

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### PSYCHIATRIC SYMPOSIUM

*Topics in Psychiatry.* Edited by T. Ferguson Rodger, R. M. Mowbray and J. R. Roy. Pp. x+265. Illustrations. 20s. net. London: Cassell and Company Ltd. 1958.

This excellent book is no more than it claims to be, viz. a symposium. It is, in fact, an edited account of the proceedings of a specialist conference in psychiatry, held in Glasgow in October 1957 under the auspices of the postgraduate Medical Education Committee of the University of Glasgow and the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

This symposium tells us nothing that is new in the field of psychiatric knowledge. What it does do, however, is to present in a concise form a series of excellent surveys covering various fields in psychiatry. This book has brought together in an eminently readable and digestible manner much of the latest views, experimental evidence and clinical experience in the world of psychiatry.

There are 5 main sections covering schizophrenia, psychosomatic medicine, the tranquillizing drugs, mental deficiency, biochemistry and genetics. Further, it contains a comprehensive bibliography. It will prove a particularly useful addition to the bookshelves of postgraduate students in psychiatry.

S.W.G.C.

### SURGERY

*Text-book of British Surgery.* Volume 3. Edited by Sir Henry Souttar, C.B.E., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.S. and J. C. Goligher, Ch.M. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Edin. and Eng.). Pp. viii+619. 207 illustrations. 105s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1958.

Genito-urinary conditions are covered systematically and this section is distinguished by the addition of line drawings as well as X-ray illustrations, which add materially to the merit of the subject matter.

Peripheral vascular disease is covered by Charles Robb and, as one would expect, this section is both full and authoritative and can be read with benefit by every general surgeon. The detailed description of non-operative treatment is a valuable contribution. Whilst the substance of this section is of high standard, the literary level is considerably lower; the phrasing is poor, and the art of punctuation seems unknown.

Plastic surgery is given adequate space (almost 100 pages) and reconstruction of various organs is well described, as well as basic problems of skin grafting and cleft palate. The details in

this section will be appreciated by readers who turn to the book for guidance in the plastic problems which confront the general surgeon.

The section entitled *Surgery in the Tropics* is made up of an account of a fair variety of parasitic diseases, of which some are likely to be of interest to South African readers. The portions devoted to hydatid disease, bilharzia, and amoebiasis, are of local interest, but the actual surgical treatment of lesions due to these diseases is not by any means detailed and is written more for examination purposes than for practical guidance in handling cases. Much the same comment could be applied to the sections on actinomycosis and on venereal and allied diseases.

The discussion of radiology as an aid to clinical surgery covers a fairly wide field from emergency traumatic work, through sialography, alimentary tract, biliary tract, urography and bony conditions, to femoral arteriography. One might have expected some contribution on aortography. The section on radiotherapy in malignant disease is useful in that it presents some of the basic details regarding radiosensitivity and also the *modus operandi* of radiotherapy.

The endocrine section covers conditions of the adrenal and parathyroid, while the closing chapters on blood transfusion, fluids and electrolytes, shock and trauma, and chemotherapy, are absolutely essential in the present-day surgical field.

One's general impression of this book is that it will be of considerable value to the postgraduate student seeking a higher qualification.

P.C.W.M.

### MEDICINE

*The Principles and Practice of Medicine.* A text-book for students and doctors. 4th edition. By Sir Stanley Davidson, B.A. (Cantab.), M.D., F.R.C.P. (Ed.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.D. (Oslo) and the staff of the Department of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, and associated clinical units. Pp. xi+1067. 73 figures. 7 colour plates. 35s. net + 2s. 9d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

Within a short period of 6 years, 4 editions and 3 reprints of this text-book have been published. This phenomenal demand alone indicates that the style, composition and presentation of material have met with general approval, and is a triumph for Sir Stanley Davidson (who is retiring in March next year) and the staff of the Edinburgh Department of Medicine.

The book is authoritative, concise and dogmatic. The contents

are remarkably up to date. The commoner diseases are dealt with fully, while the rarer disorders and syndromes are merely summarized or omitted altogether.

In this edition new material has been included in almost every section, and the sections devoted to psychological medicine and electrocardiography have been expanded. Yet, through careful pruning and the omission of redundant and out-of-date material, the edition is actually 12 pages shorter than its predecessor.

This book meets the demands of the undergraduate student very adequately. It can be recommended to the general practitioner for reference and even the postgraduate in training should derive benefit from reading it.

P.W.B.

