

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY

Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology. 7th Edition. by Robert S. Breed, E. G. D. Murray, Nathan R. Smith assisted by 94 contributors. Pp. xviii + 1094. 120s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1957.

The new edition of Bergey's manual has been divided into two books. The first volume, under the title 'Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology', contains an outlined classification of all known bacteria, parasitic and non-parasitic, and a description of the species and sub-species with appropriate keys. The second volume is called 'Index Bergiana', and contains known details of all inadequately described species, such as were described under the title 'Appendices' in previous editions. The result is that the manual is smaller in size and more convenient to handle for routine work, the second volume being more valuable to the research worker.

The number of contributors to the Manual has been increased from 60 in the last edition to 100, and also represent opinions from 14 different countries, so that it is more international in character.

The basis of classification of the schizomycetes has been altered in many respects. For example, the order eubacteriales has been divided into 2 groups, depending on the arrangement of their flagella: the pseudomonadales with monotrichate flagella, and the eubacteriales with peritrichate flagella. This method of subdivision may not meet with universal approval. The actual descriptions of the various organisms, parasitic and non-parasitic, has been increased.

The classification of viruses as given in the 6th edition has been omitted, the editors considering that a formal classification is inappropriate in view of the present state of knowledge about these strains.

At the end is a key for the identification of organisms from a practical point of view (not a classification). At first glance this appears to consist of non-parasitic or auto-trophic strains, but it does prove of use in the identification of the more rarely isolated strains found in a medical routine laboratory.

P.D.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 9th Edition By Aleck W. Bourne, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. and Leslie H. Williams, M.D., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vii + 348. 78 Figures. 38s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

In keeping with previous usage in the publication of a new edition of this popular volume, some chapters of the 8th edition, including, regrettably, that very good one on stress incontinence, have made way for new material in this, the 9th. There is an excellent chapter on uterine function in pregnancy and labour, which is recommended to undergraduate and postgraduate students alike for its clear exposition and the comprehensive survey of historical and recent research work in this field. The anaemias of pregnancy are dealt with in detail in the other of the 2 new long chapters, a source of valuable information on this important aspect of antenatal care. Two of the 4 new short chapters are on the uncommon, but very worrying, complications of anuria and blood coagulation defects respectively. They make excellent reading in their clear exposition of pathogenesis and management. The former chapter is well illustrated by a graphic representation of the biochemical changes in anuria and recovery from it. The chapter on 'Changing Trends in Obstetrics' leaves one with a pleasant after-glow—obstetrics has certainly become simplified. Everybody is doing Caesarean sections for everything, so why worry about considering alternative measures or indulging in self-criticism after performing the operation for indications that are not so cut-and-dried? The operation is mentioned no fewer than 14 times in 2 pages of print under the heading 'Second Stage'. Having picked out this chapter for criticism, one cannot omit regretting that the well-known technique of pudendal block is again described in detail, whilst no mention whatever is made of the value of caudal and extra-dural anaesthesia in obstetrics.

The possession of the full range of 9 editions of 'Recent Ad-

vances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology' is a must for every department engaged in this speciality, if not for every gynaecologist. Over the more than 30 years that this little volume has proudly taken its place on the shelves of medical libraries throughout the English-speaking world, very few subjects in its scope have not been assimilated in the various editions and its encyclopaedic value is inestimable, not only for the latest information but also for the historic value of the first editions. One has to read again the mortality figures for Caesarean section given in the first edition to appreciate in its true perspective the warning given by the authors in 1958: 'But if ever the haemolytic streptococcus should reappear in its old power and majesty, there may have to be an abrupt change back to more cautious methods and a full reappraisal of the position of Caesarean section.'

J.P.R.

