

DUKE ELDER'S REVISION OF PARSONS'
'DISEASES OF THE EYE'

Parsons' Diseases of the Eye. 13th edition. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, G.C.V.O., Ph.D., D.Sc., LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S. Pp. viii + 613. 22 coloured plates and 459 text figures. 50s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

It has always been your reviewer's opinion that the best short text-book on ophthalmology was Parsons', and his policy was always to read it from cover to cover once a year. Furthermore it always was considered that if one knew this book backwards one could pass the D.O.M.S. The fact that it has now appeared in its 13th edition demonstrates that he is not alone in this view. Revised and brought completely up to date by Duke-Elder, in the master's inimitable style, it remains the standard text-book of ophthalmology for all those who want the entire subject fully covered and without unnecessary verbiage—in fact a book where every word counts. Several chapters have been put in a different sequence to the last edition, which improves the continuity of the subjects discussed. One of the few valid criticisms is that some illustrations could have been a little clearer.

This book continues to be the best concise and authoritative guide to ophthalmic conditions. L.S.

POSTMORTAL CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Postmortale klinisch-chemische Diagnostik und Todeszeitbestimmung mit chemischen und physikalischen Methoden. Von Prof. F. Schleyer. viii + 64 Seiten. 34 Abbildungen. DM 14.70. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

The difficulties in getting conclusive results from chemical tests done on post-mortem blood and other specimens are well known to every pathologist. Postmortal glycolysis or post-mortem changes of the non-protein nitrogen level or urea level in the blood influence the results so that it becomes difficult to draw conclusions from such postmortal chemical tests. There are many articles in the medical literature dealing with these questions but, as far as the reviewer knows, no book has been written that gives a synopsis of these investigations. Thus, this book of Schleyer's fills a gap. He mentions carbohydrates, proteins, nitrogen, minerals, changes of the blood, blood coagulation, etc. He makes critical remarks and furnishes evolutions of all references; by so doing he lets the reader participate in his experience. The book is very interesting and can be recommended to everyone concerned with such subjects. H.W.W.

MICROBIOLOGY

Recent Progress in Microbiology. Symposia held at the VIIIth International Congress for Microbiology, Stockholm 1958. Under the auspices of the International Association of Microbiological Societies (IAMS) and the Swedish Microbiological Society. With an addendum (in English and French) on the Structure and Function of IAMS, compiled by C.-G. Hedén, Secr. Gen. Editor: G. Tunevall. Pp. 453. Illustrations. 70s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1959.

This record of the VIIIth International Congress for Microbiology, which was held in Stockholm in August 1958, contains 6 symposia, viz. Recombination mechanisms in bacteria, The role of protein in nucleic-acid synthesis, and the role of nucleic acid in protein synthesis, Tissue-specific antibodies, Latent and masked virus infections, and Germ-free animals and continuous-culture methods and their application. In addition the volume contains the presidential address of Prof. Sven Gard and Prof. Stuart Mudd as well as an addendum on the structure and function of the International Association of Microbiological Societies.

The participating lecturers and panel members of these symposia form an imposing array of talent and authoritative opinion

in the field of microbiology, and the contents of the symposia, while strictly for the specialist, provide the most recent information in their respective zones of research.

It has been a thrilling and invigorating experience to read and reread this volume. The researchers in microbiology are uncovering large areas of ignorance in human knowledge and providing us with facts that would have read like science fiction but a few years ago. It is most stimulating also to realize the extent of international cooperation in research which has been attained.

No good purpose would be served by quoting from the contents. The symposia, and the discussions which follow, are highly technical and should be read and digested in the original. This will prove a highly rewarding experience. B.B.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN MEDICINE

History of American Medicine. A symposium. Edited by Felix Marti-Ibañez, M.D. Pp. 181. \$4.00. New York: MD Publications, Inc. 1959.

Following a short introduction by the editor of this series, there are 13 contributed articles in this symposium by well-known writers of medical history. The scope of the symposium extends from the medical practices and customs of the aboriginal American Indians, through the colonial days and the Revolution period, and on to the place of American medicine in the world of today.

There are separate studies on the evolution of American medical literature, medical research, medical societies and public health systems, while Dr. Douglas Guthrie has contributed a paper on the place of Scotland and Holland in the evolution of medical practice in America.

