

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

LETHAL DOSAGE OF ACUTE POISONS

Handbook of Toxicology—Volume I—Acute Toxicities. Edited by William S. Spector. Pp. vii + 408. \$7.00 Philadelphia, USA: W. B. Saunders Co. 1956.

Contents: Contributors and Reviewers. Introduction. Abbreviations. Table I. Lethal Doses of Solid and Liquid Compounds: Laboratory Animals. Table II. Lethal Concentrations of Gases, Vapors, and Fumes in Respired Air: Laboratory Animals. Bibliography Abbreviations. Index.

This is not a text-book of toxicology. It presents tabulated data concerning the acute toxicities of various substances for several species of commonly-used laboratory animals, on the basis of fatal doses by oral or parenteral administration or inhalation. The data have been contributed by experts in various fields. In this volume the principle contributor is W. F. Oettingen, Chief Toxicologist of the National Institutes of Health. Every page has been examined for accuracy by a panel of experts. For each toxic compound the reference for each line of data in the table (animal, route dose, vehicle, time of death) is presented on that line. It is emphasized that the values given are not absolute, since many conditions influence the toxicity of any given compound (e.g. dose, rate of absorption, route of administration, site of injection, disease, room temperature, diet, etc.); the values can only be regarded as a relative yardstick of toxicity. The older literature referred to lethal doses or minimal lethal doses, but attempts have been made in recent years to put toxicity data on a satisfactory quantitative basis, to determine more precisely the dose which will kill 50 per cent of animals (LD 50). In the field of acute toxicity all data are being continually revised. Those who are investigating toxic compounds or who are called upon to give opinions on toxicity of chemicals will find this volume most helpful.

N.S.

PAEDIATRICS

Advances in Pediatrics—Volume VIII. Edited by S. Z. Levine and Associate Editors. Pp. 273. \$8.00 post paid. Chicago: Year Book Publishers. 1956.

Contents: The Etiology of Infantile Diarrhea, by Horace L. Hodes. Isosexual Precocity in Boys Including a Case of Gonadotropin-Producing Teratoma, by Samuel Z. Levine, Henry L. Barnett, Madoka Shibuya and Joan K. Barber. Sarcoidosis in Childhood, by John P. McGovern and Doris H. Merritt. Offspring of Diabetic and Prediabetic Mothers, by Herbert C. Miller. Subdural Lesions

in Childhood, with Special Reference to Infectious Processes, by Margaret H. D. Smith. Prevention of Accidents in Childhood, by George M. Wheatley. Mental Deficiency, by Herman Yanner.

This is a disappointing volume of the Advances series in that some of the articles are reviews of subjects in which there does not appear to be any notable recent advance.

The chapter on infantile diarrhoea is almost entirely devoted to the bacteriology of the pathogenic strains of *E. coli*. It would have been of greater clinical interest if other infections had been discussed at greater length.

The article on sarcoidosis draws attention to the rareness of the disease in childhood; only 28 cases have been described under the age of 8. Nor does there appear to be any significant difference from the disease as described in adults.

The best chapters are on subdural effusions, and on the offspring of diabetic and pre-diabetic mothers. The high risk of accidents in the latter condition is well presented, and the measures are stated which are adopted in America to combat this problem, which is by far the most frequent cause of death in children after infancy.

One is left with the impression that this series is coming out too frequently, and that the editors are having difficulty in maintaining the original high standard. One would hesitate to recommend this volume as good value at 8 dollars.

P.M.S.

DESCRIPTIVE ATLAS OF BLOOD CELLS

The Morphology of Human Blood Cells. By L. W. Diggs, M.A., M.D., Dorothy Sturm and Ann Bell, B.A. Pp. xii + 181. Illustrations: Colour Plates I to XXXI; 54 figures. \$12.00. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1956.

Contents: I. Normal Blood Cells and their Progenitors. II. Fixed Tissue Cells of the Bone Marrow. III. Normal and Abnormal Mitoses. IV. Abnormalities in the Morphology of Erythrocytes. V. Pathologic Leukocytes. VI. The Lupus Erythematosus cell. VII. Pathologic Megakaryocytes and Thrombocytes. VIII. Pathologic Cells: Miscellaneous. IX. Techniques and Methods. Suggested Collateral Reading. Index.

