

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

PERIPHERAL CIRCULATION

Begutachtung Peripherer Durchblutungsstörungen. Von Prof. Dr. H. W. Pässler und Dr. H. Berghaus. xii+272 Seiten. 68 Abbildungen in 147 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 45.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

Pässler has very good experience in disturbances of the peripheral circulation. This book is based on about 500 judgments. The authors describe their methods and make general remarks about the pathogenesis of chronic obliterating diseases of the blood vessels. Then they add judgments about causative correlations between disturbances of the peripheral circulation and trauma, frost-bites, infections and poisonings. It is, of course, somewhat difficult to find details in a book like this, containing more than 100 judgments, but the details are mentioned and a good subject register helps to find them. The judgments are very critical and are selected so that the whole group of diseases appears to be covered.

H.W.W.

OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC SURGERY

Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery. 2nd revised edition. By Sidney A. Fox, M.S. (Ophth.), M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii+324. 149 figures. \$15.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

This book, published by Grune & Stratton, is well produced on art paper. The printing is good and the drawings are clear,

but the photographs are not. Confusion as to the results of treatment is increased by the fact that 'before' and 'after' pictures are more often than not taken at different angles with different lighting, and not infrequently an artificial eye would appear in one photograph and not in the other.

The book has been written by an ophthalmic surgeon and not a plastic surgeon. Dermatomes are used for very small free grafts for inadequate reasons except, perhaps, lack of practice in free-hand cutting, and some of the methods lack a sense of aesthetic knowledge. For example, the upper lid should always overhang the lower at the external canthus and any tarsorrhaphy necessary at the external canthus should guarantee this condition. The various tarsorrhaphies mentioned are all in the reverse position (Fuchs, Elschmig, Goldstein). The lateral-overlap tarsorrhaphy which gives the most natural appearance is not mentioned. Moreover, the author states that in paralytic ectropia permanent tarsorrhaphy is indefensible. Most plastic surgeons believe that this is the primary indication for permanent tarsorrhaphy and, indeed, may save the eye. The chapters on skin grafting are not sufficiently advanced to be placed in a book published in 1958, although they may have been adequate in 1928. Socket repair work and lid repair leave much to be desired. Very few of the better methods have been mentioned. The transfer of hair to create eyelashes is astonishingly frank in its failure to impress.

Surgery involving the lid margins, however, is well described and plastic surgeons would be well advised to purchase this book for this section. There is a good description of the lid-splitting technique and the 'halving' procedure in closing the lid, in which

the virtue of adjusting the conjunctiva and skin at different levels is well brought out. The benefits of canthotomy and cantholysis are also well illustrated.

Massive problems of tumour or trauma are not dealt with in this book nor is any mention made of the use of prosthetics. It would be wise to bring the third edition of the book up to date in this and other respects.

J.P.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN

Aktuelle Probleme der Kindertuberkulose. Von Prof. Dr. H. Wissler. viii+71 Seiten. 17 Abbildungen. DM 12.80. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

A considerable part of the 1st chapter of this book is devoted to a discussion of the important facts concerning the bacteriology of the tubercle bacillus and the methods of culture. The various drugs employed in the treatment of tuberculosis are discussed. Special emphasis is laid on INH, streptomycin, PAS, BCG vaccine and the corticosteroids.

Subsequent chapters reveal more facts about some important aspects of the epidemiology of tuberculosis with special reference to the different age-groups. In a series comprising many thousands of cases, it was found that 50% of the patients at the age of 19 years presented with a positive Mantoux reaction.

In the 1944-46 series reported here 39% of the cases presented with cavernous lung tuberculosis and 43% with joint infection, and in the 1954-56 series 6% of the cases presented with cavernous lung tuberculosis and only 13% with joint infection.

Proper treatment of tuberculosis is very strongly advocated. It was found that tuberculosis meningitis has diminished remarkably since the introduction of INH, especially, when administered in conjunction with PAS and streptomycin. The same applies to miliary tuberculosis.

The author is also a very strong advocate of BCG vaccination. He records 0.1% infections in 21,000 vaccinated persons as compared with 1.97% in 28,000 non-vaccinated; and also 3.3% infections in 627 vaccinated and in open contact as compared with 45.1% in 563 non-vaccinated and in open contact.

He also records the observation that cortisone and ACTH have a definite place in the treatment of tuberculosis although it was found that when administered in large doses they tend to have a detrimental effect.

D.J.H.

A MANUAL OF ANAESTHETIC TECHNIQUES

A Manual of Anaesthetic Techniques. 2nd edition. By William J. Pryor, M.B., Ch.B. (N.Z.), F.F.A.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.A. (Eng.), F.F.A.R.A.C.S.S. Pp. 228. 75 illustrations. 27s. 6d. + 1s. 1d. postage. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1959.

In the preface to the 1st edition the author states this book was produced as a vade-mecum for house surgeons and registrars commencing the practice of anaesthesia. In this purpose he has, for the most part, admirably succeeded. The usual techniques of inhalational and intravenous anaesthesia have been described. In each section the author gives his method of choice, followed by an alternative, but not necessarily second-best, choice.

The techniques of local analgesia, however, receive poor treatment. Spinal analgesia rates only 4 pages. Epidural blocks (to quote) 'in general are not recommended'. This is a surprising omission in a text dealing primarily with techniques.

Lest the reader be discouraged by these few omissions, let the reviewer hasten to assure him that the field of everyday anaesthesia, with its various pitfalls and difficulties, is well covered. This text can, therefore, be confidently recommended to the tyro anaesthetist and even, perhaps, to his elder colleague. P.J.