Students of medical history will be interested in the papers which form this symposium. A.H.T.

HAEMATOLOGY

Progress in Haematology. Vol. 2. Edited by Leandro M. Tocantins, M.D. with 19 contributors. Pp. vi + 290. Illustrations. \$9.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This is the companion volume to the recently issued Vol. 1. Both exemplify a type of book which has achieved considerable popularity in recent years. Vol. 2 contains 13 papers of considerable length, with copious references, each article being a comprehensive, informative and accurate survey of the present-day status of its problem, written by a world authority. The subjects considered range from morphologic cytology, through aspects of immunohaematology (haemolytic disease due to ABO incompatibility, kernicterus, blood preservation for transfusion), to various aspects of blood coagulation and, as might well be anticipated, leukaemia, radiation injury and the use of bone-marrow transplantation.

Anyone wanting a good account of any one of these topics could hardly do better than to read the account in this book. Only, most readers are likely to be interested in only a few of the papers. One can't help wondering whether the time has not come to issue this type of publication in loose-leaf form and allow one to buy individual articles. Libraries and institutions could purchase the whole volume; individuals could make their own selection according to their needs. C.M.

FAMOUS NEUROLOGISTS

Grosse Nervenärzte. Band II: 22 Lebensbilder. Herausgegeben von Kurt Kolle. Pp. x + 252. 21 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 29.40. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

This book, written in German, contains the biographies of 22 famous men in the field of neurology. The authors of the biographies are mostly internationally known research workers, including MacDonald Critchley and Geoffrey Jefferson.

Biographies of the following have been included: The basic

researchers Golgi, Nissel, Alzheimer, Brodmann, Cecile, and Oskar Vogt; the discoverers Helmholtz and Quincke; the psychiatrists Esquirol, Meynert, Wernicke, Meyer, and Gaupp; the neurologists Marie, Babinski, Head, and Economo; neurosurgeons Horsley, Dandy and Vincent. A concise picture is drawn of these famous men. It is a book that will interest the whole medical profession. H.deV.H.

CARDIOLOGY

Recent Advances in Cardiology. 5th edition. By Terence East, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. and Curtis Bain, M.C., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. vii + 421. 133 figures. 45s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

One cannot envy the authors who set out to give an up-to-date and comprehensive review of recent advances in cardiology. In this rapidly developing field this is indeed a formidable task and one can well appreciate the reluctance of the present authors to repeat this performance in the future.

The 10 chapters presented cover the whole field adequately. Congenital heart disease is given a position of relative importance in chapter 1 and the space devoted to the various aspects in this category of heart disease emphasizes how much recent advances in cardiology are the result of expanding knowledge in this particular field. It is noteworthy, too, that the tachycardias and disorders of conduction are treated with more emphasis than most other sections (chapters 8 and 9).

Myocardial disease (chapter 5) is disappointingly brief and no mention is made of advances in the metabolic aspects of heart disease. A next edition would have to devote far more discussion to these aspects.

The electrocardiograms and skiagrams that are reproduced and the classification that is presented on various conditions, are well chosen.

No more suitable book is available to meet the demands of cardiologists and physicians for a ready-to-hand knowledge of the recent advances in the field of cardiology. A.J.B.

KUNSMATIGE BEVRUGTING

Kunsmatige Inseminatie Bij De Mens. Inleidende Beschouwing Over Kunstmatige Inseminatie Bij De Mens. Door Dr. A. Hijmans. De Medisch-Psychologische Problematiek Van De Kunstmatige Inseminatie Met Donorsperma. Door M. H. Cohen Stuart, Zenuwarts. Enkele Beschouwingen Over Het Problem Der Kunstmatige Inseminatie Bij De Mens. Door Dr. J. Janssens. K.I.D. Naar Rechtelijke Zijde Beschouwd. Door Dr. F. T. Diemer-Lindeboom. Pp. 54. f 2.50. Utrecht: (Kanaalweg 132): Soteria, Tijdschrift van de P.C.A.O. 1959.

