to both students and teachers of psychology, psychiatry and medicine.

A.B.v.d.M.

### THE THYROID AND PARATHYROID GLANDS

*Diseases of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands.* By Bernard J. Ficarra, A.B., Sc.B., M.D., D.S. Pp. viii+295. 131 Figures. \$8.50. New York: Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation. 1958.

The title of this book is misleading. Anyone who expects a full and comprehensive dissertation on all the diseases of these two endocrine glands is bound to be disappointed. For it is a book which aims only at presenting the accumulation of knowledge gained by an average general surgeon with an average general practice in an average American community. And yet it wanders sufficiently far into realms of internal medicine to make one feel that a little more attention to the 'medical' aspects would have vastly improved this book. One misses for instance an adequate account of myxoedema and a dissertation on hypoparathyroidism (apart from the post-operative variety). The medical management of thyrotoxicosis is not adequately dealt with—the author all too obviously prefers surgery—and the section on the management of exophthalmos could also be vastly improved by a less radical

approach. Nevertheless, if one approaches the book from the point of view of a surgeon, it has much of interest.

The author has obviously had a vast surgical experience of thyroid disease and knows all the practical aspects which he needs to know. The section dealing with operative and post-operative management are good and so are those dealing with the complications of operation. Thyroid crisis is extensively considered as are thyroid cancer, ectopic thyroids and other thyroid anomalies. And if he does move from one subject to another in a rather irregular sort of way, perhaps he may be forgiven for he has much of his own experience to offer. There is even a little section entitled 'Chronologic résumé of the thyroid and parathyroid history' starting with the use of burnt seaweed and sponges in wine (by the ancient Chinese in 1600 B.C.) for the treatment of goiter.

The book is nicely produced and well illustrated. Embryo surgeons could learn much from the author. Other practitioners would also benefit from it if they don't start off on the wrong foot and expect something else.

M.C.