

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

THE KIDNEY

The Kidney. An outline of normal and abnormal structure and function. By H. E. de Wardener, M.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii+338. 74 illustrations. 45s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

Our knowledge of the kidney is constantly being added to. It has been well served in recent years by several notable publications, mostly in the form of conference reports, 'seminars' and symposia, which in the main are highly detailed accounts of selected groups of problems. This volume will prove particularly valuable to the clinician who desires a concise outline of renal structure and function in both health and disease. It is a well balanced, clear account of the subject. There is an excellent list of references at the end of each chapter for those who wish to do further reading.

M.M.

VIROLOGY

Text-book of Virology for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. 3rd edition. By A. J. Rhodes, M.D., D.Sc. (Edin.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (C.). Pp. xv+642. 81 figures. 80s.: \$10.00. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1958.

Virology at the present moment, like many other subjects showing a tremendous burst of growth, seems to be rather terrifying to the general reader—an attitude which is hardly surprising in view of the host of articles of a highly technical nature dealing with one or other aspect of a virus or the disease it produces.

It requires experts with vast experience to collate the substance of this mass of literature so as to make the newer knowledge available to the medical reader in a manner in which he will

appreciate it. The authors of this text-book have succeeded most admirably in doing just this. The general form of the 3rd edition is similar to that of the 2nd, but there are numerous additions to cover the recent advances that have taken place in this field. It should be clearly stated that this is not a handbook of laboratory techniques but it nevertheless makes a point of indicating the types of laboratory procedure employed in the isolation and identification of viruses to illustrate the characters of the viruses.

This is a most readable account of the most modern conceptions of the aetiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology and control of virus diseases. It is designed not only for the general practitioner, but also for the specialists in infectious diseases, public health, pathology, ophthalmology, dermatology and preventive medicine.

The chapters on influenza and poliomyelitis are excellent. The recently isolated viruses such as those of the Coxsackie, Echo and Adenovirus groups naturally receive a more generous allocation of space, but almost every section has been improved by the addition or rearrangement.

One is often asked by one's colleagues to suggest 'a good book on viruses'. Here it is.

A.K.

HORMONES FROM ENDOCRINE TUMOURS

Ciba Foundation Colloquia on Endocrinology. Volume 12. Hormone Production in Endocrine Tumours. Editors for the Ciba Foundation: G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch. and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. Pp. xii+351. 58 illustrations and cumulative index to volumes 1-12. 48s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

This is a notable, if rather abstruse, publication that endocrinologists will find informative and interesting. Hormones elaborated by experimentally-produced and naturally-occurring tumours of most of the ductless glands are described in detail. The adrenal has pride of place and, though the clinician would have hoped for more about Cushing's syndrome, proper stress is laid on the comparative uselessness of 17-ketosteroid estimation in this condition (excepting the 3 α - and 3 β -17-KS fractionation)—a fact that one would wish wider known. The gonads and thyroid are fully discussed.

What endocrine tumours produce different hormones from normal tissues? Do non-endocrine tumours ever modify the production of hormones by normal ductless glands? Important diagnostic aids lie in the answers to these questions, and these answers are only to be found in the type of work described in this commendable colloquium. It will be welcomed by the 'ivory

tower' worker, the clinical pathologist, and a small circle of 'progressive clinical endocrinologists', though I hope Messrs. Churchill will bind others better than the review copy, which is shedding leaves like an autumn poplar!

G.D.C.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Manual of Medical Emergencies. 3rd edition. By Stuart C. Cullen, M.D. and E. G. Gross, M.D. Pp. 302. 41 figures. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

This book has been through 2 editions and 2 reprints and this is the 3rd edition, which should prove its usefulness to, and demand by the newly qualified doctors working under hospital conditions. One says 'under hospital conditions' for with few exceptions the book is not a first-aid manual and the procedures given are mostly complicated, demanding equipment and treatment usually only possible in hospital.

Points worthy of note and well stressed are the constant need for oxygenization in many, if not most, emergency conditions, the provision of a free airway in the injured unconscious, the merits of the different methods (5) of artificial respiration, and the dos and don'ts in the treatment of shock. A few caricature drawings sprinkled here and there help to bring important points more forcibly to the front.

The chapter on circulatory emergencies seems very helpful. The intravenous administration of morphine, for the reasons there outlined, to cases with coronary thrombosis should receive wider trial, for it is true that 'the adjunct measures of rest, relief of pain and administration of oxygen are paramount in the treatment of cardiac shock'. In these times of over-emphasis on the use of cortisone and ACTH one is inclined to agree that 'in some communities (these preparations have) become almost a panacea for shock', and that 'there rarely is need for these drugs in the treatment of shock'. The authors, however, are careful to add that, where the usual measures as outlined by them seem to be inadequate and 'hypotension, pallor and perspiration are prominent, responses are sluggish and colour is poor', a dramatic improvement may be achieved with intravenous hydrocortisone.

There are good summaries on acute poisoning, local anaesthetic drug reactions, head injuries, and care of the patient in acute and chronic comatose states, among others.

On the whole the book deserves to be read and re-read so that its sound advice may be properly noted and remembered. It should be a useful vade-mecum to many district surgeons. It is well written, well printed and well bound.

G.C.A.v.d.W.