Daar word deesdae veel geskryf en gepraat oor kunsmatige bevrugting en dit is dus miskien tydig dat hierdie boekie verskyn het om ons in te lig oor die menings wat in Nederland gehuldig word—altans deur 'n besondere groep deskundiges. Die boekie vat saam 4 voordragte gehou op die algemene vergadering van die Protestants Christelike Artsen Organisasie in Nederland. Die bydraers sluit in 3 geneeshere en een wetsgeleerde. Kunstmatige bevrugting met die semen van 'n skenker (K.I.D.) word deur al 4 afgekeur. K.I.D. geniet teenswoordig wêreldwyse belangstelling, en heftige meningsverskille bestaan oral. Dit is belangrik dat almal wat daarin belangstel hulle vertrouwd maak met alle betroubare literatuur oor hierdie onderwerp. Hierdie boekie verdien om gelees te word. E.M.S.

TEXT-BOOK OF ALLERGY

International Textbook of Allergy. Edited by J. M. Jamar, M.D. Pp. 639. 17 figures. 110s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

The somewhat austere title of this book hardly does justice to the comprehensive general and detailed survey of the theory and practice of allergy given by 25 authorities from Europe, North and South America and Canada. The opening chapters, 'Anaphylaxis', 'Physiopathological role of histamine in man', 'Allergy and immunology', 'Definition, prevalence, predisposing and contributory factors in allergic diseases', as well as the article 'Psychosomatic aspects and psychotherapy in allergic diseases' provide a remarkably fine background to the understanding of the remaining contributions relating to the more specifically clinical conditions of asthma, hay fever and urticaria as well as

to the less well-known subjects, 'Vascular allergy and collagen diseases', 'Allergy and haematology', 'Migraine and allergic headaches' and 'Reactions to drugs'.

The book is handsomely produced, with good black-and-white and coloured illustrations and a series of selected references to each article. This is a valuable work and a credit to its editor, who draws attention to the fact that, as the allergic phenomenon can take place in every human organ and tissue, every practising physician, whatever his branch of medicine, will be confronted with allergic problems. D.O.

GENERAL SURGERY

The Year Book of General Surgery, 1959-1960. Edited by M. E. de Bakey, B.S., M.D., M.S. Pp. 639. 169 figures. \$8.00. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers. 1959.

This year the operating surgeon's *vade mecum* once again reflects advances in surgical thought and techniques. Edited by M. de Bakey, who himself contributes no less than 7 articles to this issue, the contents range over the entire field of surgery and the editorial comments, pungent and salty, even if occasionally damning (p. 268), are a joy.

As expected after last year's Year Book, diseases of the appendix have now come to occupy only 1½ pages, but surgical diseases of the heart fill 71 and of the aorta and large vessels 56.

The risks of common-duct damage in cholecystectomy are once again brought forward.

The articles that particularly caught your reviewer's eye were firstly one on kidney transplantation in identical twins and secondly one on regional perfusion in the chemotherapy of cancer.

In criticism it should be pointed out that non-American literature is but poorly represented in this Year Book. Surely not all surgical advances come from across the Atlantic? T.S.

HUMANITY IN ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique. By W. M. S. Russell, M.A. (Oxon), D.Phil. (Oxon), and R. L. Burch. Pp. xiv + 238. 9 illustrations. 22 tables. 30s. net. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd. 1959.

... It is widely recognized that the humanest possible treatment of experimental animals, far from being an obstacle is actually a prerequisite for successful animal experiment'. The development of this theme expressed by the authors represents the outcome of several years of systematic study sponsored by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, and relates to work in the UK on the treatment of vertebrates during the actual course of experiment. An account is given of the ecology of experimental animals and of the sources, incidence and removal of inhumanity.

About one-half of the book is devoted to discussion of the ways in which inhumanity is being diminished or removed. Replacement of animals as experimental media by insentient material such as higher plants, microorganisms, the more degenerate metazoan endoparasites, and tissue culture, is discussed. Reduction in the number of animals as a result of statistical methodology depends on the study of the behaviour of laboratory animals and is closely related to refinement of procedures.

This book does not make easy reading, but is recommended to persons engaged in animal experimentation. B.B.-S.

VASCULAR DISEASES

Peripheral Vascular Diseases. An objective approach. By Travis Winsor, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xviii + 845. 435 figures. £6 5s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1959.

This is another of the new books on vascular diseases that are appearing more and more frequently now that the surgery of the blood vessels has become so important a branch of medicine.

