

PRÉCIS DE TOXICOLOGIE

Précis de Toxicologie. By René Fabre and René Truhaut. Two Volumes. 1961. Price: Vol. I, 25 NF., Vol. II, 33 NF. Société D' Edition D' Enseignement Supérieur, 5, Place de la Sorbonne, Paris 5e.

Dr. Fabre is a member of the Institute and Academy of Medicine in Paris, and Dr. Truhaut is Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy in the same city. In their research and through their publications, both authors have materially contributed to various fields of medicine, but chiefly to toxicology. It is because of these facts that Fabre and Truhaut are eminently qualified to publish a treatise on toxicology in all its aspects.

In volume I of *Précis de Toxicologie*, the authors discuss the manner in which poisons penetrate into the system, their modes of action, and their distribution and localization in the system, as well as their elimination from the body.

A large number of toxic gases and vapours are dealt with, among others, phosphor and arsenic, alcohols, glycols, esters, aldehydes, halogenated hydrocarbons, hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives, phenol and its derivatives, etc.

In volume II, the authors deal with the aetiology of poisoning and with fluorides and fluosilicates, nitrates and nitrites, acids and alkalis, and combinations of arsenic, antimony, mercury, lead, copper, cadmium, thallium, chromium, manganese, zinc and barium. The toxicity, symptoms of poisoning, postmortem appearances, and methods of treatment and prophylaxis, as well as the elimination of these poisons from the body, are discussed. Valuable information concerning the methods of extraction and the solvents employed, is supplied.

This book is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the different aspects of the above poisons and should be an asset to the library of toxicologists, medical practitioners and hospitals. D.G.S.

NURSING

Principles of Surgery and Surgical Nursing. By Selwyn Taylor, D.M., M.Ch. (Oxon.), F.R.C.S. and Olga Worrall, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.T.D. Pp. viii + 290. Illustrated. R1.50 net. London: The English Universities Press Ltd. Cape Town: Howard B. Timmins. 1961.

This is one of the Modern Nursing Series, the general editors of which are a well-known Professor of physiology and two prominent members of the staff of the Royal College of Nursing, London.

The series is designed to cover the requirements of the examinations of the General Nursing Council. This volume deals with the principles of surgery that a nurse should know, with particular reference to the nursing of surgical cases, in a concise yet adequate manner. The chapters are arranged systematically and the index is comprehensive.

As a book it is interesting and readable and should appeal to student nurses. A.H.T.

SURGERY IN PORTAL HYPERTENSION

The Surgical Treatment of Portal Hypertension, Bleeding Esophageal Varices and Ascites. By M. Judson Mackby, M.D., D.A.B.S., F.I.C.S. Pp. xviii + 250. R8.40. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications and Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1960.

This monograph is one that has appeared in the American Lecture Series. It is well produced on good quality paper with excellent diagrams. It is essentially a manual of surgical therapy in portal hypertension and ascites; the indications for various operations are discussed and the technique of these operations is described in detail. The book reads easily, but suffers from two defects: There is much unnecessary repetition, and many statements are made without adequate proof. Examples of the latter are: 1. 'The suture line is all too prone to separate in any case and the operation is hazardous on this account as fatal anastomotic disruption has occurred with distressing frequency'. This is said of the gastric bi-section vagotomy and pyloroplasty operation for bleeding oesophageal varices — an operation which has many adherents outside the USA. 2. A statement that abstinence from alcohol prevents cirrhosis from progressing. 3. A statement that a side-to-side portacaval anastomosis, larger than the diameter of the portal vein, can drop the portal pressure to such an extent that thrombosis occurs at the line of anastomosis. This cannot be so because no matter how large the anastomosis, the flow cannot be greater than that allowed by the diameter of the portal vein. In describing the operation of porta-caval anastomosis, the author states that the portal vein is ligated before the inferior vena cava is dissected. It is however an advantage to free the inferior vena cava before the flow is obstructed by ligation of the portal vein.

In discussing the treatment of ascites the author comes to the conclusion that there is no operative treatment. The pre- and postoperative treatment of the cirrhotic patient is discussed in detail.

At the end of each chapter there are extensive references, and these and others are again given at the end of the monograph. An appendix deals with the current surgical management of portal hypertension in the United States.