VERTIGO AND DIZZINESS

Vertigo and Dizziness. By Bernard J. Alpers, M.D., Sc.D. (Med.). Pp. vii + 120. 4 Figures. \$5.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

This small book is a monograph on a symptom, although one due to a disturbance of a special function, and as such it suffers from the defects inherent in attempting to be comprehensive without being prolix and even at times a little confusing. The author deals with his topic in a systematic way, starting with the anatomy of the vestibular system, its physiology, and then the mechanisms, symptoms and causes etc. of the symptom and he quotes quite a great deal from the literature in the course of his discussion. There are, however, times when one is left a little uncertain about his own views and which of the quotations he is in agreement with and which not. The last few pages deal with treatment which includes the diets recommended in Meniere's syndrome and one is left with the impression of optimism about their efficacy which practical experience hardly justifies, especially in a condition the natural history of which may be very variable with so many remissions and exacerbations. These diets have not the slightest effect in the severe and progressive case. The bibliography is a complete one and has the advantage of specially marking the best references.

S.B.

NEUROSURGERY

Clinical Neurosurgery. Proceedings of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Chicago, Illinois, 1956. Pp. x + 142. Figures. 56s. net. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1957.

'Diabetes Insipidus does not depend on the presence of the anterior lobe of the pituitary.' 'Probably the only criterion for the completeness of hypophysectomy is dependence on cortisone.' These are some of the findings of Bronson S. Ray and Olof Pearson in the chapters reviewing 110 cases of hypophysectomy for carcinoma of the breast. Surgeons, endocrinologists and neurosurgeons will find these chapters of the greatest interest.

The late Gilbert Horrax's article on modern radiotherapy of pituitary tumours may prove to be revolutionary. Further results with the use of the 2 million volt apparatus are awaited as in his present series only 12.1% of patients had to be operated on. Wilder Penfield, to whom this volume is dedicated, gives a fine exposition on the functions of the temporal lobe and, for students of the history of medicine, a description of his archeological investigations into the life and time of Hippocrates.

Altogether a valuable book and highly recommended.

A.G.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

Artificial Limbs. By Leon Gillis, M.B.E. Pp. xiv + 449. Illustrations. £15 net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1957.

Mr. Gillis has again performed a herculean task in writing this book. The effort involved was obviously prodigious and prolonged; it is all the more creditable since it was done while engaged in active orthopaedic practice. This book is the companion volume to his well-known text-book: 'Amputations'. He acknowledges the help of many individuals; this is typical of his modesty.

But, without his own highly specialized knowledge of this subject, this book could not have been written. The 3 sections cover every possible facet in great detail. There are very few criticisms that one can level at this tremendous piece of work with its remarkable number of references. I found the author's habit of repetition when stressing important points a little irritating. The style of writing is rather heavy and made reading difficult. These are, however, points of minor importance.

This book is a valuable addition to the great orthopaedic text-books of reference.

M.S.

PHYSICS FOR THE ANAESTHETIST

Physics for the Anaesthetist. Including a Section on Explosions. 2nd Edition. By Sir Robert Macintosh, D.M., F.R.C.S.E., F.F.A.R.C.S., M.D., William M. Mushin, M.A., M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. and H. G. Epstein, M.A., Ph.D., F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. xi + 443. 379 Figures. 60s. net. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1946 and in the field of books on anaesthetics, must surely be entitled to the term 'best seller'. So popular did this work become that a second edition was necessary the following year. The book has been out of print for the past 6 years and during this period, fortunate possessors of the first edition have found themselves constantly

lending their copies to colleagues. Second hand copies have been unobtainable.

There is little doubt that this second edition will find a ready market, and this it clearly deserves. In common with all the books put out from the Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics in Oxford, it is a masterpiece of combined pictorial and literary presentation of its subject matter.

The main addition to this edition is a section on anaesthetic explosions. It is a fascinating section and probably contains more basic information on this subject, presented in a form easy for the average anaesthetist to understand, than is obtainable elsewhere. Another new chapter is that on pressure-reducing valves. This is a most welcome addition and here too, as is the case throughout the book, rather complex theory has been presented in simple words and figures, and even simpler diagrams.

While this book is designed principally for anaesthetists, there are parts which should be of benefit and interest to doctors in nearly all branches of medicine. Such things as the physics of syringes and needles, intravenous drips, the laws governing the flow of fluids and gases through tubes, which have so much bearing on the physiology of circulation and respiration, and a host of whys and wherefores of physics in everyday medicine are presented accurately as light reading, with illustrations which make for clear understanding.

This excellent book is in a class of its own both regarding its subject matter and its presentation.

A.B.B.