

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

SEWARD'S BEDSIDE DIAGNOSIS

Bedside Diagnosis. 5th edition. By Charles Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.). Pp. xix + 479. 25s. net + 1s. 5d. postage abroad. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960.

Five editions in English with one reprint, two editions in Spanish, and one in Portuguese, show something of the popularity of this useful book. In this edition several sections have been rewritten, new advances in diagnostic methods have been incorporated and a new section on 'Some uses of radioactive isotopes in diagnosis' by Dr. Mark Ridley has been

added, as well as one on 'Drugs considered as causes of symptoms'.

The author acknowledges the help and advice of a number of experts in bringing his work up to date, and in his foreword Lord Cohen of Birkenhead writes, 'The student who masters the principles on which this handbook is based will have an intelligent and rewarding approach to the diagnosis of disease, and he will have laid a foundation which will remain firm whatever stress the superstructure of later knowledge may impose upon it. And even the experienced practitioner will learn much from its text'. Experience has shown that his estimate is undoubtedly correct.

A.H.T.

BRUCELLA INFECTION IN MAN

Brucella Infection and Undulant Fever in Man. By Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys Bt., C.B., D.M., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. Pp. 196. 20 illustrations. London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1960.

As late Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, London, the author presents an informative review of the first 1,500 indigenous cases of undulant fever (excluding laboratory infections) he investigated since 1929. This forms the clinical basis of his present work, a complete and concise book on brucella infection in man.

In Great Britain, the drinking of cow's milk has accounted for the vast majority of human cases.

Brucella is rarely the sole cause of death but causes much misery and loss of work. The correct diagnosis is often missed by the doctor, and the patient is then liable to the tragedy of being labelled neurotic.

Despite modern antibiotics, the object of treatment is rather to establish or re-establish a comfortable symbiosis than to eradicate the parasite at any cost.

In this book a great deal of information on brucellosis is collected, (even transmission by blood transfusion), which makes it a valuable reference work for student, general practitioner, bacteriologist, physician, and health official. J.S.L.

YEAR BOOK OF DRUG THERAPY

The Year Book of Drug Therapy, 1959-1960. Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D. Including a new section on *Evaluation of the Year's New Drugs*. Pp. lxxx + 570. \$8.50. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1960.

The Year Book series is to be found in all medical libraries, and according to their general or particular interest special volumes are regularly ordered by many medical practitioners. The annual volume dealing with drug therapy is obviously one of great importance. The abstracts provide information on all sorts of drugs currently in the melting pot. The articles which have been reviewed have appeared in a variety of journals, few of which are seen by the ordinary reader. The literature appearing up to September 1959 has been sifted, and selected articles quite fully reproduced. Such recently introduced drugs as darenthin, ritalin, tofranil, diabinese, decadron, fungizone, and numerous others are considered here. References to older drugs are also to be found, sometimes in re-appraisal, sometimes in new therapeutic applications. There are the traditional hard-hitting editorial comments, and full author and subject index. A new feature is a section of about 80 pages printed on blue paper and with its own index, in which 334 trade preparations are briefly evaluated. This is a most useful addition to this volume, which has for years proved most valuable. N.S.

HAND INJURIES

Surgery of Repair as Applied to Hand Injuries. 2nd edition. By B. K. Rank, C.M.G., M.S. (Melbourne), F.R.C.S. (England), F.R.A.C.S. and A. R. Wakefield, M.S. (Melbourne), F.R.C.S. (England), F.R.A.C.S. Pp. xiv + 284. 219 figures. 45s. net. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960.

The surgery of the hand is at present in the forefront of surgical thought and endeavour, and rightly so. As a result of the work of Bunnell, Pulvertaft, Furlong and others, tremendous strides have been made towards ensuring an optimum return to function of the injured hand. In spite of mechanization and automation there is an increasing demand for manual dexterity. The specialized techniques and skills for reconstructing these badly maimed hands are in constant demand.

This book, within the limits of its title, provides an excellent ready answer to these demands. The new edition of this widely acclaimed work has changed but little from the previous one. The authors are obviously surgeons of wide experience, skill and knowledge, as judged by their writings. The highest tribute the reviewer can pay them, after having read this book, is to say that he would like to have their services for himself, if he suffered a serious hand injury.

Their fascinating book is strongly recommended to all surgeons who deal with hand injuries. A.S.

