

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### ELEKTROKARDIOGRAFIE

*Clinics in Electrocardiography.* By Dale Groom, A.B., M.D., M.S. (in Med.), F.A.C.P. Pp. x + 152. Illustrated. R6.40. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

Deur middel van die boek word elektrokardiogramme geïllustreer, beskrywe, en volledig bespreek. Die grafieke is goed uitgekies en ook duidelik afgebeeld.

Die reeks is so opgestel dat die verskillende ritme-afwykings eers behandel word en daarna voorbeelde van geleidingstoornisse en grafieke geneem by intrinsieke miokardiale toestande.

Elke hoofstuk is kort en bondig gestel, en die geheel is 'n nuttige hersiening van kliniese elektrokardiografie vir na-graadse studente.

A.J.B.

### TOXICITY OF INDUSTRIAL METALS

*Toxicity of Industrial Metals.* By Ethel Browning, M.D. Pp. vii + 339. R5.20. delivered. Durban: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd. 1961.

An alphabetically arranged survey of the main features, occurrence, preparation, physical and chemical properties, metabolism and toxicology of 44 metals, ranging from aluminium to zirconium, which are encountered in modern industry. The fully listed uses of each metal makes this an invaluable reference book for industrial medical officers. The comprehensive bibliography extends its usefulness to encompass a field far wider than it itself covers. The book is also highly

recommended for biochemists and others concerned with the industrial use of metals.

L.G.W.

### THE ZULU LANGUAGE FOR DOCTORS

*Handbook to aid in the Treatment of Zulu Patients.* By G. D. Campbell, M.B., M.R.C.P., and H. C. Lugg, Hospital Welfare Officer. Pp. 131. South Africa — Pietermaritzburg: The Natal University Press. 1960.

Practitioners whose work lies among Zulu patients will welcome this little book. It is designed to fit easily into the pocket and yet it contains a mine of information to make communication between the doctor and his patient more personal than it can possibly be with the use of an interpreter.

As a phrase book it is excellent and covers the whole gamut of questions associated with daily contact with patients whether in the ward or the outpatient department. A useful 'gimmick' is the provision of a book-mark which is also a ready-reference to the various sections of the book.

A number of appendices are included, and it is reasonable to find that these refer particularly to the province of Natal as the home of the Zulu. It would seem that there is scope for similar works in the other main indigenous languages, which would undoubtedly be welcomed by mission doctors, mine medical officers and many others.

A.H.T.

## LUNG SURGERY

*Surgical Diseases of the Lung.* By Buford H. Burch, M.A., M.D., and Arthur C. Miller, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii + 128. Illustrated. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

The book is intended as an introduction to pulmonary surgery, and is excellent for general practitioners, house surgeons and early trainees. Even for thoracic surgeons the articles on pulmonary tuberculosis and lung abscess are very good indeed, covering these fields concisely and with colloquial impressiveness which sticks in the mind, and are easy to read.

At times American journalese and poor English are irritating, and very occasionally misleading; but within its limitations this book can be strongly recommended.

Surgical technique is described only in broad outline, pathology and diagnosis being emphasized from both the theoretical and practical aspects.

L.J.

## HAEMATOLOGY

*A Short Textbook of Haematology.* By R. B. Thompson, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 306. Illustrated. R3.00. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1961.

This little book on haematology is an attempt at striking a mean somewhere between the usual accounts in textbooks on medicine, on the one hand, and those on haematology, on the other. It does not pretend to do more than present to the reader an easily understandable account of the more common diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs.

Reference is made to recent discoveries only where necessary, for the reader is urged to consult larger works for fuller information if required; for the same reason, technical laboratory procedures are not touched on.

The student will find the chapter on blood groups informative and helpful. Those on the diseases of the lymph nodes and spleen, and on the leukaemias, are well written and informative. Wherever possible, the author has tried to introduce some 'clinical features', 'blood pictures', 'blood findings', 'haematological features', 'laboratory findings', etc., that have a bearing on the conditions discussed, so that these are placed prominently before the reader.

At the end of each chapter references are given for wider reading.

The chapter on pigment metabolism might conveniently be deleted in a future edition. Otherwise the book is well planned, well written and should prove useful to all students interested in haematology.

