

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

DRUGS OF CHOICE

Drugs of Choice, 1958-59. By Walter Modell, M.D. (Editor). Pp. 931. South African price: £5 8s. 6d. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1958.

The terrific avalanche of drugs has kept many a doctor doubting which of a series of newcomers should be used in place of established agents or in preference to competitive contemporaries. Many books have been written in recent years, some of the nature of catalogues, others dealing with special advances in therapy, to assist the physician in a general or special way.

The present volume, which is of no mean size, is designed as a practical guide to the selection of the drug of choice for a particular condition. It has been written by experts in many fields of medicine, who indicate their choice of drugs; they express

their own opinion based on their specialized knowledge and experience. In other words these are not review articles and there is no argument on any issues. The expert opinion is by American physicians for those who desire to follow, or can obtain the drugs to carry out their therapeutic programmes. Each chapter is followed by a lengthy Drug Index, a list of many proprietary preparations, which serves for reference but not as a help to the reader to make his choice.

Every doctor today is using drugs of great potency and perhaps also of great variety (depending on the nature of his practice), and needs to know about drugs that are being used by others. This book indicates in clear, concise, and practical terms what are regarded as the best available drugs for a particular therapeutic problem.

N.S.

RADIO-ANATOMY OF INFANTS

Röntgenanatomie der Neugeborenen- und Säuglingslunge. Von Priv.-Doz. Dr. med. habil. Z. Zsebök. 160 Seiten. 286 Teils farbige Abbildungen. DM 75.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

In the first few chapters the author deals with his radiological methods and with anthropological measurements of the thorax of the newborn. He outlines the radiological appearance of the normal thorax. The development of the lungs is shortly mentioned. Then the author describes in full details the normal radiological findings of bronchi, pulmonary vessels, lungs, hilar lymph nodes, thymus, diaphragm and pleura.

This book is very well produced and most of the illustrations are excellent. Zsebök's book fills a gap in the medical literature. Radiologists, paediatricians and pathologists can find here a good review of former observations and many new details of the thorax and lungs of the newborn.

H.W.W.

CORTICAL STIMULATION

The Excitable Cortex in Conscious Man. By Wilder Penfield, O.M., C.M.G., Litt.B., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., Hon. F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Pp. ix+43. 15 figures. 10s. 6d. net. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press. 1958.

This book, based on the fifth Sherrington lecture, contains valuable information on cortical stimulation.

The method of mapping out cortical or other brain centres while operating on a patient is an ideal one: the scientist or neurosurgeon can thus compare the results of cortical stimulation derived from animal experiments with the histological areas of brain matter. These two methods of localizing the different centres of the brain often give unexpected results when 'silent' areas suddenly become alive.

Penfield and his school developed the stimulation and localization of brain areas to a great art and the results are interesting to both the physiologist and the neurosurgeon. The presence of a 'centrencephalic' system, that is, neurone circuits which unite the two hemispheres within the higher brain stem, leads to an interesting working hypothesis. This is encouraged by the knowledge that the associative connections confined to each hemisphere could not alone serve the requirements of sensory organization.

For those who remember Sir Charles Sherrington and his work it may be worth while to read the introduction. It is a short but fine description of his personality and of his way of thinking in the interesting twilight of science, religion and philosophy, in which the author of the present book has also some interest and to which he has given some thought.

The interested reader may be referred to a much more comprehensive book on this subject, *The Cerebral Cortex of Man*, by W. Penfield and T. Rasmussen (Macmillan & Co., New York: 1950).

M.W.