Contributors to this appendix are Linton, Sedgwick, Blake-more, Britton, Child, Singleton, Longmire, Madden, Cohn, and McDermott. These authors discuss briefly patients who have survived shunt operations for 5 years, criteria for the selection of patients for a porta-caval and a splenorenal shunt, the management of patients with bleeding oesophageal varices, and the surgical procedures for the correction of ascites. They also mention research being done by them at present in the field of portal hypertension and ascites. This monograph should be read by everyone interested in portal hypertension. The extensive references will be of great value to research workers in this field. B.J.D.

BONE PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY

Clinical Orthopaedics. Number 17, Summer 1960. Clinical Physiology and Pathology of Bone. Editor-in-Chief: Anthony F. DePalma, with the assistance of the Associate Editors: The Board of Advisory Editors and The Board of Corresponding Editors. Pp. xi + 387. Illustrated. Single copies: R6.00 net. Subscribers: R4.80 net. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1961.

This is another book on the physiology of bone, bone-salt, calcium and phosphorus metabolism and metabolic bone disease. Admittedly we have been subjected recently to a spate of rather similar volumes. This one, however, includes a fair amount of very recent work using radioactive isotopes — including osteoclasts studied with yttrium, deposition and removal of radium, use of Sr⁹⁰ in obtaining 'osteograms' in various diseases, bone accretion studies in vitamin-D-resistant rickets, and so on.

The basic sciences are well represented by articles on bone structure, bone crystals, the ivory core of tusks and teeth, the biophysics of human bone, the bone matrix, hyaline cartilage, histochemistry of calcification, nuclei formation, and age changes in bone.

The small amount of 'pure orthopaedics' in this book (e.g. the Stone operation for hallux valgus) seems quite out of place.

On the whole, however, it is informative, interesting and extremely nicely produced. There are many figures and adequate references. Certainly all libraries should possess a copy, also those people especially interested in bone structure or function. Clinical orthopaedists will find it hard going despite the main general title. W.P.U.J.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Medicine: A Lifelong Study. Proceedings of the Second World Conference on Medical Education. Chicago 1959. Under the Auspices of the World Medical Association. New York: The World Medical Association. London: The British Medical Journal, 1961.

The doctor must be a life-long student of diseases and men and the Second World Conference on Medical Education was concerned with the large proportion of doctors (90% in some areas), who fail to continue their medical studies and reading after graduation. The main reasons for this failure to keep abreast are faulty undergraduate education and the development of faulty habits during that period.

The Proceedings of the Conference, therefore, cover under and postgraduate education, in specialities as well as in general practice, selection and training for research work and the place of research in continuing education. The objective of providing (with the Proceedings of the First World Conference on Medical Education, 1954) 2 fundamental textbooks on medical education has been achieved.

There were 800 delegates from 66 countries at the Conference. 215 contributors are indexed in the book, which is an almost verbatim record of the panel discussions and over 100 papers delivered by renowned authorities. Subjects include preceptorships for students, comprehensive care, hospital work for general practitioners, and group practice. The entire proceedings are summarized in 40 pages by the rapporteurs and vice-presidents.

There is profitable stimulation in this book for those who are concerned about the future of the profession and medical practice, the lot of the general practitioner, and the health and sickness of patients. B.J.K.

THORACIC SURGERY

Surgical Diseases of the Chest. Ed. by Brian Blades, M.D. Pp. 580. 267 illustrations. \$22.00. Missouri: The C. V. Mosby Co. Also obtainable from local booksellers. 1961.

This book, which is the combined effort of 18 contributors and dedicated to the memory of Evarts Graham, introduces the student, the practitioner and the surgeon to surgical diseases of the chest. However, thoracic surgery, particularly cardiac surgery, is expanding so rapidly that some techniques and views are outdated even before they are published; it is also inevitable that unnecessary repetition will occur in a

book of this kind. Basic physiology and pre- and postoperative care are briefly dealt with, but, surprisingly the value of posture and high-volume suction are not mentioned. The chapters on hiatus hernia and the oesophagus are rather neglected, while ample space is given to the heart and great vessels, and 2 short chapters are devoted to ancillary procedures and anaesthesia for thoracic surgery.

The illustrations enhance the value of this book which deserves the attention of all who are interested in chest surgery. G.S.M.B.

DENTAL ANAESTHESIA

Nitrous Oxide in Dentistry, its Danger and Alternatives. By J. G. Bourne, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. x + 181 23 figures. R3.00 net. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd, 1960.

The deficiencies of dental anaesthesia prompted the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to offer a prize of R400.00 for original work in this field. This book represents a welcome contribution.

