

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

FOOT DISABILITIES AND THEIR TREATMENT

Surgery of the Foot. By Henri L. DuVries, M.D. Pp. 494. 146 illustrations. South African price: R10.62½. Local agent: P. B. Mayer, P.O. Box 713, Cape Town, and Westdene Products (Pty.) Ltd., Medical Book Dept., Box 7710, Johannesburg. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co. 1959.

Many of the disabilities of the foot are due not to present circumstances but to some fundamental weakness or trend in its evolution. There is a wide margin of normal function even in the presence of what is often a marked divergence from a not clearly defined norm.

The widespread use of arch supports and similar appliances in pes planus where there is no index of normal, and no symptoms, is a case in point. Similarly, cosmetic operations may easily convert a well-functioning foot into a good-looking but painful foot.

The author of this book trained as a chiropodist before qualifying as a doctor and it is interesting to note the emphasis placed on certain lesions such as callosities and the pathological states of the nails and the nail bed. The major foot problems such as talipes equino varus and the various imbalances resulting from poliomyelitis and congenital abnormalities tend, relatively, to be dealt with rather sketchily.

One is surprised to note in a book of this specialized nature, on page 240: 'Massive hot fomentations should be applied

continuously day and night'. The macerating effect on the skin of this treatment is surely well known.

On page 179 'Callus is basically due to short shoes which force the toes to buckle and thus produce hammertoe deformity at the metatarsophalangeal joints'. We have all seen many patients with this type of deformity who have never worn shoes of any type.

The book is well produced and can be read with profit by all, although the specialist will find little that is really 'new'. It is a pleasure to find an extensive bibliography at the end of every chapter as a means of ready reference. A.S.

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND SEXUALITY

The Ego in Love and Sexuality. By Edrita Fried, Ph.D. Pp. 296. \$5.50. London and New York: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1960.

The author is a lay psychotherapist who obtained her psychological training in Vienna and now works in New York. She writes in non-technical language and, as the title of her book indicates, directs attention upon conscious personality-aspects of patients with character disturbances, not showing interest in 'unconscious' motivation to any extent. An anecdotal approach is used, numerous abbreviated biographies illustrating the various themes the author develops.

A healthy person is seen as one who seeks change. Sexual excitement provides mental and physical change exhilarating to mature persons; disturbed personalities cope poorly with the physical and emotional changes that occur with erotic excitation. The orgasm is described as a regression in consciousness, 'vacation from reason'. This temporary eclipse of perception in sex passion is viewed as ego-enriching. Rigid, insecure personalities, however, shut off their self-experiences of sex passion; frigidity, impotence or sex-superficiality protects them against the panic resulting from arousal of their non-rational emotions.

The author describes the defences which patients construct to protect themselves against their own sexuality. Hostility, unresponsiveness, narcissistic isolation, homosexuality, masturbation, satisfaction through visual curiosity, overpossessive clinging between mates, frequent mate-change, and boredom are considered as disturbances in sexual maturation. A descriptive level is maintained, the theoretical approach being that of psychoanalysis and its recent revisions from the aspect of interpersonal relationships. H.W.

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology. Series III. General Editor: S. C. Dyke, D.M. (Oxon), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. xii + 425. 151 illustrations. 50s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1960.

This volume is divided into 4 sections, viz. bacteriology, chemical pathology, haematology and histology, for each of which an expert in the field has been chosen as editor. Each chapter is written by a specialist in the subject and the adoption of this method of presentation necessarily results in a very high standard in the text.

Viruses, the enterobacteriaceae and control of food poisoning, diagnosis of toxoplasmosis and the source and control of antibiotic-resistant staphylococcal infections in hospitals are discussed in the section devoted to bacteriology. Under chemical pathology, calcium and indole metabolism, serum transaminase and lactic dehydrogenase, and endocrine metabolism are given prominence, and chapters are devoted to the investigation of infants who fail to thrive, and to paper electrophoresis.

The uses of radio-isotopes in haematology and histopathology illustrate modern trends. There are comprehensive chapters on haemoglobinopathies and the problems associated with blood transfusion. Surgical treatment of haemophilic patients and connective tissue diseases are fully discussed.

Fungal diseases, the cytology of chromosomal sex, renal biopsy and pathological aids in the diagnosis and management of Hirschsprung's disease are most informative, and there is an excellent chapter on the use of histochemistry in diagnosis.

