

ARTERIËLE CHIRURGIE

Chirurgie der Arterien. Von Doz. Dr. K. Kremer. Pp. viii+280. 150 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 59.-. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1959.

Die vinnige opkoms van die moderne arteriële chirurgie oor die afgelope 10 jaar het 'n behoefte vir 'n handboek oor hierdie nuwe spesiale gebied laat ontstaan. Hierdie boek voorsien tot 'n groot mate in hierdie behoefte.

In deel A word die algemene beginsels van arteriële chirurgie, soos diagnostiese metodes, operatiewe tegniek en slagaaropplanting behandel. In deel B word spesiale slagaarchirurgie, insluitende aangebore afwykings van die aorta, verworwe letsels van die slagare soos beserings, afsluitings en aneurismas, en siektes van die koronêre vate bespreek. Hoewel fynere besonderhede van operatiewe tegniek hier en daar ontbreek, word oor die algemeen 'n baie goeie oorsig oor hierdie toestand gegee.

Die boek is met tipiese Duitse deeglikheid geskryf en is goed geïllustreer. Baie uitgebreide literatuuroopgawes word aan die einde van elke hoofstuk gegee. Die boek is so opgestel en gedruk dat dit makliker leesbaar is as sommige vastelandse boeke.

Vir die wat in die onderwerp belangstel en Duits kan lees, kan hierdie boek bepaald aanbeveel word.

J.K.B.

PATHOLOGY

The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology (1957-58 *Year Book Series*). Edited by William B. Wartman, B.S., M.D. Pp. 478. 171 figures. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

To those who know the year book series, the format and style of the 1957-58 Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology will be welcomed as a familiar and pleasurable publication.

Although there is an ample leaving of pure pathology in the sections on clinical chemistry, haematology and clinical microbiology, the subject matter runs the gamut of most recent trends—such as the uses of antisera labelled with fluorescein, new histopathological criteria in the study of nephritic diseases, routine quantitative enzyme determinations, and extracts of articles of recently defined viruses.

There are also valuable references to some established techniques and problems, e.g. the addis count, or the significance of plantar and palmar naevi.

In all, this is a nicely balanced year book which should have a broad appeal to all pathologists.

CANCER

R.S.

The Year Book of Cancer (1957-58 *Year Book Series*). Compiled and edited by Randolph Lee Clark, Jr., B.S., M.D., M.Sc. (Surgery), D.Sc. (Hon.) and Russell W. Cumley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Pp. 523. 191 figures. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

This year book publication—a worthy member of the large group of year books—emphasizes, if this were necessary, the value of this type of book. For the busy research worker in the field of oncology, for the medical author, and for everybody interested in the different aspects of cancer the book is essential. The 124 members of the editorial board have selected 235 articles from a total of over 4,000 published during the year for inclusion in the year book. The whole furnishes a first-class survey of the work done on cancer in the year under review and is of absorbing interest.

T.S.

FRACTURES AND OTHER INJURIES

Fractures and Other Injuries. By the members of the Fracture Clinic of the Massachusetts General Hospital and of the Faculty of the Harvard Medical School. Edited by Edwin F. Cave, M.D. Pp. xvii+863. 612 figures. \$28.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

This book records the opinions and the experiences of the members of the Fracture Clinic of the Massachusetts General Hospital and of the Faculty of the Harvard Medical School. The intrinsic merit of this volume is considerably heightened by the inclusion of end-result studies.

Every chapter is written by an expert and the individual subjects are models of balanced presentation. It is refreshing to have various viewpoints put forward in a dispassionate way for the reader's consideration. The sections on injuries to spinal cord and cauda equina, and fractures and dislocations of the spine are very good examples of conciseness and simplicity. This trend is apparent throughout the book.

The methods advocated are very similar to the those used in present-day practice in Great Britain and South Africa, although one might quibble at the teaching of repeated manipulative attempts at reduction in supracondylar fractures of the humerus in children.

The book is printed on paper of good quality. The line drawings are clear and accurate, and the reproduction of the radiographs is of a high standard.

This account of 25 years' experience of the fracture clinic is aptly dedicated to the 'spirit of teaching' and would make a useful addition to any orthopaedic surgeon's library.

M.S.

PRACTICE OF OBSTETRICS

A Modern Practice of Obstetrics. 2nd edition. By D. M. Stern, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. and C. W. F. Burnett, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x+258. 141 line drawings, 45s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

The 1st edition of this book appeared in 1952 and this new 2nd edition comes 6 years later. The authors are attached to the West Middlesex Hospital in England.

The main feature of the book is its conciseness; while the authors

have tried to emphasize the normal and common abnormal conditions. The omission of the description usually found in text-books of this kind, of the normal anatomy and physiology of the female pelvic organs has also contributed to keep the size of the book to reasonable and manageable proportions. This particular feature cannot be regarded as a disadvantage since the student can always turn to the standard works on anatomy and physiology for this basic knowledge.

The views expressed throughout the book will, on the whole, be generally acceptable to most teachers of midwifery, and undergraduate students can therefore use it with confidence. The book is illustrated throughout by line drawings which, though serving their purpose successfully in most instances, in my opinion tend to fall short when depicting histology and macroscopic pathology.

Among the sections rewritten or newly written for this edition are those on antepartum haemorrhage, hypotensive drugs, hypofibrinogenaemia and amniotic embolism.

The fact that the pages of the text-book are printed in double columns may disturb some readers. Each chapter is headed by a quotation from Shakespeare; this I find rather pointless since, in most instances, the bearing the quotation has on what follows is so indirect and tenuous as to be of no value whatsoever.

At the end of the book there are two very useful appendices—the first on the definition of obstetrical terms and the second giving the etymological derivation of terms commonly used in obstetrics.

E.M.S.

REGIONAL ILEITIS

Regional Ileitis. Second revised edition. By Burrill B. Crohn, M.D. and Harry Yarnis, M.D. Pp. x+239. 81 figures. \$7.25. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1958.

The 2nd edition of this monograph by the author whose name is eponymous with the disease is a detailed survey of over 600 personal cases seen during the past 25 years. The purpose has been to portray the natural history of the disease, and assess from the information now available the place of medical and surgical treatment.

Possible aetiological factors are thoroughly discussed, and convincing details of cases of abdominal trauma preceding the onset of the disease are presented. The theory of submucosal inflammatory reaction with lymphatic blockage appears to have wide support. There is an outstanding survey of the clinical features, and the importance of fistula formation as the most constant clinical and pathological phenomenon in ileitis is stressed. A separate chapter on the radiographic diagnosis is included.

The importance of this book lies in the vast personal experience of Dr. Crohn. Nearly 10% of patients remain well on conservative treatment. The operation of choice in his hands is a by-pass procedure with ileal exclusion. His reasons against a resection are impressive: a significantly lower mortality, a 29% recurrence rate which is somewhat lower than the recurrence rate after radical excision, and a higher proportion of good results.

The book concludes with a description of acute ileitis, of which two-thirds resolved completely over a long follow-up period. The rarer associated lesions of jejunitis and colitis are described in detail.

This book is a precise and authoritative survey by its chief sponsor of a fascinating disease. The production is good, the text clear and there is a generous presentation of alternative views on surgical treatment; it is essential reading matter for the surgeon.

A.E.K.