

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

## PATHOLOGY YEAR BOOK

*The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology 1958-59.* Edited by W. B. Wartman, B.S., M.C. Pp. 502. 138 figures. \$8.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

In the inimitable manner that has characterized the previous Year Books, the editor, Prof. Wartman, takes us through a series of articles in pathology and clinical pathology which were published mainly in the medical press of North America and Europe. They are generally grouped as touching upon allied classes of subjects.

The cardiovascular system group has a provocative account of the cardiac necrosis that occurs in rats under corticoid therapy when treated with sodium phosphate, and also good accounts (with footnotes) on the natural history of atherosclerosis, the mast cells in coronary atheroma, and regenerative changes in the aorta and occluded vessels.

Under the respiratory system are rightly emphasized the emphysematous and pulmonary hypertensive disturbance, and some possibly allergic connective-tissue diseases of the lungs.

The Nuffield Trust investigation into sterilization is extracted to highlight the flaws in medical cleanliness—where for example 36 out of 209 allegedly sterile articles used in wards and theatres were unsterile; and the pollution of bedside carafes is exposed. However, the sections of forensic pathology, urinalysis and virology are poor, and only the editor's footnotes saves the section on leucocytes—where the plea for simpler preliminary investigations in clinical pathology is a pertinent one.

Reading this Year Book, the importance of immunity in the basic understanding of medicine again appears as a distinct trend in pathology and clinical pathology.

The book maintains its excellent value to the academic pathologist. While clinical pathologists may miss some reviewing of practical matters, for them also the Year Book continues to be an invaluable and recommended acquisition. R.S.

## ENDOCRINOLOGY IN GYNAECOLOGY

*Gynecologic Endocrinology.* By G. N. Riley, Ph.D. Pp. xix + 330. 72 figures. \$8.50. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1959.

The struggle to avoid the quicksands of empirical endocrinal treatment and stand unshakably firm on physiopathological knowledge in the approach to disorders of menstruation, the menopause, and infertility, is all too seldom made and sustained. To those whose spirit remains willing but whose flesh is too weak to cope with the bewildering literature and rival claims of proprietary preparations in this field, this book will provide a welcome modern aid to informed and rational treatment. It is even sufficiently comprehensive to be of value to those with aspirations towards diplomas in gynaecology and obstetrics.

The clarity of the type, quality of the paper, and binding of this volume are a credit to the publishers.

The author, who is an Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the University of Michigan, has a lucid literary style, and the excellence and clarity of no less than 72 figures help to hold the reader's attention and enhance the concise presentation of the subject material.

The opening chapters deal with endocrinal and reproductive physiology in women. The physiopathology and rational treatment of menstrual dysfunction, the endocrine aspects of infertility, abortion and adrenal cortical function, *inter alia*, are valuable practical guides. Notwithstanding that some of the details provided in the ensuing chapter on diagnostic procedures are beyond the requirements of practitioners, they are easily understood, and the closing chapter, which provides details on pharmaceutical endocrine preparations, can be recommended as particularly helpful. D.C.

## CHILD PSYCHIATRY

*An Introduction to Child Psychiatry.* By S. Chess, M.D. Pp. x + 254. \$5.25. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

Child psychiatry is a field where many disciplines meet—health, education and the social sciences. Because of the simplicity of its language and its middle-of-the-way approach, this excellent little book can well serve as an introduction to anybody interested in this comparatively new field.

It is concise and touches on the most important aspects of child psychiatry. The only criticism that can be levelled at it

is that the child is considered too much in isolation from the parent, and the dynamic interaction between them is largely overlooked. This gives a deceptive impression of simplicity, as though counselling is all the parents require.

In the section on classification and diagnosis Dr. Chess took considerable pains to clarify some difficult and confused concepts. Each chapter is followed by a useful bibliography, which the interested student can explore. As an introduction it can be recommended without reservations. M.V.B.

## PLASTIC SURGERY OF THE FACE

*The Surgical Treatment of Facial Injuries.* 2nd edition. By V. H. Kazanjian, C.M.G., D.M.D., M.D., F.A.C.S., D.Sc. (Hon.) and J. M. Converse, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. ix + 1110. 1,155 figures. 176s. \$22.00. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1959.

