

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

DIE BEHANDELING VAN KANKER

Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases. 2e uitgawe. Deel 1. *Principles of Treatment.* Deur 55 skrywers. Geredigeer deur George T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S. en Irving M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xxi + 646. 505 illustrasies. \$22.50. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1958.

Hierdie boekdeel is 'n inleiding waarin die algemene benadering van kankerbehandeling bespreek word in al sy vertakkinge. Dit word gevolg deur nog agt dele waar kankerbehandeling vir iedere sisteem bespreek gaan word. Die verskillende onderwerpe wat in hierdie bundel bespreek word, soos bv. die voorkoming van kanker, die organisasie van 'n tumor-kliniek, die stigting van kanker-opsporingentra, ens., is almal deur mense geskets wat meesters is van hulle vak, en kan alleen afkomstig wees van 'n land soos die V.S.A. wat kankerbewus is en wat 'n besef het van die uitbreiding van hierdie probleem wat gepaard gaan met die langer lewensverwagting van pasiënte. Die boek bevat verder pragtige hoofstukke oor onderwerpe soos die klassifikasie van maligne toestande, die neem van biopsies, gevorderde pogings tot diagnose, bv. diagnose deur die ondersoek van afvalselle, ens.

Verdere interessante hoofstukke is dié oor die huidige beskouings en vordering wat gemaak is met behandeling van maligne

toestande deur hormone, chemoterapie, en radio-aktiewe isotope. Daar is ook 'n breedvoerige bespreking van die behandeling en die verskillende behandelingsmetodes soos vandag gevolg deur die straalterapeut.

'n Verdere besondere mooi hoofstuk is die een oor vatchirurgie in verband met kankerchirurgie—'n baie belangrike onderwerp waar met behulp van oorplantings, ens. kankeroperasies baie meer radikaal uitgevoer kan word.

Hierdie bundel en sy opvolgbundels sal 'n waardevolle aanwinst wees vir enige mediese biblioteek, veral vir naslaandoelindes, en is van groot belang vir iedere persoon wat baie te doen kry met die behandeling en probleme wat kan opduik by die ongelukkiges wat 'n maligne toestand ontwikkel. J.J.D.J.

THE LIPIDOSES

Lipidoses. Diseases of the intracellular lipid metabolism. 3rd edition, revised and enlarged. By S. J. Thannhauser, M.D., Ph.D., Hon. M.D. Pp. xiv + 600. 126 figures. \$19.75. New York and London: Grune and Stratton, Inc. 1958.

The third edition of this well-known text-book has now been issued in an expanded and revised form. The main expansion is found in an improved account of the chemistry of lipids and in

the section on familial hypercholesterolaemic xanthomatosis. The most interesting section is the chapter on the normocholesterolaemic xanthomatosis, which comprises a finely written account of the evolution of the eosinophilic xanthomatous granuloma and the Schüller-Christian syndrome group of disturbances, and a new account of the xanthoma cells in inflammatory and tumour tissue. This chapter in particular would be of interest to the pathologists. There is a disappointing frequency of printing errors throughout the text, starting with the preface, and the technical poverty in the pictorial productions—particularly the high-power microphotography—is unacceptable in such a well established work and in strange contrast to the excellence of the few colour plates. The authoritative and comprehensive nature of the contents will nevertheless continue to have a useful appeal to physicians, dermatologists and paediatricians. R.S.

FUNGOUS DISEASES

Fungous Diseases and their Treatment. Edited by R. W. Riddell, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.) and G. T. Stewart, B.Sc., M.D. (Glas.), D.T.M. & H. Pp. xvii + 256 + 8. 145 figures. 51s. 9d. + 1s. 9d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1959.

This book contains articles by 34 British, American, French and Belgian contributors and is based on papers read at a symposium on fungous diseases held in London in 1957. The proceedings of symposia are often difficult to read because of diversities in style, and the present editors are to be commended for revising the text towards conformity.

The publisher's notice on the wrapper is misleading when it states that 'this authoritative work is a complete and practical text-book on this important subject'. It is, in fact, an excellent survey of recent advances and current concepts in mycology which can be recommended to mycologists, physicians and dermatologists. Many of the contributions are on an academic level and the authors assume that they are conversing with their peers and not instructing the uninitiated. The first section on pathology, clinical features and epidemiology is as useful today as when it was written, but the second, on treatment, suffers by the delay of nearly 2 years between presentation and publication. It is a pity that the editors were unable to provide an addendum containing more information on amphotericin B and some mention of griseofulvin, which promises to alter the whole prospect in ringworm infections.

The volume is attractive, the illustrations are excellent and references are provided. J.M.

PATHOLOGY OF TUMOURS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

The Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System. By Dorothy S. Russell, Sc.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., LL.D. and L. J. Rubinstein, M.D. With a chapter on *Tissue Culture in Relation to Tumours of the Nervous System*, by C. E. Lumsden, M.D. Pp. 318. 286 figures. 70s. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1959.

The introduction to this volume discusses debatable points which arise both topographically and in the interpretation of the word 'tumour'. The hamartomas receive considerable attention, and a chapter deals with the contribution of tissue culture to the biology of tumours of the nervous system. The book, then, covers a formidable list of complex, ill-understood entities which are dealt with in such competent fashion that the book should be regarded as necessary to all interested in the subject.

