

INTRACARDIAC PRESSURE CURVES

Atlas of Intracardiac Pressure Curves. By Otto Bayer and Hans Helmut Wolter. Pp. xvi + 185. 55 figures. 42 tables. DM 68.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

In the general part of this book a careful analysis has been made of pressure curves, registered with the aid of a capacitance manometer. The normal pressure values and curve patterns in the different parts of the heart and great vessels are very adequately described and illustrated. The atrial pressure curves are particularly well dealt with. It is fortunate that a whole section has been devoted to explaining and describing the artifacts and distortions in recordings, which so often result in misinterpretations.

In the second part abnormal curves are presented and described. Although the changes in contour due to arrhythmias are of physiologic interest, they are not of the same clinical value as the characteristic pressure changes in valvular lesions, intracardiac shunts and constrictive pericarditis. One does not quite share with these authors the same confidence in the interpretation of pulmonary wedge pressures.

A large part of the Atlas has been set aside for illustrating tracings of diagnostic importance. Each figure is accompanied by a text giving a description of the important features of each curve and an interpretation of its diagnostic significance. The Atlas has been beautifully printed on paper of excellent quality and reproductions of tracings are superb.

Since cardiac catheterization is now a firmly established diagnostic procedure, a volume such as this will be of great practical value to the many clinics where this investigation is now carried out as a routine. A.J.B.

STUDENTS AID SERIES : MEDICAL TREATMENT

Aids to Medical Treatment. 4th edition. By T. H. Crozier, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. Pp. 367. 15s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

This, the fourth edition of this member of the Students Aid series, has been brought completely up to date and will continue its purpose in assisting students in current medical therapeutics. In order to reduce the tendency to increase in size, certain special sections like dermatology and dietetics have been omitted from this new edition. A.H.T.

PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Textbook of Physiology and Biochemistry. 4th edition. By George H. Bell, B.Sc., M.D. (Glasg.), F.R.F.P.S.G., F.R.S.E., J. Norman Davidson, M.D., D.Sc. (Edin.), F.R.F.P.S.G., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.E. and Harold Scarborough, M.B., Ph.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.P. Pp. xi + 1065. Illustrations. 63s. net + 4s. 2d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1950. Thus in 9 years 4 editions have appeared and the first 3 have had to be reprinted. From these facts alone one may judge the value of the book to medical students. The latest edition has been thoroughly revised and large sections of many chapters have been rewritten to include recent advances in physiology and biochemistry. The accounts of glycolysis and the citric-acid cycle, for example, now appear in a separate chapter. Other sections which have been revised include thyroid hormones, blood coagulation, oxidation of fatty acids, and the structure of skeletal muscle. In the chapter on 'some physicochemical considerations' it is suggested that the

older and misleading definition of acids and bases should be discarded in favour of the more modern and correct definition according to the Bronsted-Lowry concept. This suggestion is welcome and long overdue.

A number of new illustrations appear, including some in colour. There are many diagrammatic representations and schematic summaries which present with exceptional clarity important aspects of the subject. The selected references at the end of chapters have been brought up to date and are a valuable feature of the book.

A few errors and omissions are noted. In the section on the methods for estimating energy output only a passing reference is made to the Max-Planck respirometer, and the integrating motor pneumotachograph (IMP) is not mentioned at all. The spelling of flavinadenine dinucleotide is not consistent either in the text or in the index. Amino acid should be spelled without the hyphen. The correct value for the energy of hydrolysis of the terminal phosphate band of ATP is 7.5 kcal., not 11,500 cal. An account is given of the biosynthesis of the thyroid hormones but not of the recent work on the biosynthesis of the steroid hormones or of the porphyrins. There is no justification for associating Hogben's name with what is correctly known as the Xenopus pregnancy test.

This new edition of BDS can be heartily recommended to medical and science students. It gives a good and particularly well-balanced introduction to the study of physiology and biochemistry. H.Z.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

Health in Industry. By Donald Hunter, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 289. 18 plates. 4s. Middlesex: Penguin Books. 1959.