This volume is attractively compiled, easy to read and brimful of useful techniques for the clinical pathologist. More than this, it is a 'must' for clinicians and in particular paediatricians who wish to keep abreast of modern trends. The very high standard that is expected from the *Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology* series has more than been maintained in this latest edition. D.McK.

DERMATOLOGY FOR STUDENTS AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Manual of Skin Diseases. By Gordon C. Sauer, M.D. Pp. xvii + 269. 151 illustrations and 28 colour plates. 70s. 0d. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1960.

In spite of the numerous excellent dermatological text-books published within recent years, there has been a great need for a concise manual suitable for medical students and busy general practitioners.

Dr. Gordon C. Sauer in his manual of skin diseases has adequately met such a demand. He deals with all phases of dermatology in a concise, brief, yet most practical manner.

The lavish illustrations, the magnificent photography of all dermatological conditions is such that the average practitioner could almost identify any skin lesion he may come across in his practice without being confused by wading through the normal text-books. Modern therapy is fully dealt with.

Of particular interest are the chapters dealing with dermatologic allergy, laboratory procedures, and patch tests.

Unlike most dermatology books there is a full chapter devoted to dermatologic virology with beautiful illustrations making diagnosis so much easier.

The price of the book is comparatively low. I have therefore great pleasure in recommending this manual, not only to general practitioners, but as the book of choice to medical schools where the curriculum in all special subjects must necessarily be limited. R.L.

PRESENT-DAY ANAESTHESIA

General Anaesthesia. 2 volumes. Edited by Frankis T. Evans, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. and Cecil Gray, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Vol. 1—*Basic Principles*; Vol. 2—*Techniques, Special Fields and Hazards*. Vol. 1—pp. xii + 531 + 29. 121 figures. Vol. 2—pp. xiii + 431 + 29. 78 figures. £8 1s. 9d. plus 2s. 9d. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1959.

This 2-volume work, which has evolved from the earlier *Modern Practice in Anaesthesia*, should be on every anaesthetist's bookshelf if for no other reason than that it contains an outstandingly comprehensive but easily comprehensible review of the physiology of the nervous system.

Most of the major advances in anaesthesia in recent times have been due to the recognition by anaesthetists of the value of a thorough understanding of the physiology of the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, and the practical introduction of this understanding into what was hitherto an empirical administration of drugs whose pharmacological actions were, and often still are, not clearly understood. The intelligent application of neurophysiology to the current practice of anaesthesia will contribute, not only to an expansion of understanding of the action of drugs used by anaesthetists, but also to a further elevation of the speciality in the hierarchy of the medical profession.

As one contributor observes (vol. 1, page 238) the anaesthetist, in his present position, must have the clinical skill in internal medicine necessary for his craft, and must practise this at a high level. It is regrettable, however, that such skill is likely to be nullified if the anaesthetist embraces a technique as primitive and as hazardous as that described on page 12 of volume 2 where the use of 100% nitrous oxide to secure more rapid induction with this gas is countenanced and even encouraged by the contributor who states that 'the mistake too often made by the novice is to give too much oxygen at the beginning of anaesthesia'. On page 281 of the same volume this anachronistic attitude is perpetuated.

Inevitably, in a production of this nature and size, there is a considerable amount of repetition, some of which could be improved by an even higher standard of editing. For example, two contributors, writing from within the walls of the same institution, give 740 ml. per minute, and 750 ml. per minute, respectively, as the cerebral blood flow, and one states that blood pressure is not a significant determinant of cerebral blood flow (vol. 1, page 116) while the other states that it is of fundamental importance (vol. 1, page 189); the cerebral blood flow varying directly with changes in arterial blood pressure.

These criticisms are offered constructively, for the field of anaesthesia is now so vast that it cannot adequately be covered in 960 pages of printed text, and the editors, their contributors, and their publishers are to be congratulated on the excellence of this production, and not least for the extensive lists of up-to-date references which adorn each chapter. D.A.

CYTODIAGNOSIS OF GASTRIC DISORDERS

Gastric Cytology—Principles, Methods and Results. By R. O. K. Schade M.D. (Dunelm), M.D. (Tübingen), L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 81, 85 figures. 35s. net. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1960.

This monograph deals with the cytodiagnosis of gastric

disorders and is based on 3,280 cytological examinations performed on 2,443 patients.

