

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

BRONCHOGRAPHY

Bronchography. By C. Dijkstra, M.D. Pp. x + 157. 106 figures. 45s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1958.

This book should be in the library of all those interested in the study of diseases of the chest. The first chapter, which deals entirely with the technique of bronchography, merely describes methods that are now generally accepted. The tilting table devised for posturing the patient is, however, a most ingenious apparatus worthy of special note. Local anaesthesia is used to anaesthetize the nose, pharynx and trachea, and a radio-opaque rubber catheter is then inserted through the nose into the trachea. The patient is then postured so as to obtain good filling of all the segments with the opaque medium.

The remaining 6 chapters of the book are devoted to the radiographic appearances of bronchograms in the different forms of chest pathology. It therefore becomes more in the nature of a reference atlas, with good illustrations of the pathological changes associated with the bronchographic appearances. The inclusion of a certain amount of pathology in conjunction with the X-ray and bronchographic appearances helps to complete the picture of the cases described. The detailed pathology is obviously beyond the scope of this book.

This well-presented volume, which is rounded off with a short bibliography, can be recommended to those interested in the subject.

W.P.

PERIMETRY

The Essentials of Perimetry. By Howard Reed, M.B., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.S. (C), F.A.C.S. Pp. 192 + xi. Illustrated. 45s. London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press 1960.

Most medical practitioners who need to examine visual fields approach the examination with the attitude that here is a chore, more unpleasant than most, which must be got over as quickly as possible. Howard Reed's book does much to dispel this attitude. It is a pity it did not come on the scene earlier.

It is essentially a simple book with simple diagrams. It clearly shows the applied anatomy of the visual pathways; it relates the visual field to this anatomy and with great clarity discusses various types of field defects.

The chapter on glaucoma is particularly well done in discussing the field defects as such, but I doubt if most authorities would agree that field defects are to be found at all in early glaucoma. Leydhecker has shown that something like a decade probably separates the group of very early glaucomas from the group showing the onset of field defects.

Although this book makes no pretence of being detailed, it should be read by anyone who is interested in visual fields, even if only to see how clear and concise a subject can be made.

A.I.F.