This 'Pelican' book is a well written exposition of industrial hygiene and is not only a very useful handbook for medical practitioners working among industrial populations, but also provides interesting and valuable reading for industrial managers and workers. In 8 chapters the author, within the limits of the space available, gives an up-to-date exposition of the history and legislation of industrial medicine, and discusses the hazards of toxic substances used in industry, and also of dusts. There is a well selected glossary of technical terms at the end of the book. The legislation dealt with is that of Great Britain; but it would, of course, be quite impracticable to discuss the legislation of all other countries. The publication of this book in a form and at a price which would make it widely read is admirable and praiseworthy. A.J.O.

LEPROSY

Leprosy in Theory and Practice. Edited by R. G. Cochrane, M.D., Ch.B. (Glasg.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. Pp. xv + 407. 189 illustrations. 84s. + 2s. postage. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1959.

Cochrane has gathered together a selection of most able contributors and together they have turned out what undoubtedly will become the standard work on leprosy. The wide ramifications that have developed in the study of leprosy are shown by the wide selection of contributors, all of whom are outstanding workers in their particular fields. Cochrane's own contributions are authoritative, as well they might be since he has been a worker in this field for over 34 years. The chapter by L. F. Badger, of the U.S. Public Health Service, on epidemiology upsets some previously held opinions; in view of the rapid increase of the disease

in Hawaii he states that leprosy cannot be held to be 'feebly contagious'. In the chapter on therapy Cochrane correctly states that 'an entirely new and hopeful outlook towards leprosy can be adopted'. This book should be in the hands of every leprologist.

A.R.D.

GYNAECOLOGICAL RADIOGRAPHY

Gynaecological Radiography. By Jean Dalsache, M.D. and J. Garcia-Calderon, M.D. With a chapter on *Radiography of the Breast.* By Charles-M. Gros, M.D., and Robert Sigris, M.D. Pp. xvii + 188. 305 illustrations. \$8.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1959.

This book is really an atlas of hysterosalpingography, accompanied by an introduction on radiography of the breast. It is made up of over 300 illustrations, mostly of excellent reproductions of radiographs. About half the reproductions are 'positives' and half 'negatives', which should partly satisfy all readers. The collection is imposing and has been amassed over many years and from many contributors. All the variants of the normal—the congenital anomalies and every type of pathology that can be demonstrated by this method—are to be found in this concise book.

In this country salpingography is used almost exclusively to ascertain the state of the tubes in cases of sterility. Not so by the French school; the examples they give here of carcinoma of the cervix and body, of fibroids and polyps, of synechia, and of tubal and extra-uterine mischief, are very impressive. One gets the feeling that our gynaecologists and radiologists could and should combine to do a lot more in this somewhat neglected field.

The section on mammography, though very interesting and equally well illustrated, is little more than introductory. In this subject very few radiologists have any real experience. So long as surgeons remain satisfied that their sensitive palpation tells them all they need to know about the breast, or can hope to know short of surgery, both surgeons and radiologists will remain ignorant of the potentialities of this method of investigation.

This book should undoubtedly be read and kept for reference purposes by all gynaecologists and radiologists and all those aspiring to these specialities.

W.J.L.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

Treatment in Internal Medicine. By Harold Thomas Hyman, M.D. Pp. xiv + 609. 42 figures. 3 colour plates. £5 net. Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. Supplied in South Africa by Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., London. 1959.

Dr. Hyman set himself a prodigious task in writing this book, which covers a very wide field. Notwithstanding the great amount of information included, economy of space is secured both by the use of tables and by considering infections under the heading of the causative organism without separate descriptions of disease entities. Pneumococcal, gonococcal and meningococcal infections comprise one chapter and on reading it one gains the impression that oral penicillin is recommended for the treatment of pneumococcal meningitis. Subacute bacterial endocarditis is dealt with in a very short paragraph. Amoebic liver abscess does not appear in the index and it would be difficult to treat this condition from the information provided in the 2 pages on amoebiasis. The widespread use of proprietary names seems unfortunate.

Although this volume contains much information it cannot be recommended as a standard source of reference in medical treatment.

A.J.W.

NOVOCAIN THERAPY IN OLD AGE

Research on Novocain Therapy in Old Age in English translation. A collection of 7 papers from 'Die Therapiewoche', 1956-1957. By Anna Aslan, M.D., C. M. Bürger, M.D., F. H. Schulz, M.D., U. Köhler, M.D., and E. Mampel, M.D. Pp. 68. Illustrations. \$12.50. New York: Consultants Bureau, Inc. 1959.

