

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

HIATUSBREUKE

Die Behandlung von Hiatushernien und Refluxösophagitis mit Gastropexie und Funduplicatio. Von Prof. Dr. R. Nissen und Dr. M. Rossetti. VIII + 153 Seiten. 56 Abbildungen in 141 Einzeldarstellungen. Ganzleinen DM 49.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

In hierdie boek sit die skrywers hulle metode van behandeling van hiatusbreuke en reflux-esofagitis uiteen. Dit bestaan uit 'gastropexie' deur 'n abdominale toegang en in sekere bepaalde gevalle word daar bygevoeg 'n 'funduplicatio' waarby die fundus van die maag om die abdominale deel van die esofagus gevou en so bevestig word dat die esofagus feitlik deur 'n tregeter van maagwand loop. Die onderwerp word mooi logies behandel in die volgende hoofstukke:

Klassifikasie en kliniese beeld van hiatusbreuke; indikasies vir chirurgiese en simptomatiesse behandeling; keuse van operasie; operatiewe tegniek; verslae en röntgenologiese bevindings by verteenwoordigende gevalle; en die resultate in 120 pasiënte.

Die werk is belangrik omdat hierdie metode volgens die skrywers 'n kleiner ingreep is wat beter resultate lewer as die gebruikelike metodes. Die gebruik van die 'funduplicatio' prosedure vir reflux-esofagitis (met of sonder hiatusbreuk) is ook 'n belangrike voorstel i.v.m. 'n probleem wat soms moeilik kan wees.

Die boek is uitstekend gedruk en baie goed geïllustreer. Dit word maklik gelees en kan met redelike gemak binne 5-6 uur deurgelees word, omdat dit so ryklik geïllustreer is. Dit is 'n belangrike bydrae tot die probleem van die behandeling van hiatusbreuke en reflux-esofagitis. J.K.B.

ORTHOPAEDICS OF THE SPINE AND PELVIS

Handbuch der Orthopädie. Band II. Spezielle Orthopädie Rumpf (Wirbelsäule und Becken). Herausgegeben von G. Hohmann, M. Hackenbroch und K. Lindemann. xx + 1,136 Seiten. 850 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 174.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

The 1,134 pages of this volume, which is the second of the series, are stuffed with facts and figures concerning the spine and pelvis. The surgical technique is somewhat neglected, but this is amply compensated for by the numerous other aspects which are included. The book covers embryology, development, ossification, and disease conditions. Much space and emphasis are devoted to lordosis, kyphosis, and traumatic and metastatic defects of the spine; and similar detailed treatment is given to defects of the pelvis. The differential diagnosis of the various conditions is well dealt with, and the whole volume is studded with illuminating illustrations.

A graphic description is given of the proper examination of the human spine and the abnormal curvatures to which it is subject—a matter too often neglected in standard text-books.

The volume is accompanied by an illustrated section on the aspiration of a hip joint or the injection of cortisone into the joint. This section also deals with the anatomy and relations of the sciatic nerve and capsule of the hip joint.

In conclusion the reviewer desires to say that this short review is no true reflection of the contents of this tremendous work. D.J.H.

ELECTRO- AND ACTINOTHERAPY

The Principles and Practice of Electrotherapy and Actinotherapy. By Bryan O. Scott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Phys.Med. Pp. viii + 314. 168 figures. 27s. 6d. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1959.

This small book is written for students of physiotherapy who propose to take the examination of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists or the equivalent. The book is divided into 2 parts.

Part I deals with elementary electrotherapy, which is written in a simple yet graphic manner, with helpful parallels which enable the student who has not had a basis of physics at school to approach the subject without confusion. It is, in fact, a text-book of applied physics in which the physical principles of therapeutic methods are clearly defined, and their application to therapeutic devices indicated. Biological effects of electric currents are well described, with adequate discussion of physiological responses of specific types of treatment. The current methods

of electrodiagnosis, including electromyography, are simply and accurately described.