DIABETES

Diabetes. With a chapter on *Hypoglycemia*. By 54 authors. Edited by Robert H. Williams, M.D. Pp. xvi + 793. 192 illustrations, 23 in full colour, \$20.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1960.

This is a full and nicely produced book on diabetes, written by a large number of authors who are experts in their own fields. It is a suitable companion volume to 'Joslin', being written far more from the scientific and laboratory angle than from the clinical and social.

It was very disappointing to the reviewer to find so little on the fundamental problem of latent diabetes, prediabetes, the relationship to obesity, and the features of the babies of the diabetic and of the prediabetic. The relationship of pregnancy to diabetes is very inadequately considered. The remarkable pancreas of the diabetic's baby, which may contain an important clue to the fundamental aetiology of diabetes and which may allow the detection of the prediabetic subject, is not even mentioned. Let us hope that at least one chapter (but preferably several) will be devoted to these and related subjects in the next edition. W.P.U.J.

BIOCHEMICAL RESPONSE TO INJURY

The Biochemical Response to Injury. A Symposium organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. Edited by H. B. Stoner with the assistance of C. J. Threlfall. Pp. 467 + xi. Illustrated, 57s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1960.

This book records the proceedings of an international symposium on the metabolic effects of injury. It covers a wide range of subjects discussed by leading research workers in this field and includes a comprehensive list of well-selected references.

Many aspects of the metabolic changes relating to such diverse injuries as burns, tourniquet shock, fractures, haemorrhagic shock, bacterial infection and surgical shock are admirably reviewed.

The possible role of bacterial endotoxin in the production of irreversible shock, although not new, is a revolutionary concept worthy of careful consideration.

Our ignorance in this field was aptly described by Dr. Haist, one of the participants, by comparing it to a blind man trying to describe an elephant. Nevertheless this book contains fundamental information and can be strongly recommended to all serious-minded doctors. G.M.P.

ATELEKTASE VAN DIE LONGE

Die Streifenatelektasen der Lunge. Von Priv.-Doz. Dr. Fr. Heuck. Pp. viii + 108. 64 Abbildungen, in 136 Einzeldarstellungen, kartoniert DM 32.- (Zwanglose Abhandlungen aus dem Gebiet der normalen und pathologischen Anatomie, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. W. Bargmann und Prof. Dr. W. Doerr, Heft 7. Subskriptionspreis für Bezieher der Reihe DM 25.60.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

Onder diskoïde- of streepatelektase van die longe word verstaan streepvormige skadus, 1-2 cm. lank, wat gewoonlik by die longbasisse op röntgenfoto's as 'n bykomstige bevinding gesien word. Die skadus is nie skerp begrens nie, en is tydelik. Vorige disseksies het gewys dat dit nie deur fibrose of pleuritis veroorsaak word nie.

Hierdie monogram bespreek 174 gevalle, en trag veral om die patologiese anatomie te bepaal. As ondersoekmetodes is o.a. brongografie, tomografie, kimografie, diereksperimente en intravitale mikroskopies gebruik.

Onder die bestaande opvattinge oor die oorsaak van streepatelektase is daar baie uiteenlopende menings, bv. brongus-obstruksie deur slymverstoping, verminderde beweeglikheid van die diafragma, reflekskramp van onwillekeurige spierwesels in die kleiner brongusse, ens.

Wat die lokalisasie betref, onderskei die skrywer twee tipes, nl. die intrapulmonale segmentele (of liewer subsegmentele) soort, en die subpleurale, perifêre-geleë tipe. Hy het bewys dat die brongusvertakkings in die letsels oop is, m.a.w. 'n brongus-

obstruksie kan uitgesluit word as 'n oorsaak. 'n Reflekssaam-trekking van spierwesels kon ook nie eksperimenteel bewys word nie. Die eksperimente het wel bewys dat die luginhoud van die alveoli omgekeerd eweredig is tot die bloedvulling van die kapillêre vate, en dat oorvulling van die kapillêre vate tot sigbare streepatektase kan lei. Met geforseerde inaseming het dit weer vinnig verdwyn. Bogenoemde skyn dus die ver-naamste patologies-anatomiese verandering te wees. Stimulasie van die longoppervlak het soortgelyke veranderinge gewys.