G.C.A.v.d.W.

## ANTICOAGULANTS

*Symposium on Anticoagulant Therapy.* Report of the Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 18 and 19 November 1960. Ed. by Prof. Sir G. W. Pickering. Pp. xii + 284. Illustrated. London: Harvey & Blythe Ltd. 1961.

Fifty-four acknowledged experts in the field of anticoagulants participated in the symposium, and were drawn not only from the British Isles, but also from Switzerland, the USA, Australia, Italy, and Norway, as well as from South Africa, and included such well-known workers in this field of Medicine as Professor Owren of Oslo, Dr. Biggs of Oxford, Dr. Paul Wood of London, and Dr. M. Suzman of Johannesburg.

The symposium covered many aspects of anticoagulant therapy, but in particular applied itself to 3 major questions.

1. In what varieties of disease does effective oral anticoagulant therapy improve expectation of life and lessen the incidence of complications?

2. What is the best method of controlling therapy, and at what level of dosage should therapy be used to give the maximum benefit consistent with safety?

3. If anticoagulant therapy works, by virtue of what specific biochemical change is this effected?

While no final answers could be given to these questions, the symposium adequately summarized much of what is known of these 3 major questions, and can be regarded as the standard work of reference on this subject.

A.L.

## RADIOACTIVITY IN MAN

*Radioactivity in Man.* A Symposium held at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Ed. by George R. Meneely, M.D. Pp. xx + 491. Illustrated. R13.20. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

*Radioactivity in Man* is the proceedings of a Symposium on whole body and effects of internal gamma ray-emitting radioisotopes. The book is ably edited by Dr. Meneely, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the radioisotope centre of the Vanderbilt University. America's foremost physicians in nuclear medicine, as well as physicists working in the field of medicine and biology, contributed to the symposium, and the result is a comprehensive survey of the present state of knowledge of the measurement of very low levels of radioactivity in humans, and the medical implications of both such measurements and the biological effects of such low levels. A few papers on the sociological and legal problems associated with small but increasing burdens were also read, and serve to underline the difficulties involved in determining an acceptable risk in an ever-increasing utilization of ionizing radiation in most spheres of activity. This is a book mainly for those intimately concerned with the assessment and control of hazards associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.

C.J.v.d.M.

## HORMONAL CONTROL OF PREGNANCY

*Obstetrical Endocrinology.* By J. Botella-Llusia, M.D. Pp. x+129. Illustrated. R5.20. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1961.

This is a disappointing book. The author, who is professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of Madrid, purports to give a short practical introduction to the main problems of the endocrinology of pregnancy, labour and the puerperium. On occasion the simplification of the subject is such as to border on the inaccurate, as shown by the following statement (p. 46): 'It is well known that oestrogens and progesterone have typical and antagonistic actions on the myometrium. The former favours contraction, whereas the latter has an opposite effect, which we would describe as "sedative".'

At the same time, there is an extensive bibliography to each chapter, the bulk of which consists of the author's own writings and those of other European workers. There is also fairly wide reference to the South and North American literature, but only an occasional British worker is quoted. Small wonder, perhaps, that the author expresses the hope that this book will awaken the interest of his English-speaking colleagues in the endocrinology of gestation and parturition.

A helpful feature of the book is the liberal use of simple diagrams to clarify complicated endocrine interrelationships. In these too, however, there are a number of inaccuracies, the lettering of the diagrams not always corresponding to the captions.

The subject of this book could have been a fascinating one. After having read the book, however, one is left but little the wiser, and with no great desire to pursue the matter further.

R.P.D.

## YEAR BOOK OF CANCER

*The Year Book of Cancer* (1960-1961 Year Book Series). Ed. by Randolph Lee Clark, Jr., B.S., M.D., M.Sc. (Surg.), D.Sc. (Hon.), Houston, Texas and Russell W. Cumley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Houston, Texas. Pp. 539. Illustrated. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1961.

This volume has maintained the high standard of selection and abstraction of the literature set at the inception of the series.

The editors have reflected current literature and at the same time produced a well-balanced book that supplies not only a sound picture of the original articles, but affords a reasonable bibliography of the year under review.

This year book series on cancer is highly recommended.

J.M.G.