Part 2 consists of actinotherapy. The physics and history of this subject are described and the latest sources of ultra-violet light discussed. It is a pity that so much of the traditional mythology relating to this form of treatment is perpetuated.

The author has emphasized the salient points by recourse to heavy print, which not only detracts from the flow of the text, but is irritating to the reader. The book is otherwise well produced and illustrated, and is recommended to the student of physiotherapy and to the general practitioner who desires an understanding of the many forms of therapeutic apparatus in current use. C.W.C.

MEDICAL BIOPHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS

Blood Pressure Sounds and their Meanings. Part 2. Aetiology of Melanotic Cancer. By John Erskine Malcolm, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 70. 14 figures. 12s. 6d. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1959.

This booklet follows on the author's previous published work on blood pressure sounds, their physical properties and mathematical implications. The cardiovascular system is considered as an energy transmission line and the energy systems involved universally in nature are correlated. Thus, photosynthesis, the interaction of biochrome systems such as melanoids, carotenoids and haemoglobinoids are considered. These are correlated with rotating flow in blood, vascular waves, cavitation etc.

To the ordinary medical practitioner and consultant, ill-equipped with knowledge of modern physics and higher mathematics, the work is quite incomprehensible. It is written for a very select audience of trained biophysicists and mathematicians. These readers will be able to follow the arguments and appreciate the relations of melanotic cancer to blood pressure sounds as well as the mathematical implications of the author's thesis. V.S.

ENDOCRINE DISORDERS

Major Endocrine Disorders. 3rd edition. By S. Leonard Simpson, with the collaboration of A. Stuart Mason and G. I. M. Swyer. Pp. vii + 459. Illustrations. English price 50s. London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1959.

This is a nicely produced book, easy to read, presumably written primarily for the general physician (it seems hardly suitable for the student on the one side nor the endocrinologist on the other). There is a certain lack of balance; although it is entitled *Major Endocrine Disorders* yet a so-called new variety of male pseudohermaphroditism is described in detail, based on two cases which were reported by one of the co-authors and which were almost certainly really examples of gonadal dysgenesis (ovarian hypoplasia). As opposed to this, the section on diabetes is absurdly short and would be better omitted. The word 'prediabetes' does not occur.

'Adipose gynism' and 'adipose gynandrim' have received various synonyms, including 'Simpson's syndromes'—it seems a shame that the majority of endocrinologists do not believe in their existence.

A number of endocrinological errors occur; e.g. that semilente insulin acts more rapidly than soluble; that 'plasma phosphatase' is almost invariably raised in hyperparathyroidism; that patients with Turner's syndrome (gonadal dysgenesis) are completely lacking in libido and so on.

There is certainly a fair set of references, which seem, however, to have been chosen largely because they agree with the views set out in this book. To get a fairer survey it would be necessary to supplement it at least with Bishop's *Recent Advances in Endocrinology*.

I cannot recommend this book wholeheartedly, but certainly the run-of-the-mill, more non-controversial, disorders are well presented for the physician. W.P.U.J.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

A Synopsis of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 12th edition. By Aleck W. Bourne, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vii + 632. 167 figures. 35s. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1959.

This little synopsis has now reached its twelfth fully revised and augmented edition. In the past it has proved itself to be an emi-

nently useful synopsis, and the present one even slightly outdoes its predecessors. The author has again shown himself to be an excellent teacher in his selecting and presenting, in synoptic form, of practically all the available important facts of obstetrics and gynaecology. If read together with well-taken lecture notes they should enable any normal student to master these subjects satisfactorily without much help from other sources.

Much old matter has been replaced by newer (while some new headings have replaced older ones). Perhaps less space should have been allowed for the discussion of embryological considerations. Incidentally, Goldschmidt (1955) teaches that male characteristics are carried, not by the Y-chromosomes, but by the autosomes in the nuclear matter. But one would have welcomed more information about the biological procedures used in the diagnosis of early pregnancy. The *Xenopus* test (developed by a South African scientist) deserves to be much more widely known and used. The chapter on the newborn child is excellent and useful; the one on X-ray pelvimetry is noteworthy especially in its evaluation of the worth of this procedure and its true indications.