Dr. Kazanjian is one of the diminishing band of surgeons whose work extends back to World War I, when he worked at Sydenham with Sir Harold Gillies, and his experience of facial injuries must be almost unique. His co-author, Dr. Converse, also worked with Sir Harold, in World War II.

The book forms a most comprehensive study of facial injuries of all types. The authors stress the importance of early correction of facial fractures for the reason that they set rapidly and after a few days are most difficult to correct. Unfortunately, in our country, with its long distances, it is not uncommon to find that these fractures have united firmly in a bad position by the time they reach a plastic centre.

The authors also stress their preference for repair by local flaps, where possible. These permit of shorter treatment with far better colour match.

The book is excellently illustrated with photographs and diagrams of the various procedures and is a great contribution to plastic surgery. It should be on the shelf of every surgeon interested in this work. N.A.M.P.

## POISONS AND POISONING

*Klinik und Therapie der Vergiftungen.* 3., neubearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage. Von Priv.-Doz. Dr. S. Moeschlin. Pp. xii + 655. 92 Abbildungen. Ganzleinen DM 59.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

The entire volume is concerned with drugs and poisons and clinical manifestations in cases of overdose. It also deals with numerous very important industrial hazards to which the worker is exposed in modern industry. Special emphasis is laid on dangers from fruit sprays and modern insecticides. Unlike most text-books of pharmacology, this publication deals also with treatment and prevention.

An excellent résumé is included on lead poisoning and new drugs employed in its treatment. Calcium EDTA is labelled as specific against lead poisoning in addition to BAL.

In conclusion, one cannot help emphasizing the significance of prevention in industrial hazards, as pointed out by the author, who converts this nebulous subject into one of pleasant reading and easy understanding. D.J.H.

## GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY

*Proceedings of the World Congress of Gastroenterology and the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Gastroenterological Association,* Washington, D.C., USA, 25-31 May 1958. Vols. 1 and 2. Pp. xxxv + 1,363. Illustrated. 160s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

These two volumes contain original contributions, papers read in symposia, and reports of panel discussions. In addition there is a description of scientific exhibits, a list of films shown at the Congress, and an account of the inaugural ceremony.

As a source of reference to original contributions the value and necessity of this record is evident; but the symposia and panel discussions provide more than this, for they form a combined account of various aspects of gastro-enterology from authorities from all over the world. This is well illustrated by the symposium on peptic ulcer, where aetiological aspects of the disease can be compared against the geographical, social and dietary backgrounds of a large number of different countries.

The book is attractively prepared with clear print on good paper and the reproduction of the illustrations is excellent. A.J.W.

## MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY

*Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery.* 3rd edition. By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.A.C.S., F.R.S. (Edin.), and W. J. Bishop, F.L.A. Pp. xiii + 216. 79 portraits and 162 other illustrations. Price in Great Britain: 35s. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1959.

Many practitioners and students have wished that they knew more of the persons whose names they use almost daily in their work or reading. The third edition of this work has been greatly expanded and includes many more names than the previous edition. Where there were formerly more notes on persons connected with surgery than with medicine, this has now been remedied. Footnotes concerning persons mentioned in the text are included and the whole makes interesting reading, containing as it does fascinating glimpses of little-known facts of medical history.

A.H.T.

## PANCREATIC TUMOURS

*Tumors of the Pancreas.* By V. K. Frantz, M.D. Pp. 149. Illustrations. \$1.50. Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1959.

The *Atlas of Tumour Pathology* produced by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., is well known to most pathologists. The latest fascicle *Tumours of the Pancreas* exhibits the same care in preparation and excellence of the illustrations that characterized its predecessors. The author brings us completely up to date with the many problems of pancreatic neoplasia. She exhibits a healthy scepticism of many so-called facts which on proper enquiry are found to be time-encrusted theories.

The clinical interest attached to many of the pancreatic neoplasms, particularly the functioning types, is so great that the reviewer can thoroughly recommend the fascicle to all. Not the least attractive feature is the comprehensive list of references attached to each section.