'n Mens kan net byvoeg dat die term 'streepatektase' dus nie die ware toedrag van sake weerspieël nie. Ongelukkig word die verhouding van hierdie toestand tot A- en B-lyne nie duidelik bespreek nie. Laasgenoemde benamings het ons nie teengekom in hierdie verhandeling nie, en ook nie die naam van Kerley nie. Daar word egter kortliks verwys na 'n ander groep ondersoekers se artikel oor pulmonele hemosiderose en stuwung. Hoewel dit 'n deeglike ondersoek is, laat dit bogenoemde vraag onbeantwoord. A.D.K.

BIOLOGY OF SEX DIFFERENTIATION

Sex Differentiation and Development. Memoirs of the Society for Endocrinology No. 7. Edited by C. R. Austin. Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on 10 and 11 April 1958. Pp. x + 198. Illustrated. London: Cambridge University Press, 1960.

The report of this symposium — held nearly 3 years ago — contains a mass of fascinating information. Crustaceans, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals — even insects and bacteria — form the subjects of these papers. Those of us who are restricted to the study of humans must be intrigued by accounts of hermaphroditism and sex reversal in prawns, or of sex determination and caste differentiation in the honey-bee. The papers by Profs. A. Jost and S. Zuckerman are outstanding, and there is a group contribution speculating on the possibility of controlling the sex ratio at conception. At the rate at which information is being gathered one can anticipate the possibility not only of foretelling the sex of the unborn child but, perhaps, of pre-ordaining it.

In the second half of the meeting the contributions covered aberrations of human sexual development, and these are the papers that will be of most value to the clinician. Already — as a result of the recently described technique of direct chromosomal observation — many of the theories proposed have been invalidated, but this does not detract from their interest.

This volume is strongly recommended to zoologists, embryologists, physiologists, endocrinologists — in fact to all those interested in the scientific side of sex. R.H.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND DERMATOLOGY

Progress in the Biological Sciences in Relation to Dermatology. Edited by Arthur Rook, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. xv + 480. Illustrated. 84s. net. London: Cambridge University Press, 1960.

This symposium edited by Dr. Arthur Rook is not everybody's meat.

One certain factor emerging from the study of this book cannot be emphasized enough, viz. that dermatology must be regarded as an integral part of general medicine; the remarkable advances that have occurred in the basic biological sciences have exercised their influence on specialized subjects such as dermatology as well.

There are 43 contributors. The majority are anatomists, physiologists, zoologists, biochemists, pathologists, and only 3 are dermatologists. It is difficult to review a book of this nature in detail, and I can only mention some of the important features as they strike me.

A paper by J. D. Boyd, an anatomist, deals with melanin-producing cells in vertebrates, and goes on to describe very fully and adequately the distribution of melanin pigment in man. The next 44 pages are devoted to melanogenesis and its chemistry.

To dermatologists who are interested in histochemistry the paper by A. G. Everson Pearce, particularly the part dealing with origins and early history, makes most interesting reading.

The importance of the psychosomatic concept in dermatology is fully stressed and the subsequent discussions worth reading.

I strongly recommend this edited symposium, particularly to trainee dermatologists, for the study of the anatomy and physiology of the skin. R.L.

REHABILITATION OF THE HAND

Rehabilitation of the Hand. By C. B. Wynn Parry, M.B.E., M.A., D.M., D.Phys.Med., assisted by N. R. Smythe, M.A.O.T. and L. E. Baker, M.C.S.P. Pp. vii + 273 + (17). 101 figures. 51s. 9d. + 2s. postage. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1958.

During the past decade many 'hand units' have been established in the United States, Great Britain, and Scandinavia. The desirability of these specialized units is readily recognized by orthopaedic surgeons interested in the surgery of the hand. Conversely, the lack of such units is keenly felt. It is not surprising, therefore, that many books have been written on the surgery of the hand. This volume, however, fills a much-needed gap, for the aftercare of lesions of the hand is no less important than the operative technique. Adequate and well-planned pre- and postoperative care is a *sine qua non*.

This book concerns itself with detailed conservative treatment and the niceties of aftercare. There are excellent chapters on the functional anatomy of the hand and the use of electrodiagnosis. The techniques of treatment described include the finer details of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, adaptation of tools, and serial plaster stretching.

A chapter by Donal Brooks on 'reconstruction of the injured hand', and one by D. A. Brewerton on 'the rheumatoid hand and its management' heighten the interest of the book and maintain the excellence and clarity of presentation.

Those who seek the ideal will find the book an inspiration and a great help in grappling with the problems of the management of the hand affected by injury and disease. M.S.