The author has incorporated a new short chapter on intersex at the end of the book and it should serve to draw attention to the mechanism of this condition.

One does not hesitate to recommend this little book for use by students. Its teaching is sound throughout and it covers, in a small but well-printed volume, a surprisingly wide field in both obstetrics and gynaecology. G.C.A.vdW.

YEAR BOOK OF CANCER

The Year Book of Cancer 1958-59. Compiled and edited by R. L. Clark, Jr., B.S., M.D., M.Sc. (Surgery), D.Sc. (Hon.) and R. W. Cumley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Pp. 570. 202 figures. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

The Year Books have come to mean something significant in the doctor's life and the *Year Book of Cancer*, now in its third year, ably carries on the traditions of the series.

The editors have wisely called on many of the staff members of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumour Institute for assistance in answering questions, and on the staff members of the Okayama University Medical School, Japan, for the selection of the Japanese literature, a new and welcome departure and a tribute to the culture that has produced Noguchi.

The field of oncology is so vast and the literature so extensive that very severe selection had to be undertaken. The result is a concise résumé of the progress of the work during the year. Surgeons and radiotherapists will need this book. T.S.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

The School Health Service. By S. Leff, M.D., D.P.H. and Vera Leff. Pp. viii + 316. 2 illustrations. 30s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1959.

The authors state in their introduction that 'a study of the school medical service can take us through the efforts and achievements of the past 50 years, reveal to us the problems and how they were met, and indicate how the future health service can best develop'. A comprehensive survey is made of the development of the school medical service in England since its inception, and a full report made of the service as it is today.

Chapters on the maladjusted child and the physically and mentally handicapped, on measures for promoting good health, and on infectious diseases in schools, make interesting reading and are most informative.

The book is a 'must' for medical inspectors of schools and may with profit be read by others who wish to acquire some knowledge of the working of a school medical service. L.vD.C.

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY

Biological Psychiatry. Edited by Jules H. Masserman, M.D. Pp. xvi + 338. Illustrations. \$9.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This volume, comprising the scientific proceedings of the Society of Biological Psychiatry in San Francisco in May 1958, is compendious in coverage of its defined field. Neuro-anatomical and neurophysiological topics include the caudate nucleus and the putamen, and the reticular formation. Clinical research is

represented by papers dealing with metabolic and specific chemical features in schizophrenia and manic depressive psychosis. Psychopharmacology makes a wide range of contributions in the realms of tranquilizers, psychic energizers, anticholinergics, and psychomimetic agents, in relation to a variety of personality, somatotyping and conditioned-reflex techniques. Addresses of a coordinating nature by Masserman, Hoch, Freyhan and Wikler bring perspective into these most important proceedings. L.A.H.

PULMONARY VENTILATION

Symposium on Pulmonary Ventilation. Edited by R. P. Harbord and R. Woolmer. Held in Leeds on 19 February 1958 under the auspices of the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*. Pp. 109. 28 figures. 12s. 6d. net. Altrincham: John Sherratt & Son. 1959.

In this edited report of a one-day symposium on some problems in the study of pulmonary ventilation there is matter of interest to the physiologist, the pathologist, the anaesthetist, the physician and the paediatrician. Electronics and gadget enthusiasts will have their appetites whetted and the general reader, be he never so humble, will find just enough discussion on high-powered topics to stimulate his curiosity without dulling his receptivity. Ventilation-perfusion ratios, CO₂ narcosis, respiratory acidosis and alveolar gas tensions are discussed in relation to clinical problems arising in asthma, in emphysema and bronchitis, in positive-pressure respiration, in anaesthesia, in neonatal apnoea, and in other situations likely to confront any practitioner.

This well printed and amply illustrated book, which is on sale for 12s. 6d., cannot claim final authority but it is an excellent aperitif and all practitioners would do well to consult it as an introduction to solidier meat, and as an indicator of the expanding horizons of clinical practice in conditions affecting respiratory function. C.S.J.