### NEUROPSYCHIATRY

*Foundations of Neuropsychiatry.* 6th revised and enlarged edition. By Stanley Cobb, A.B., M.D., Sc.D. Pp. ix+313. 16 figures. 40s. net. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

Professor Cobb has long been prominent in the search for concepts to bridge the dichotomy existing between mind and body. Primarily a neurologist, he approaches the problem from the aspects of the central nervous system. This neurological approach was at first epitomized in Griesinger's dictum, 'Mental diseases are brain diseases'. The intervening century has shown that this simplified somatic viewpoint is completely inadequate for understanding abnormal behaviour. New concepts had to be found to close the gap between somatic aspects such as brain, and non-material psychological concepts in the field of psyche.

This book presents the interesting and important advances in the field of neuropsychiatry. It is written to teach medical students about living function at the same time as they are receiving instruction in neuropathology. Reflex action is described in the light of current ideas of 'feed-back' derived from communication engineering. As sensory perceptions are presented the complicated central elaboration which is effected in the living subject is emphasized. When the physiology of pain is described, the next chapter sets out the varying psychological reactions to pain. An anatomical site for the emotional functions has recently been propounded in the concept of the 'visceral brain' in the temporal lobe; the reticular substance of the midbrain (far from being mere supporting tissue) has become recognized as functioning to activate the thalamus and cerebral cortex.

Teaching the student about such advances enables him to grasp more clearly the monistic attitude towards medicine which contemporary medical education strives to inculcate. Diseases have multiple and not specific causes, because disease (as well as health) is a reaction of the human organism to a complex external and internal environment. Mind need no longer be thought of as distinct from body. On the contrary. Mind is integration, Cobb teaches. The normal function of mind depends on the homeostatic mechanisms of the whole body. For the student this book should be essential reading in neuropsychiatry.

H.W.

### ALDOSTERONE

*An International Symposium on Aldosterone.* By Alex F. Muller, M.D. and Cecilia M. O'Connor, B.Sc. Pp. 232. 84 illustrations. 40s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

Although it is only a few years since the isolation of crystalline aldosterone, a great deal of fundamental work has been carried out, and a degree of understanding of the role of this hormone in relation to electrolyte and water balance has been achieved.

This symposium is therefore of absorbing interest. The participants include experts from Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. There is much of importance for both the biochemist and the clinician.

The technical difficulties inherent in the determination of urinary aldosterone are extensively dealt with. Neher presents data on the hormone content of tumours and adrenal fragments. It is clear that apart from cortisol and aldosterone, corticosterone needs to be taken into account. It is probable that other, as yet unknown, adrenal hormones will come to light.

Gross and Lichtlen emphasize the differences between aldosterone and cortexone, while the elegant work of Giroud *et al.* sheds considerable light on the biosynthesis of aldosterone, and

the Middlesex group discuss the metabolism of  $^{16}\text{H}$  aldosterone in man. The inconsistency of the diurnal variation in aldosterone excretion is explained by Muller *et al.* by the failure to consider the effects of the assumption of the erect posture and muscular activity. The mechanisms controlling aldosterone secretion are still uncertain. Apart from the minor influence of the pituitary gland, and the enhancing effect of sodium restriction and potassium loading, Bartter *et al.* present experimental evidence which, they hold, supports the hypothesis that an alteration in some facet of the intravascular volume is the major stimulus to aldosterone secretion. Hypothetical volume receptors in the hypothalamus have been postulated and perhaps the hypothalamic substance reported by Farrel is the important effector agent in increasing aldosterone secretion.

These are unanswerable problems. So is the enigma of primary aldosteronism, with its state of mineral and corticoid excess and yet lack of oedema. In secondary aldosteronism, however, oedema is a marked feature. As yet there is no explanation for the difference. The restricted salt intake of many oedematous patients may be a factor in the higher urinary aldosterone outputs.

Ayres *et al.* review the clinical spectrum of primary aldosteronism, and Stanbury *et al.* discuss the well recognized relationship between potassium deficiency and renal function and structure. The chapter by Mach on idiopathic oedema with hyperaldosteronuria is also of interest to the clinician.

The book is well produced and the charts are informative. This stimulating volume is highly recommended to all who are interested in aldosterone and its functions in health and disease.

L.E.

### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

*Cardiovascular Diseases.* 3rd edition, revised and enlarged. By David Scherf, M.D., F.A.C.P. and Linn J. Boyd, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xvi+829. 119 figures. \$17.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

It is difficult to assign this book its proper place. Although the field of cardiology is well covered, one would be unable to advise that it be used as a text-book, either for undergraduate or post-graduate students. The physiological approach is too much neglected for the former, and the latter would surely want some instruction on the methods and interpretation of specialized techniques.

The poor description and presentation of electrocardiograms is the most serious deficiency, and cannot be compensated for by the prospect of a separate volume on clinical electrocardiography.