The book covers pretty well the whole field of peripheral vascular diseases, but in a rather general way. Atherosclerosis, the disorders of the upper extremity, and the post-traumatic syndromes are dealt with more fully, while Raynaud's disease, Raynaud's phenomenon, and the commoner vasospastic diseases, receive rather inadequate attention. On the whole, it gives one the impression of being somewhere between a text-book and a synopsis.

A large part of the book is devoted to a description of numerous diagnostic procedures, many of them of practical importance, and many of academic interest only. However, mention is made

of the newer techniques used in direct vascular surgery, together with a brief description of the various grafts and grafting materials, and their pre-operative treatment. Strangely enough, no mention is made of thrombosis of the carotid arteries, and its treatment by direct surgery.

An enormous number of well-executed line drawings tend to clutter up this quite attractive book. Most of these are designed to illustrate a point or an idea, but it is felt that they are rather overdone.

Undoubtedly, the book will be of great value to the busy general practitioner, for it is easy to read, it is concise, and it covers the whole field. For the person practising arterial surgery, it is not adequate.

W.G.S.

INSULIN COMA

Insulin Treatment in Psychiatry. Proceedings of the International Conference on Insulin Treatment in Psychiatry held at the New York Academy of Medicine, 24-25 October 1958. Edited by Max Rinkel, M.D. and Harold E. Himwich, M.D. Pp. xxxiii + 386. Illustrations. \$5.00. New York: Philosophical Library. 1959.

Only those of us who became interested in psychiatric practice before 1938, in this country, are aware of the stultifying conditions then existing, when no real approach to the treatment and understanding of schizophrenics was made beyond custodial care and, where possible, occupational therapy.

This book is a timely and sober review of opinions held throughout the world on the subject. The view expressed by Sargent in chapter 7, viz. 'that the whole relative importance of insulin coma, the new tranquilizers, electro-shock and leucotomy is now in the melting pot', is only too true, but the fact that a treatment so empirical as insulin treatment has survived for 21 years and more is proof of its value, and this point the book makes particularly well in several chapters. Sakel, by his great work, and in spite of the fact that he has hit on the right road in some blind spot, has made the treatment of today and tomorrow possible.

This is a book well worth studying by all interested in the subject.

M.G.

CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Practical Clinical Biochemistry. 2nd edition. By Harold Varley, M.Sc., F.R.I.C. Pp. viii + 635. 78 figures. 42s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1958.

This is an essentially practical text-book which has been written primarily for those directly concerned with the performance of the many biochemical tests carried out in hospital laboratories as an aid to the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The techniques are described in detail and the interpretations of the results of the various investigations are discussed in a clear and concise manner. The rapid development of clinical biochemistry has meant that a new edition of this book has become necessary 3 years after its first appearance. Numerous minor alterations have been made, the chapters on hormones and proteins largely rewritten, and new sections on hydroxyindoles, transaminases and mucoproteins added.

This book can be highly recommended to clinical pathologists and laboratory technicians but one feels that there is also a place for a 'Varley' on the bookshelves of many who may not themselves carry out the tests it describes but who are interested in their interpretation.

M.I.S.

PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY IN MEDICINE

Essential Principles of Pathology. By John W. Landells, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., F.Z.S. Pp. x + 278. 16 plates. 25s. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1959.

This is a successful survey of the essential principles of pathology as they apply to clinical medicine. When studying the pathogenesis of disease, the ardent student of pathology will find the book to be of value as additional introductory reading; it will furnish a better understanding of morbid anatomy and histology, and it will also serve as a reference in his further clinical studies. The text is well written, lucid and direct; a considerable number of photomicrographs are included. In the 280 pages is included an outline of the disorders of circulation, diseases due to deficiencies, and excess and disorders of growth. The discussion

of chronic and allergic inflammatory states under the heading of 'abnormal inflammation' is rather unusual but it in no way detracts from the value of the book.

This book may be commended to students. Moreover, the medical practitioner will find running through it a stimulating current of modern thought on the functional aspects of disease and on its treatment.

J.G.S.

ENGINEERING IN BONE AND JOINT SURGERY

Metals and Engineering in Bone and Joint Surgery. By Charles Orville Bechtol, M.D., Albert Barnett Ferguson, Jr., M.D. and Patrick Gowans Laing, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 186. 119 figures. \$8.00. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1959.