This atlas is intended mainly for the instruction of medical students and student technicians in the morphology of normal and abnormal blood cells. For this purpose it is admirable. The written descriptions, which are given in considerable detail, are clear and easy to understand and the veriest beginner should have no difficulty in indentifying all the common cells. Much space is devoted

to normal cells while the abnormal cells met with in disease states also receive adequate consideration. There are 31 colour plates but these water-colour paintings are, to some extent disappointing. Despite the author's wish to avoid the diagrammatic representations of morphologic features, many of the colour paintings do not resemble closely the cells as they are commonly seen under the microscope. The open network of the nuclei of primitive cells (and especially of megaloblasts) is poorly shown. The microphotographs are much better and much more easily identifiable. The authors, too, do not sufficiently stress the salient features which are encountered in the erythrocytes of an ordinary blood-smear, for example in such a condition as pernicious anaemia. Another irritating feature is the use of the term rubricyte. It is quite true that it has been 'officially recommended' by a committee, but it is not a pleasing term to one trained in the 'old tradition'. To compensate for this (and other lack of agreement concerning names for cells) the commoner synonyms have been given.

There are many good features. The production of the book is excellent and, as befits a laboratory manual, it opens up flat. There are descriptions of practically all the common abnormalities which are likely to be encountered. The lupus erythematosus cell is well described. There is a small, but adequate, technical section.

All in all a useful book to have in a haematological laboratory, and one which many a troubled technician or student will readily turn to for aid.

C.M.

STRESS INCONTINENCE

Diagnostiek en Behandeling van Stress Incontinence bij de Vrouw. (Proefschrift.) By Jannes Janssens. Pp. 156. Groningen: Van Gorcum & Comp. N.V. 1956.

Contents: I: Inleiding. II: De anatomie en de fisiologie van het afsluitingsmechanisme van de blaas. III: Het onderzoek van de patiënte met stress incontinence. IV: Het urethro-cystografische onderzoek. V: De behandeling der stress incontinence. A. De niet-operatieve behandeling. B. De operatieve behandeling. VI: De resultaten der behandeling, het post operatieve verloop en een analyse van de voor en na de operatie gemaakte urethro-cystogrammen bij eigen patiënten. A. De resultaten der behandeling. B. Het postoperatieve verloop. C. Het urethro-cystografische onderzoek. 1. De topografisch-anatomische en anatomische eigenaardigheden der gemaakte urethro-cystogrammen in een tabellarisch gerangschikt overzicht. 2. De groepering der aldus verkregen gegevens. 3. De toetsing der interpretatie van: (a) Ball. (b) Jeffcoate en Roberts. 4. De uit ons onderzoek te trekken conclusies. VII: Een op grond van dit onderzoek opgesteld behandelingschema bij het bestaan van stress incontinence. Samenvatting. Summary. Literatuurlijst. Urethro-cystogrammen en Tabellen.

Hierdie boek bestaan uit 'n proefskrif wat aan die Rijksuni-versiteit van Groningen ingedien is ter verkryging van die graad van Dokter in die geneeskunde.

Die simptome 'stress incontinence' of die inhou-onvermoë van die urine by druk of drukspanning word bespreek. Mediese referate aldaar ter sake word breedvoerig aangehaal.

Die bou en werking van die afsluitingsmeganisme van die blaas met sy ingewikkelde ontleedkunde en fisiologie word op uitvoerige wyse behandel—hoofsaaklik by wyse van verwysings na en aanhalings uit die werke van andere. Eweneens word die nie-operatiewe en operatiewe behandeling van inhou-onvermoë beskrywe.

Die skrywer se eie bydrae beslaan sowat een kwart van die boek. Dit gaan oor die uretrosistografiese ondersoek van 60 en die behandeling van 335 pasiënte in die tydvak 1 Januarie 1950 tot 1 Mei 1955. Hy probeer wys hoedat die uretrosistogram tot hulp kan strek by die gebruik van die mees gepaste operasie. Operasietodes van Marshall-Marchetti en Aldridge vind by die skrywer groot byval waar die geval daarvoor geskik is.

Die boek gee 'n goeie oorsig van hierdie lastige blaassimptome, maar of die deursneeginekoloog daaruit nou juis enige baat kan put om hom behulpsaam te wees by sy behandeling van 'stress incontinence' is 'n ander saak.

E.M.S.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Medical History of the Second World War—Royal Naval Medical Services—Volume II—Operations. Edited by J. L. S. Coulter, D.S.C., R.N. Pp. xvii + 543, 19 illustrations. 57s. 6d. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1956.

