

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

IDEALS IN MEDICINE

Ideals in Medicine. A Christian Approach to Medical Practice. Edited by Vincent Edmunds, M.D., M.R.C.P. and C. Gordon Scorer, M.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. xi+192. 12s. 6d. London: The Tyndale Press. 1958.

In the mass of medical literature which is printed in these modern times, comparatively few books are devoted to the important subject of medical ethics. The editors and their collaborators in producing this book have set out the Christian approach to the practice of medicine and it is published for the Christian Medical Fellowship.

In a world of change it is important that the young practitioner should have a sound foundation of faith and a philosophy of life which will sustain him in the many difficulties of conscience he will encounter in his practice. Although written primarily for doctors of the Christian faith others also may find it of interest and benefit.

A.H.T.

PHOTOFLUOROGRAPH INTERPRETERS

Testing and Teaching of Photofluorogram Interpreters. By Helge Nielsen. Pp. 33. 6 Figures. Dan. kr. 9.50. Copenhagen-Ejnar Munksgaard Ltd. 1957.

This very interesting monograph deals with the interpretation of photofluorograms of chests. The author, like many other investigators, has noted that there is a very considerable discrepancy in the reading of chest films by different experienced observers.

He points out that there is no known combination of X-ray technique and method of reading of films which ensures a certain and unmistakable interpretation of all the films in a series. A reader is frequently not consistent with himself in examination of the same films.

In order to try to prevent errors, and to improve the teaching of the interpretation of photofluorograms and radiographs of the chest by radiological students, the author has devised a phantom superimposed upon films of normal chests. The phantom produces false infiltrates simulating small lesions.

The method consists firstly of the study of a normal fluorogram on which a localizing graph is superimposed, without and with the phantom, and then of the phantom. By these means the student can check his observations.

The author believes that by this method the student develops a procedure for more acute detection.

It is felt that there are possibilities in the method, but more information must still be awaited before a decision is taken to adopt a somewhat laborious teaching technique.

J.N.J.