Much fruitful progress has recently come from the combination of medical knowledge with engineering. New concepts concerning joint lubrication have been given to us by John Charnley, F.R.C.S., working hand-in-glove with engineers. This new book serves not only to emphasize the immense value of such work but, by virtue of the thoroughness of the basic research involved and the clarity and well-proportioned emphasis with which this work has been produced, deserves the highest praise in this new field of realistic advancement.

Every item considered and discussed is of vital value to the modern orthopaedic surgeon and not only will play a fundamental part in adjusting orthopaedic opinions in fields where conjecture has left much to be desired, but in addition will stimulate further work of a similar kind.

In every paragraph valuable explanation is to be found of our unexplained errors of the past. If any orthopaedic surgeon fails to acquaint himself with advancements in this field he will before long find himself being outstripped by his colleagues.

I would recommend this book therefore as fundamental orthopaedic reading.

C.E.L.A.

X-RAY DIAGNOSIS

A Text-book of X-ray Diagnosis. Vol. 4. 3rd edition. Edited by S. Cochrane Shanks, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. and Peter Kerley, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.E. Pp. xvi + 714. 735 illustrations. £5 10s. 0d. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1959.

The reading public in general is probably somewhat undiscerning in regard both to the printed word and to illustrations. Possibly this observation applies also to the medical profession. Certainly we allow most of our medical periodicals to slide straight off our backs without being more than mildly critical of their contents. But if we have to pay £5 or more for one volume of a text-book, in its third edition, we are entitled to be hypercritical and ask why it should continue to print its illustrative X-ray reproductions in the positive instead of the negative form.

Almost no-one today uses positive radiographs in radiodiagnosis, and radiologists are therefore quite unused to looking at them. It seems strange then to foist this phase of illustration on those who are trying to learn the subject; it only makes it more difficult for them.

If the producers of films for the cinema tried a similar dodge, the fall-off in box office receipts that would accompany the screening of, say, Marilyn Monroe with black face and black hair would rapidly convince them of the error of their ways.

Apart from the fact that 'every bone in its body' is a positive, there is really nothing else but unstinted praise for this book. Despite this drawback it is difficult to see how radiologists and radiology students can afford to be without it.

W.J.L.

BLOOD CELL PROLIFERATION

The Kinetics of Cellular Proliferation. Edited by Frederick Stohlman, Jr., M.D. Pp. xiv + 456. Illustrations. \$5.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This book is the outcome of a symposium held in America by the Section of Hematology of the National Institutes of Health. The list of contributors is a large one and the book abounds with illustrations and excellent microphotographs. It covers a large field of experimental work and of especial interest is the role played by radio-active isotopes in the elucidation of the problems of cellular kinetics. An interesting feature of the book is the

discussion, by various eminent men in question-and-answer form, which follows each chapter.

It is impossible, in reviewing a book of this scope and merit, to mention individual sections in particular, for this book contains the sum total of the opinions of a great many experts in the field of the kinetics of cellular proliferation and, as such, each chapter is important and has its own contribution to make. To mention a few points only, these studies include the formation, pool sizes and metabolism of leucocytes, bone-marrow observations and—of special interest—the blood uptake of Fe-59 in studies of red-cell production. The pitfalls of advanced experimental work and the limitations of the conclusions reached are discussed with commendable frankness. This book deserves to be read, especially by physiologists and haematologists, for its great contribution to haematology.

S.S.G.

ENDOCRINOLOGY YEAR BOOK

The Year Book of Endocrinology 1958-59. Edited by Gilbert S. Gordan, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. 384. 87 figures. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

Though this Year Book keeps up its customarily high standards of information and entertainment, endocrinology is expanding at such a rate that, if it is the intention to try and cram the cream of all endocrine progress into a single volume next year, one wonders if all the information to be reproduced will not explode through the covers of a single book! Most endocrinologists have a 'pet' gland, and I feel sure that *two* endocrine Year Books (vol 1—diabetes and thyroid; and vol. 2—the rest) would sell as well as one, and would cope more adequately with the major advances in the year. However, Dr. Gordan has done his job well, and I have no doubt that physicians will derive benefit from referring to and reading this volume.

G.D.C.