Contents: Prefatory note by the Editor-in-Chief. Foreword by Surgeon Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Ingleby MacKenzie, K.B.E., C.B., B.M., B.Ch., Q.H.P.

1. The Naval Medical Officer Afloat in Time of War. (i) The Medical Organisation of H.M. Ships. (ii) The Daily Journal of a Medical Officer Afloat. (iii) The Lessons to be learned from the Journal. 2. The Naval Medical Officer on Active Service Ashore. (i) Some Medical Operations Ashore. (ii) Some Medical Events of Special Interest. 3. Medical Aspect of the Chief Naval Events 1939—41. The Year 1939. The Year 1940. The Year 1941. 4. Medical Aspect of the Chief Naval Events 1942-43. Some Minor Naval Operations 1942. Convoys to North Russia 1942-43. The Occupation of North Africa: Operation 'Torch'. 5. Medical Aspect of the Chief Naval Events 1944-45. Minor Naval Operations 1944. The Normandy Landings. Events of Special Interest 1945. Index.

Most war historians think in terms of guns and ammunition. Rarely do they mention medicine, except perhaps to chronicle the number of wounded. The Medical History of World War II, however, shows clearly how heavily the modern war machine leans for success upon its medical organization.

The present volume deals exclusively with the operations (in the Service sense) of the Royal Navy, and is compiled largely from the reports of its medical officers. Written during lulls in enemy action or immediately afterwards, these reports give a vivid and thrilling picture not only of the many famous (and less known) battles and campaigns, but also of the personal hardships, anxieties and triumphs of those involved.

Less entrancing are the numerous examples of the lack of foresight of the peace-time Navy. It should not have been too difficult, for instance, to foresee that injuries from underwater explosions would consist largely of fractures; or that the inability to change socks and shoes for long periods during action would, in the tropics, lead to outbreaks of epidermophytosis. It appears, however, that these phenomena, among many others, had not been anticipated. It was not until March 1942 that amended instructions, in keeping with modern requirements, were issued from the Medical Department of the Admiralty.

Fortunately, however, from the outbreak of war, many doctors had left their hospitals and practices to join the Royal Navy. They were not embarrassed by an over-reverence for Admiralty Instructions, and used their experience and initiative forthwith to adapt medical routine to existing conditions. It is a remarkable omission of this otherwise comprehensive history that no mention is made of the tremendous impact upon the Naval Medical Services of these thousands of volunteers.

G.R.

YEAR BOOK OF RADIOLOGY

Year Book of Radiology (1955-1956 Series). by John Floyd Holt, M.D., Fred Jenner Hodges, M.D., Harold W. Jacox, M.D. and Morton M. Kligerman, M.D. Pp. 413, with illustrations. \$9. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc.

Contents: Part I. Radiologic Diagnosis. Introduction. Technical Developments. The Head and Neck. The Spine and Extremities. The Chest. The Gastrointestinal Tract. The Genitourinary Tract. Part II. Radiation Therapy. Introduction. The Head and Neck. The Thorax. The Nervous System. The Breast. Gynaecology. The Genitourinary System. Blood Dyscrasias and Lymphomas. Miscellaneous Conditions. Radioactive Isotopes. Physics, Dosimetry and Treatment Technics. Hazards and Injuries. Radiobiology.

Radiodiagnosis

The number of articles of radiological interest in the literature has increased every year, yet the section on radiodiagnosis in the year-book series 1955-1956 has decreased by some 50 pages since the 1953-1954 series. Nevertheless, the authors John Floyd Holt and Fred Jenner Hodges are to be congratulated on the almost impossible task of including the more important articles in Diagnostic Radiology. They can therefore be forgiven if certain articles have been excluded to allow the inclusion of others, particularly so as the choice of subjects for any medical year-book depends upon the individual opinion of the authors.

A commendable feature is that the choice of articles has embraced the purely radiological literature, the numerous journals pertaining to other branches of medicine, and the continental literature, in approximately the ratio of 4, 3 and 1. The wide field of literature thus covered in this year's series provides a summary of interest to both radiologist and non-radiologist.

The present book maintains the high standard of its predecessors as regards the reprints of radiographs, as well as other illustrations. The summaries of the articles are concise and make easy reading.

The comments of the authors at the end of many of the articles are given in a chatty, friendly and almost fatherly fashion.

C.K.