The first 20 pages give a detailed description of the techniques used and the next 20 pages describe the findings and their interpretation. It is shown that this method yields an overall accuracy of 96.4% and that among 258 cancer cases there were 29 (10.5%) undiagnosed by radiology. The author comes to the conclusion that carcinoma of the stomach arises secondarily to chronic gastritis and he describes a surface carcinoma which may exist for several years before the 'tumour stage' develops, during which time the patient may be asymptomatic or may have symptoms indistinguishable from those of chronic gastritis.

Each chapter has its own references and in addition there is a long list of additional references. At the end of the book there are 40 pages of photomicrographs which are of a very high standard indeed.

The book is beautifully produced and represents most interesting and even exciting reading. It can be strongly recommended to everyone concerned with gastric disorders and one hopes it will stimulate interest in gastric cytology. D.J.dP.

CARDIAC ARREST AT OPERATION

Cardiovascular Collapse in the Operating Room. By Herbert E. Natof, M.D. and Max S. Sadove, M.D. Pp. xvi + 197. 15 Figures. 45s. net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd. 1958.

This book is a painstaking statistical review of cardiovascular collapse in the operating room, based on operations at the University of Illinois.

The authors draw attention to the lack of uniformity in definition of 'cardiac arrest'. They indicate that this is a serious defect in current nomenclature which includes fatal and non-fatal cases. They recommend that uniformity of definition is introduced if there is to be proper classification of data.

Obviously most of their material is based on retrospective study which naturally suffers from unavoidable defects. Retrospective objectivity is difficult to obtain in such dramatic events as operating-theatre deaths. This difficulty does not detract from the worth of the data compiled, since it is impossible to obtain such data from a prospective review.

The book is arranged in sections on various aspects of cardiovascular collapse including statistics, predisposing factors, mechanisms of cardiac arrest, data available in cases of cardiac arrest, prevention, its relation to pre-operative disease, the detection of collapse, and finally its treatment.

Most of the book deals with the first sections mentioned, and the section on treatment is sufficiently detailed, but is not the major part of the book. Attention is drawn to the multiplicity of agents involved, such as reaction to anaesthetic agents, anoxia, and blood loss. The authors stress the rapidity with

which catastrophies during operations may occur, and the need for vigilance on the part of the anaesthetist and surgeon.

Commendably stressed these days is the superiority of clinical judgment, in the detection of incipient danger, to any electronic device. The anaesthetist's finger on the patient's pulse may be the most sensitive index of impending trouble.

This is a book of great value in its contribution to the subject of cardiovascular collapse in the operating theatre and is recommended for study by all who are interested in this problem. P.G.L.

MINOR HAND INJURIES

The Care of Minor Hand Injuries. By Adrian E. Flatt, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. 265. 109 illustrations. South African price: £4 0s. 9d. Local agents: P. B. Mayer, P.O. Box 713, Cape Town, and Westdene Products (Pty.) Ltd. Medical Book Department, P.O. Box 7710, Johannesburg. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co. 1959.

It is quite clear that the author of this valuable little book has actually dealt with most of the lesions which he describes. The note of authenticity which stems from practical intimacy as opposed to punch-card knowledge, is apparent throughout. That this is so, is important, because inadequate and unskilled care of these 'minor injuries' of the hand produces much morbidity, and contributes appreciably to the loss of man-hours resulting from injuries of the hand.

After a useful introductory section on the functions and principles of care, which includes surgical technique, the author devotes the remainder of the book to clearcut, specific injuries. Each chapter is illustrated with excellent photographs and drawings; some of the drawings are unconventional but to the point, and good for teaching purposes. One of the few exceptions is on p. 197, where the basic disabling element of a Bennett's fracture, viz. the subluxation which occurs at the metacarpal-carpal joint, is not clearly illustrated.

One is surprised that the author considers transposition and rotation flaps suitable for outpatient surgery. These, as he states, require careful planning and meticulous technique but, in addition, the hand should be properly elevated for not less than 48 hours in hospital. One is also somewhat taken aback that hot soaks are recommended for some types of infections. Moisture leads to maceration of the skin and supervention of secondary infection.

The book is written in a pleasant blend of the British and American styles of medical writing and should be one of the 'bibles' of all factory doctors and casualty officers. M.S.