The contents of the 7 papers in this research bulletin suggest that an amazing discovery has been made. By the intramuscular injection of 'novocain' (5 ml. of a 2% solution at a pH between 3.5 and 4) regenerative and rejuvenating effects are claimed in

old people. The injections are given 3 times a week in a series of 12 injections, with a 10-day interval between courses.

The whole body is alleged to be affected in an eutrophic way. Shortly after beginning treatment old people show an increased desire to live, there is increased brightness of the eyes, and improved hearing and vision. Arteriosclerosis is reduced through mobilization of cholesterol in the arterial walls. Hair growth is stimulated, even in alopecia, and hair colour preserved. The development of joint disorders may be prevented. It is also claimed that by administration in other ways 'novocain' prevents the aging process in various systems of the body.

Attempts to slow down the aging process have been recorded from time to time. Steinach ligated the vas deferens, and Voronoff implanted monkey testicular tissue. Bogomoletz used his anti-reticulo-endothelial-cytotoxic serum. Niehans believes that foetal cells can help. Multivitamin therapy has been used, extracts of blood-forming tissues, royal bee jelly, and baths containing bicarbonate of soda. Claims are now made by these continental (especially Rumanians) workers for the rejuvenating effects of 'novocain'. Few scientists in Western medicine will hurriedly accept these claims, and still fewer will pay the high price asked for the 68 pages of this bulletin.

N.S.

POORT-HIPERTENSIE

The Pathology and Management of Portal Hypertension. Deur R. Milnes Walker, M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 113. 67 illustrations. 35s. Londen: Edward Arnold (Uitgewers) Bpk. 1959.

Die skrywer gee 'n oorsig van die hele toestand van poort-hipertensie soos wat dit in die afgelope 20 jaar benader is.

Die eerste paar hoofstukke handel oor die anatomie en die fisiologie van die poortstelsel, wat gevolg word deur 'n kliniese oorsig oor hoe hierdie toestand presenteer.

Die res van die boek is gewy aan die benadering van 'n geval met poort-hipertensie en die uiteindelige behandeling waarvoor besluit moet word. Operasies soos porta cava anastomose en spleno-renale anastomose word breedvoerig bespreek en met mooi afbeeldings geïllustreer. Die indikasies en kontra-indikasies vir hierdie ingrepe word duidelik gestel.

Die spoedbenadering van 'n geval wat met ernstige esofageale bloeding voordoen, word ook bespreek, en iedere ingreep is helder met tekeninge afgebeeld.

Die skrywer wy 'n hoofstuk aan poortsistemiese neuropatie wat baie goed gestel is, asook 'n hoofstuk wat oor poort-hipertensie wat by kinders handel.

Die finale hoofstuk handel oor die resultate van 111 gevalle van omleidingsprosedures wat deur die skrywer toegepas is, terwyl die resultate van ander werkers in hierdie veld vergelyk word.

Oor die algemeen is dit 'n goeie monogram vir die nagraadse student in die chirurgie, asook vir die chirurg wat graag hierdie gevalle chirurgies wil behandel.

J.J.D.J.

LAPAROSKOPIE EN KULDOSKOPIE

Die Laparoskopie und die Culdoskopie in der Gynäkologie. Von Dr. H. Frangenheim. viii + 70 Seiten. 98 teils mehrfarbige Abbildungen. DM 19.80. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

Hierdie is 'n waardevolle boekie vir diegene wat belangstel in laparoskopie (peritoneoskopie) en kuldoskopie. Hierdie ondersoekmetodes het ongetwyfeld 'n plek verower in die ginekologie en in sommige lande, veral op die Europese vasteland, word hulle redelik algemeen gebruik. Die voordele en nadele van elk van die twee metodes word bespreek en dr. Frangenheim se ondervinding is gebaseer op 500 endoskopiese ondersoekte wat hy persoonlik gedoen het. Sommige van die instrumente wat gebruik word, word bespreek en 'n goeie beskrywing word gegee van die verskillende tegnieke wat gebruik word.