Nevertheless, much is to be gleaned from this volume, which places the very wide experience and knowledge of two well-known continental cardiologists at the physician's disposal. The clinical approach is a very welcome one, and the chapter on therapy is very informative. This book should find a well deserved place on the shelf of the practising physician.

A.J.B.

### ADULT INTELLIGENCE

*The Measurement and Appraisal of Adult Intelligence.* 4th edition. By David Wechsler. Pp. ix+297. 40s. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, Ltd. 1958.

Wechsler's scale of verbal and performance tests is probably the best available for assessing intellectual level in adult neuropsychiatric patients. The age standardization has now been extended to include the clinically important range of 60 to 75 and over, and new chapters have been added dealing with the changes that occur in intellectual ability with age and consequent to brain damage. The problems of the assessment of deterioration, and the diagnostic significance of particular test signs, are discussed, and the book makes a useful contribution to our understanding of the effects of psychopathological disturbance upon intellectual function.

K.R.L.H.

### PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

*Psychopharmacology, Pharmacologic Effects on Behavior.* Edited by Harry H. Pines, M.D., D.Med.Sci. (Neurology), with 41 participants. Pp. xiii+362. 35 figures. \$8.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

This expensive American book is impressive both in its list of participants and its bibliography. It is a symposium and therefore has the style and language common to all symposia. It presents a broad coverage of both basic and clinical aspects of modern psychopharmacology, including much original work published for the first time. The verbatim records of the discussions held after each paper are a novel and refreshing innovation.

Its usefulness is restricted somewhat, in that the research worker will find himself more at home than the clinician in its pages of experimental results, graphs and other figures. The clinician, however, will be well rewarded by dipping into its pages.

It is rather a book for a medical library than for an individual's private bookshelf.

S.W.G.C.

#### BLOOD GROUPS

*Blood Groups in Man.* 3rd edition. By R. R. Race, Ph.D., M.R.C.S., F.R.S. and Ruth Sanger, Ph.D., B.Sc. Pp. xix+377. 31 figures. 42s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

A new edition of this well-known book can only be welcomed by everyone interested in blood groups. Once again we have an authoritative, accurate and yet absorbing and readable account of the subject. Since the appearance of the last edition something new has been learnt about all the blood groups, and this knowledge is included in the present volume. The inclusion of a short chapter of *addenda* at the end brings the book right up to date and allows the authors to refer to work published as recently as the first half of 1958.

Detailed descriptions of the 9 major blood-groups rightly occupy more than half the book, but adequate accounts of the less important 'private' and 'public' antigens, blood-group genetics with particular reference to linkage and heredity, and a brief chapter on methods employed, are also included. The recent work on Chimera twins is described and the chapter on blood groups and disease includes reference to blood groups in relation to susceptibility to disease. A noteworthy and commendable feature is the large number of useful references at the end of each chapter.

No laboratory engaged in blood grouping should be without this excellent book, in which not only the serologist but also the geneticist will find much of interest.

T.G.S.

#### SIDE-EFFECTS OF DRUGS

*Schadelijke Nevenwerkingen van Geneesmiddelen.* Supplement II. Door Dr. L. Meyer. Pp. 153. f13.25. Assen: Van Gorcum & Comp. N.V. 1958.

This book, which appeared first in 1952 as *Side Effects of Drugs* represents a second supplement in Nederlands. It is a useful reference work, comprehensive and fully documented. The toxic effects that have been reported from the use of the latest drugs are briefly mentioned, e.g. chlorothiazide, phenmetrazine (preludin), bemegrade, and many others. Older compounds are also mentioned, including agents no longer advocated in therapeutics, e.g. dinitrophenol. On p. 142 the statement that 'chlorothiazide kan hyperkalaemie veroorzaken' should obviously be corrected (hypokalaemie). Tolbutamide (p.114) has produced thrombocytopenia.

It is understandable that no book on toxicity of drugs can be complete. For the physician this book is nevertheless a useful guide in the use of drugs and in determining whether unexpected symptoms are due to the disease itself or to the side-effects of a drug.

N.S.

#### DISEASES OF THE LIVER

*Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System.* 2nd edition. By Sheila Sherlock, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Edin.). Pp. xvi+719. 213 figures. 57s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

There is no doubt that Sheila Sherlock's is the best monograph on liver disease. While not as comprehensive as some works of multiple authorship, it is very comprehensive and well written, and there is an excellent bibliography. In this 2nd edition there is valuable additional material on bilirubin metabolism, hepatic morphology and drug-induced jaundice, and a brief discussion of serum transaminase activity in the diagnosis of jaundice. Hepatic failure is fully considered; the section on management is highly practical. This is a very useful book, but one will often have to turn elsewhere for fuller discussion of many topics; this is as it should be, for Dr. Sherlock's book is one for everyday use and reference.

D.M.K.