B.B.

## CANCER OF THE SKIN

*Cancer of the Skin.* By John C. Belisario, C.B.E., E.D., M.D., Ch.M., D.D.M. Pp. xvii + 321 + (14). 201 figures. 57s. 6d. + 1s. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1959.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that this book should be widely read and carefully studied in this country. Dr. Belisario proceeds to describe in detail and with magnificent clarity the various skin cancers that are so commonly encountered, both in Australia, where he practises, and in South Africa.

The photographs are extremely well done and the reproduction leaves nothing to be desired. It is a pleasure to see and to read the book, which does great credit to the publishers as well as to the author.

Everybody who deals with many cases of skin cancer develops methods of treatment to suit himself and, by a process of trial and error, satisfies himself that his method is the best with the facilities available. The reviewer cannot agree that scraping rodent ulcers should play a serious part in this therapy, and strongly supports the monobloc operation devised by Pack for malignant melanoma.

But these are small criticisms. The book is a landmark and a vital contribution to a very important subject.

T.S.

## STRABISMUS

*Squint and Allied Conditions.* By George P. Guibor, M.D., D.D.S. Pp. xi + 356. 103 figures. \$11.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

The author, in a study of over 41,000 patients, claims a remarkable percentage of cures in cases of squint with his routine of non-surgical treatment. The basic points are the use of atropine and prisms and judicious occlusion and orthoptics. Unfortunately he gives very few indications of his criteria of cure apart from parallelism of the visual axes. This system of therapy must therefore be considered as unorthodox and highly individual. His results appear certainly no worse than the usual results obtained and in many cases they seem superior. His methods are therefore worth a trial, especially as considerably less surgery is done. Unfortunately our patients seem less cooperative than

his and parents are unwilling to wait long months or years for results.

Certain of his statements go completely counter to orthodox teaching, such as tackling as many as 8 muscles at one operative session, or occlusion for one or more hours a day. Others will be subscribed to by few. Thus, he rarely operates before the age of 8 and rarely finds it necessary to operate more than once to correct a squint. Again, bilateral medial-rectus retroplacement is reserved for bilateral abducens palsy, and his usual operative procedure for a concomitant convergent strabismus consists of 1 mm. retroplacement of medial rectus and bilateral external-rectus resection of 10 mm. Most operations are done with local anaesthesia. There are, however, many useful observations, such as his stress on the frequency of supranuclear lesions and the value of atropine and prisms.

In short, this is a highly controversial book in which a great plea is made for conservatism in treatment, mainly with atropine and prisms. The claims made should not be lightly dismissed, but warrant further investigation.

L.S.

## BACTERIOLOGY: ITS BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL BACKGROUND

*Basic Bacteriology.* Its biological and chemical background. 2nd edition. By Carl Lamanna, Ph.D. and M. Frank Mallett, Ph.D. Pp. xiii + 853. Illustrations. 108s. and \$13.50. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1959.

The second edition of this book is now available and certain sections have been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. It deals with some fundamental biological and chemical aspects of bacteria. The section on bacterial metabolism, which constitutes the largest single part of the text, is particularly well covered, and there is also a useful chapter on bacterial genetics and variation. The section on chemical disinfection could perhaps have been expanded to give more detailed consideration of antibiotics.

The book is intended as a work of complexity intermediate between the elementary texts and the erudite monograph and in this respect it fulfils its function adequately. The subject matter, however, is too detailed for the average undergraduate student and somewhat belies the title of *Basic Bacteriology*.

K.C.W.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE THYROID

*Die Medikamentöse Behandlung der Schilddrüsenerkrankungen.* Von Prof. Dr. W. Grab und Prof. Dr. K. Oberdisse. Pp. xii + 285. 55 Abbildungen. 14 Tabellen. DM 39.60. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

Diseases of the thyroid are the commonest endocrine diseases of today, and are more frequently diagnosed because of improved diagnostic methods. These cases are commonly seen in practice by physicians, and this book was written with that in view. The first half deals with normal and pathological physiology of the thyroid and with drugs that influence thyroid function. Grab, who writes this section, explains the morphology and function of the thyroid and its influence on other organs and on general metabolism. The second part of this concise and clear treatise is devoted to the action of drugs used in diseases of the thyroid. In this section Oberdisse discusses diagnostic methods and the treatment of hyper- and hypothyroidism. He mentions thiouracil and its derivatives and suggests their selection in particular cases. The treatment with radio-active iodine is explained, and so is the prophylactic treatment with iodine in cases of endemic goitre etc. The book is written in clear and easy German and should be of interest, especially to general practitioners and physicians.