Under aetiology, stress is laid on the importance of congenital segregation of immature or mature cells, and on the insignificant part played by genetic factors, trauma and known carcinogens in the pathogenesis of tumours of the human nervous system.

In their consideration of the different tumours the authors follow a common plan covering nomenclature, incidence, aetiology, sites or origin, macroscopic appearances, histological variants and pathological behaviours. The illustrations are excellent and the references wisely selected. On embryogenesis, controversial arguments are largely avoided and any opinions expressed are backed by sound evidence.

The chapter on tissue culture should be of particular interest to South African pathologists, who too rarely use this modern diagnostic method for tumour diagnosis.

There is little to be criticized and the authors are to be congratulated on a volume of merit which is destined to become a standard work of reference. B.B.

NURSES AID SERVICES. PRE- AND POST-OPERATIVE NURSING

Aids to Pre- and Post-Operative Nursing. A complete text-book for the nurse. By N. L. Wulfsohn, M.B., B.Ch., D.A. Pp. ix + 219. 18 figures. 8s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

Since so much of the ultimate success of an operation depends on the pre- and post-operative nursing care, this little book, devoted entirely to this important subject, is to be commended. It teaches the principles and explains the commoner problems that the nurse will meet. Although it is designed primarily for the student nurse, ward sisters and sister-tutors will find it a useful guide in their teaching function. It is a new addition to the Nurses Aids series and a very welcome one. A.H.T.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS IN DISEASE

Disease and Population Pressure in the Tropics. By T. H. Davey. Pp. 22. 2s. Ibadan: Ibadan University Press. 1958.

This booklet presents two lectures given at Ibadan University College by the visiting Nuffield Professor of Health from Liverpool.

The first lecture 'The social and economic background of disease in the tropics', shows how numerous universal diseases declined in prevalence in Western countries, before rational control measures were possible, in the face of the people's demand for more comfort in life—better homes, pure piped water and proper disposal of smelly wastes. These better living conditions soon became standard health demands. Nigeria is exhorted to aim at these higher living standards and disease prevention, rather than the expensive and less rewarding building of more and more hospital beds.

The second, 'Population pressure; cause and cure', is a masterly treatise on overpopulation. An early western influence on a primitive society is the quick reduction of death rate while the high birth rate persists. The resulting population increase soon outgrows food production, so that pressure unrest is inevitable. The cure by practical economic and social reforms is lucidly described, together with a medical programme which must be rendered acceptable to the people by intensive education.

This booklet is particularly appropriate at present. It needs careful study wherever authorities deal with primitive peoples, and inward digestion by those African states with self-government. H.R.A.

TEXT-BOOK OF HISTOLOGY

Bailey's Text-book of Histology. 14th edition. Revised by Wilfred M. Copenhaver, Ph.D. (Editor) and Dorothy D. Johnson, Ph.D. Pp. xiii + 633. 478 illustrations. 88s. net. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

The very fact that the 14th edition of 'Bailey' is now with us is indication enough that many have found the book of value through the years.

The reading of this new edition reveals an extremely well written and illustrated book; but it is in its use in the teaching laboratory and for reference that the real value of the volume appears. Selected references in each chapter and a really comprehensive index—unfortunately so often lacking—are only two points which spring to mind. The basic facts of histology are easy to find, not being buried in a welter of detail. In spite of this the physiological association of function and structure are well covered in a clear and easily understood way, supplemented by excellent photomicrographs, drawings, and diagrams. Occasionally a section of the book seems out of place. For example, chapter IX on the 'organization of nervous tissue' seems more fitted to a text-book of physiology rather than of histology. The section is nevertheless valuable and in no way detracts from the value of the book. Terminology is on the whole up-to-date but there are still some eponyms used which might have been omitted. There is enough detail for the advanced student and the research worker but not so much that the medical student becomes submerged.

There has been no skimping in the production or preparation of this book and it can be thoroughly recommended to students and graduates as a first-class text-book and reference book.

A.G.R.

HEART DISEASE

A Clinical Introduction to Heart Disease. By Crighton Bramwell, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 229. 61 figures. 21s. London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1959.

This book is an introduction to important everyday heart conditions as seen by the general practitioner. Therefore all, and especially newly qualified, doctors will welcome it. It is they who will be able to appreciate the value of the book and the wise guidance it purports to give.

Involved discussions on heart disease are left to more specialized works. Emphasis falls on basic principles, while conditions usually diagnosed by consultants and methods of treating them that are used in hospitals have been dealt with only briefly. The needs of the family doctor have received special attention with respect to treatment carried out at the patient's home.

A short *curriculum vitae* of William Harvey fitly introduces the general text. Clinical and prognostic aspects of the selected conditions discussed have been emphasized throughout and the reader's attention drawn to the importance of being at the same time a clinician, a psychologist and a scientist.

Much space has been devoted to diagnosis and treatment. As the patient is more interested in the prognosis of his condition this side of heart disease also receives due prominence.

The conditions discussed are 'congestive heart failure', 'heart disease in pregnancy', 'myocardial ischaemia', and 'myocardial infarction', followed by long and informative chapters on 'structural lesions', 'disorders of function' and 'aetiological types of heart disease'. It is somewhat disappointing to find discussions of 'the normal heart' and 'principles of heart disease' right at the end of the book.

The book bids well to be a success. The subject matter is well balanced, clearly presented and eminently suited to the needs of the houseman or the newly qualified practitioner. The publishers have made a good job of the printing and binding.

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