The author has for years condemned the routine use of nitrous oxide for dental outpatients. After quoting numerous cases of death, permanent brain damage, or delayed recovery following nitrous oxide in the dental chair, he discusses at length its dangers and deficiencies and emphasizes especially the danger of fainting under anaesthesia, which he feels is the major cause of catastrophe.

Following an excellent discussion on inert-gas exchange in the body, nitrous oxide is shown to be unsuitable, while cyclopropane most closely approaches the ideal. Simple apparatus and a readily acquired and simple technique are described with an account of its uses in 3,000 cases.

This small book covers its subject admirably. It is recommended for reading, not only by all doctors and dentists using general anaesthesia for dentistry, but by all anaesthetists. It has a most comprehensive list of references. D.A.U.C.T.

TOOTH EXTRACTION FOR DOCTORS

The Extraction of Teeth. By Geoffrey L. Howe, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. viii + 70. 100 illustrations. R1.75 net. Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1961.

Although doctors in South Africa may not undertake dental work if a dentist is available, there are many places in this vast country of ours where they have, of necessity, to attend to the teeth of their patients. This small book will assist such practitioners, since it deals with the basic principles of extractions, usually the only dental work which doctors are called upon to undertake. It is simply written and clearly and adequately illustrated, and, if it is followed, the lot of the general practitioner in outlying areas will be eased. A.H.T.

MYO-EPITHELIAL CELLS IN SALIVARY-GLAND TUMOURS

The Identification and the Role of the Myoepithelial Cell in Salivary Gland Tumours. By Erling A. Mylius. Pp. 59. 27 illustrations. R3.40. Norway: Oslo University Press. Obtainable from P. B. Mayer, Box 713, Cape Town. 1960.

This excellent monograph is one of the *Norwegian Monographs on Medical Science* and has also been published as supplement 139 of *Acta Pathologica and Microbiologica Scandinavica*. The booklet has been very well produced and contains some excellent photomicrographs and electron micrographs. It presents the results of an investigation into the myo-epithelial cells, which are described in great detail.

With the assistance of the electron microscope, tissue cultures and histochemistry, the author has identified neoplastic myo-epithelial cells in most salivary-gland tumours. He concludes that these tumours develop from mature salivary-gland tissue and that, although some seem to be purely epithelial in origin, the majority are partly or exclusively composed of myo-epithelial cells.

This monograph is strongly recommended and marks an important step in our understanding of salivary-gland tumours. D.J. du P.

SURGICAL DISEASES OF THE PANCREAS

Surgical Diseases of the Pancreas. By John M. Howard, M.D., F.A.C.S. and George L. Jordan, JR., M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S. Pp. xviii + 607. 199 illustrations. R14.70. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1960.

This is a book that can be highly recommended to everyone interested in the pancreas—surgeon, physician and post-graduate student in surgery and medicine. It is well produced, the paper is of high quality, the illustrations are excellent and the numerous tables and diagrams are clear and to the point. It is well written and the reader is carried effortlessly from one paragraph to the next. At the end of each chapter there is a long list of references. The book is written by physicians who have contributed much to a better understanding of diseases of the pancreas, for example E. E. Ellison writes the chapter on ulcerogenic tumours of the pancreas.

The book starts with a historical sketch by Allan O. Whipple, followed by excellent chapters on the surgical anatomy of the pancreas and on the applied physiology of the external secretion. The laboratory diagnosis of pancreatic disease is discussed in a separate chapter. A large part of the book deals with acute pancreatitis: its aetiology, pathology, pathological

physiology, diagnosis and treatment. There are chapters on special types of pancreatitis, e.g. that associated with gallstones, with alcoholism and with certain operations. Pancreatic calcification, relapsing and chronic pancreatitis, and pancreatitis in unusual forms are discussed separately. There is a wealth of information in all these sections written by Dr. Howard, who refers extensively to the literature and to his own experience. The chapter on hyperinsulism and island-cell tumours of the pancreas is really a collective review—all cases reported up to January 1958 are summarized in tables extending across almost 100 pages.

The latter part of the book deals with pancreatic and peri-ampullary neoplasms, and is written by Dr. Jordan. The operative technique of pancreaticoduodenal resection is described in detail, and the indications, pre- and postoperative care and complications, as well as morbidity and mortality rates, are discussed. The last chapter deals with pancreatic fistulae, but this one and another on pancreatic trauma are not very informative. Ulcerogenic tumours of the pancreas and pancreatic cysts are also discussed.

It was a joy to review this book, which reads so easily and contains much new information. It can be highly recommended to the teacher in surgery and medicine and as an informative reference work on the pancreas.

B.D.