H.W.W.

## OBSTETRIC ANAESTHESIA

*Principles and Practice of Obstetric Anaesthesia.* By J. Selwyn Crawford, M.B., Ch.B., D.A. (England), F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. 128. Illustrations. 20s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

Being the first British text-book of obstetric anaesthesia that has been published for some time, this excellently-produced concise little book reflects the trends and evaluates the methods of obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia now practised in Great

Britain. There is also an interesting chapter on the physiological changes accompanying pregnancy, such as those involving the blood and body fluids, the heart and vessels, respiration, digestion, the renal tract, and biochemistry.

In the section dealing with the placenta, the author reviews the functions of this most mystifying of all the organs in the body and goes with great detail into the transmission of the respiratory gases, with special reference to the average oxygen content of the uterine and umbilical vessels, as well as the haemodynamics. The placental transmission of the various anaesthetic agents is also discussed at great length and, though of academic importance, will not greatly interest the general practitioner.

The author comprehensively reviews the various analgesic and anaesthetic methods in use and devotes a separate chapter to anaesthesia in obstetrical complications. The physiological aspects of perinatal life are discussed, especially as they influence the work of the obstetric anaesthetist.

Altogether this is a most interesting, readable and instructive book, which can be highly recommended for all practitioners.

A.M.M.

#### SOCIAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

*Progress in Psychotherapy. Vol. 4. Social Psychotherapy.* Edited by Jules H. Masserman, M.D. and J. L. Moreno, M.D. Pp. xi + 361. Illustrations. \$8.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

The flood of medical literature calls for periodical surveys, most of which are unsatisfactory in that they are scrappy and attempt to cover too much ground. Masserman and Moreno have found a solution to this problem by publishing short articles on fairly circumscribed subjects each year. The present volume, with over 40 articles, is a little uneven but it is very well worth reading. An article on economics and psychiatry is somewhat unflattering in its views on Soviet psychiatry but gives some interesting glimpses concerning television and other technological advances on the psychiatric patterns of the community. Torrence's article on mutual support and sacrifice in groups under stress and Opler's

views on anthropology and psychiatry are short but lively pointers to further reading. Moreno's verbatim report on the psychodrama of a dream makes fascinating reading and suggests a technique which might well be helpful with many patients. Ronald Albino, of the University of Natal, has written on some of the problems of psychopathology which face anyone who wishes to study group and racial differences in South Africa, and although he rightly avoids sweeping generalizations he provides a useful list of references and stresses the importance of nutritional and educational differences rather than possible genetic factors.

The whole volume is well up to the standard of its predecessors and a useful addition to the library of anyone interested in the widening frontiers of psychiatry.

J.M.MacG.

#### LOW BACK PAIN

*The Degenerative Back and its Differential Diagnosis.* By P. R. J. M. Hanraets, M.D. Pp. xi + 690. 315 illustrations (12 in colour). 53 tables. 105s. Amsterdam, London, New York, Princeton: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1959.

This volume elaborates in the greatest detail the theme that some individuals are liable to low back pain. With infinite care, patience and often repetition the author analyses the reasons for this. Constitution, anatomy, pathology are surveyed and the differential diagnosis is discussed with frightening complexity.

The author has performed 2,000 laminectomies for low back disorders in about 10 years, and this has enabled him to describe many anomalies, which are beautifully illustrated with coloured plates.

It is a pity that many errors in translation are apparent throughout the book. The printing, line-drawings and the radiographs are excellent.

A comprehensive bibliography and subject index is appended at the end of the book.

Dr. Hanraets has made a great contribution to the further understanding of a very common and difficult problem. M.S.