Die kliniese indikasies en kontra-indikasies word nie oortuigend gestel nie. Van die 500 endoskopieë was 190 vir steriliteits-ondersoekte en 166 vir moontlike ekstra-uterine swangerskappe. In 'n verdere 42 gevalle is die metode aangewend vir die differensie diagnose van moontlike ovariale tumore. Of die moontlike waarde van hierdie ondersoekmetode teen die potensiele gevaar van die metode sal opweeg, moet nog bewys word. Daar bestaan geen twyfel dat kuldoskopie en peritoneoskopie altwee 'n duidelike

beeld van die bekkenorgane kan lewer, soos getuig deur die veertigtal uitstekende kleurfotos wat verskillende patologiese toestande in die bekken illustreer.

Dit is jammer dat die skrywer klein operatiewe ingrepe wat deur middel van die endoskoop gedoen kan word, net noem en nie verder bespreek nie.

F.G.G.

BIGGER'S BACTERIOLOGY

Bigger's Handbook of Bacteriology. 7th edition. By F. S. Stewart, M.D. (Dublin), F.R.C.P.I. Pp. ix + 611. 92 figures. 37s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

It is 10 years since the publication of the last edition of this popular text-book on bacteriology, and the present edition has been almost completely recast. The result is a text considerably longer than its predecessors mainly owing to the incorporation of a large section on viruses, which gives a comprehensive account of the more important of those of these agents which affect man. There is a new section on antibiotic agents, which one feels could have been expanded with advantage, particularly to include a more detailed account of the side-effects other than the development of resistance. The new edition is a great improvement on earlier ones and can be recommended for students. K.C.W.

ANATOMY AND DISEASES OF THE HAND

The Hand: Its anatomy and diseases. By John J. Byrne, M.D. Pp. xiv + 384. 166 figures. 80s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

This book on the hand is an American contribution of a comprehensive nature, dealing with some anatomical and embryological problems and the bacteriological and pathological conditions which occur in the hand. Each section is well considered from the bibliographic angle.

There are many aspects of interest, and a broad field is covered, giving the historical basis and considering the hand from a general point of view, apart from the question of rehabilitation, which is scarcely touched upon. In a book of its scope it is disappointing that no mention is made of fundamental principles of hand function, and no mention at all of fixed claw hand nor of Kanavel's contributions on the subject.

However, the book is of value as a general reference on the problems of the hand, dealing with a wider field than most books on this subject; as such it is a valuable adjunct to the library of any surgeon interested in the hand.

W.G.

TUBERCULOSIS

Recent Advances in Respiratory Tuberculosis. 5th edition. By Frederick Heaf, C.M.G., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. and N. Lloyd Rusby, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. vii + 284. 6 plates, 14 text-figures. 35s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

In the preface to this fifth edition the authors state: 'Such have been the developments in almost every branch of the subject that the book has, in fact, been completely rewritten'. This is indeed the case, for the last edition was published 10 years ago.

Two most interesting chapters are devoted to tuberculin and tuberculin testing and BCG vaccination, which summarize present thought on the place of tuberculin and BCG in tuberculosis control. A section on primary tuberculosis discusses possible developments after initial invasion of the host and presents the latest ideas on treatment of this important clinical entity.

Respiratory function studies have been given a section of their own and are discussed with reference to their value in the differential diagnosis of pulmonary dysfunction and the objective evaluation of treatment.

Rehabilitation has been dealt with at some length. It arouses envy in the reader at the completeness of tuberculosis control schemes overseas.

Throughout the book each chapter has extensive references to original work and for those who are interested there is a final chapter dealing with classifications and statistics. J.B.P.

OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL PRACTICE

British Obstetric and Gynaecological Practice (Obstetrics). 2nd edition. Edited by Sir Eardley Holland, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. and Aleck Bourne, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. xiv + 1228. Illustrations. 147s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1959.

The volume here reviewed is that on *Obstetrics* in the second edition, the first having appeared some 5 years ago. An impressive roll of contributors gives expression to the views and teaching of the British school of obstetricians, and the final chapter describes the pattern of British obstetrical practice as it is found today. As is usual in books of this nature, authors tend to overlap in their contributions, but the extensive revision of most chapters of the book has eliminated most of this. The work covers a very wide field; it is thorough, detailed, well documented and well illustrated.

A.H.T.