RADIO-ISOTOPE TECHNIQUES

Radioisotope Techniques in Clinical Research and Diagnosis. By N. Veall, B.Sc., F.Inst.P. and H. Vetter, M.D. Pp. xii + 417. 74 figures. 57s. 6d. + 1s. 9d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1958.

Written by two of the foremost exponents in the field, this is unquestionably an authoritative volume of outstanding merit. The work covers almost the whole range of information in a truly detailed yet simple and lucid manner.

Commencing with a clear introduction to the relevant aspects of radio-activity the text passes on logically and easily to a discussion of electronic equipment used in detecting and measuring ionizing radiations. The authors have very wisely allotted about half the book to the presentation of these basic physical principles, recognizing that a sound knowledge of them is necessary to their application in the elucidation of the various clinical problems.

In the second part the exposition reaches its height. Here the different clinical and research techniques are adroitly handled and the reader is left with a vivid picture of the respective techniques.

A very short chapter on isotope therapy seems to have been added to give full measure. Unfortunately, because of its brevity, it has detracted from the general excellence of the book. J.M.G.

PULSE-TEST FOR ALLERGY

The Pulse Test for Allergy. By A. F. Coca, M.D. Pp. vii + 168. 13s. London: Max Parrish. 1959.

This is a book for the layman and explains in simple language the author's well-known thesis that there is a direct connection in many complaints between the symptoms, the patient's diet, and the pulse rate. In other words, food allergies are a frequent but generally unsuspected cause of many ailments and the foods responsible can be identified by a systematic examination of the pulse rate, which is often accelerated by the eating of an allergenic food. The patient is directed how and when to take the pulse, to record the items of his diet and to correlate and interpret the findings.

The author explains that this teaching does not fit into present-day medical practice because the doctor lacks the time to acquire the considerable experience necessary to enable him to interpret

the pulse-diet record and is reluctant, because of his orthodox training, to embrace the new and radically different approach.

Some readers will become impatient with the author's numerous case histories of almost miraculous cures by this technique in a variety of dissimilar morbid conditions. Others, impressed with the author's reputation in the world of allergy and his previous scientific publications on the subject, may be inclined to pursue further investigations in this field in order to test the attractive hypothesis.

D.O.

SISTEMIESE ANATOMIE

Anatomy of the Human Body. Deur R. D. Lockhart, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.S.E., G. F. Hamilton, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. en F. W. Fyfe, M.A., M.B., Ch.B. Pp. ix + 697. 965 illustrasies. 105s. net. Londen: Faber en Faber Beperk. 1959.

Hierdie handboek oor die sistematiese anatomie bied iets heeltemal nuuts. Die skrywers het hulle ten doel gestel om die studie van

die anatomie te vergemaklik deur middel van kort beskrywings en veelvuldige illustrasies. Daar is in werklikheid baie min bladsye wat nie een of meer illustrasies bevat nie. Die illustrasies is duidelik en ter sake sodat sommige van hulle herhaal word om by die teks te pas en terugverwysing uit te skakel.

Die perifere senuweestelsel is op 'n besondere manier uitgebeeld. Wysers dui direk uit die teks na die afbeelding van die struktuur wat beskryf word sonder dat die wysers mekaar onnodig kruis. Hierdie aanpassing van beskrywing en illustrasie by mekaar is op sigself 'n bewys van die sorg waarmee hierdie boek voorberei is. Die sentrale senuweestelsel word deur middel van gekleurde drie-dimensionele illustrasies uitgebeeld, en dikwels word die byskrifte in dieselfde kleur as die kerne en bane gedruk om identifikasie te vergemaklik. Somtyds vorm geel bane en veral geel byskrifte nie genoeg kontras met die wit agtergrond van die bladsy nie en val dit effens moeilik om te lees.

Die toepassing van die kennis van die anatomie word herhaaldelik sterk beklemtoon deur woord en beeld. Die boek kan sterk aanbeveel word by studente en dosente.

J.F.vE.K.