

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

## NEUROLOGICAL COLLOQUIUM

*Scientific Aspects of Neurology.* Leeds Neurological Sciences Colloquium 1959-60. Edited by Hugh Garland, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi+264. R5.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961.

The editor of this book, who works in Leeds, had the very bright idea of inviting distinguished neurologists and workers in related fields to deliver lectures on various aspects of neurology. Now the many who were unable to be present are given the opportunity to benefit from this excellent plan.

Twenty different lectures are published here, many of them illustrated with figures, diagrams and photographs, and one can take up the book, concentrating on the topics of special personal interest, browsing through others and gaining a good idea of much recent work in neurology. Needless to say, not all the contributions are of equal merit, and while it may be invidious to select items from the collection, one can mention some of particular interest and importance, often because of the way they are written. The writings of Walshe, Symonds, Critchley and Geoffrey Jefferson are always a delight and a profit to read; other important lectures like Hill's on the epileptogenic focus and McKissock's on the treatment of posterior communicating aneurysms are alone almost worth the price of the book.

I would recommend it not only to the neurologist, but also to his medical colleagues, and especially the trainee physician.

S.B.

## FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS

*Fractures, Dislocations and Sprains.* By Philip Wiles, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.A.C.S. Pp. 67. 519 illustrations. R2.75 net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1960.

This book (67 pages, each 10 × 12 inches) is practically a concise and handy atlas on fractures and dislocations of nearly every type. It is the outcome of accumulated information on fractures and dislocations formerly set out in card form in the Orthopaedic Fracture Department of the Middlesex Hospital. The format allows the illustration, identification, and discussion of fractures and dislocations in each region. Excellent X-ray photographs appear on the left hand, while smaller, clear line-drawings are printed on the right-hand pages, together with brief discussions on type, mechanism, diagnosis, treatment, and complications likely to follow.

The book starts with a short discussion on the healing, classification, treatment, and complications likely to be met after various fractures and dislocations. The author points out that fractures are the main theme while dislocations receive brief discussion. The treatment suggested is that favoured by the author—a sensible approach which tends towards conservatism. The illustrations are such as to render lengthy description unnecessary, for they are exceptionally clear and simple.

The work is well planned, well illustrated, clearly written and to the point. The book is strongly bound and will withstand much handling. It should prove of great use to students, housemen, first-aid workers and even those general practitioners who find themselves confronted with fracture cases away from hospital facilities.

G.C.A.vdW.

## PSYCHIATRIC DRUG THERAPY

*The Dynamics of Psychiatric Drug Therapy.* Edited by G. J. Sarwer-Foner, M.D. Pp. xxviii+624. R12.80. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This book contains the proceedings of a conference on psychodynamic, psychoanalytic and sociological aspects of the neuroleptic drugs in psychiatry, held under the auspices of the Department of Psychiatry of McGill University, Montreal. A number of experts formed small selected groups with limited terms of reference, and all the leisure they needed to go into these topics and each other's views in detail. They cover both the physiological and the psychological effects of the new 'drugs for the mind', particularly the latter aspect, and deal with subjects such as the psychodynamic meaning of these drugs for patients, the way their effects are integrated with other methods of influencing abnormal behaviour, such as psychotherapy and milieu therapy, transference and counter-transference, problems of drug administration, the re-

actions of staff to the new drugs, etc. Although the issues are not necessarily finalized, much new information and interesting discussion emerges. This is a timely book on a subject that badly needs authoritative comment and elucidation, and from it the psychiatrically-interested reader will gain a thoroughly up-to-date and comprehensive grasp of the subject.

L.S.G.

## PAEDIATRICS

*The Catarrhal Child.* By John Fry, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii+139. R2.50. London and South Africa: Butterworth and Co. 1961.

This is a very readable account of well-controlled research in general practice.

Over a period of 10 years John Fry, an exceptional family doctor, carefully observed the children in his busy daily practice in order to establish the natural history of coughs and colds, sore throats, otitis media, and wheezy chests. His statistics show a definite age pattern with a natural tendency to outgrow these ills at about 8 years of age. Similarly, he presents his conclusions on acute chest infections and his assessment of the 'T and A's' problem. There is also a thought-provoking chapter on the use (and abuse) of antibiotics.

A little more space could have been devoted to sorting out the respiratory allergies and to virus infections, but the author's clinical concept of a 'Catarrhal child syndrome' is quite convincing.

This book should have a wide appeal to paediatricians, to ENT surgeons, to those in charge of school clinics and welfare clinics, and above all to the general practitioner. Even the busiest of them could find time to read the excellent summaries at the end of each chapter—their little patients would benefit.

Dr. Fry must have made considerable sacrifices to complete this study. He deserves an accolade.

L.S.

## GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY

*Clinical Gastroenterology.* By F. Avery Jones, M.D. (Lond.), Hon. M.D. (Melbourne), F.R.C.P. (Lond.) and J. W. P. Gummer, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. vii + 652. Illustrated. R7.00 Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

This book, based on the practice of gastro-enterology at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London, provides an authoritative text-book on clinical gastro-enterology. The main emphasis is on the diagnosis and management of diseases and recognized disorders of the gastro-intestinal tract. The spastic-colon syndrome, duodenal ileus and other less clearly defined disorders receive scant attention, and the authors do not offer a diagnostic approach to the difficult problem of the patient with chronic abdominal symptoms unassociated with evidence of organic disease. These are minor criticisms in a book dealing with as wide a subject as gastro-enterology, and do not detract from its value as a standard text-book for undergraduate and postgraduate alike.

I.N.M.

## ENDEMIC GOITRE

*Endemic Goitre.* By F. W. Clements, *et al.* Pp. 471. R4.00. Also available in French and Spanish. Geneva: World Health Organization. South African Office: Van Schaik's Bookstore (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 724, Pretoria. 1960.

It is estimated that almost 200 million of the world's inhabitants suffer from goitre. A large chapter of this volume traces the prevalence and geographical distribution of this disease throughout the world. The survey published by the South African Goitre Research Committee in 1955 is cited to indicate our own national problem in this regard.

Excellent contributions consider physiological, pathological and aetiological factors in the genesis of goitre, and the technique of conducting a goitre survey is reviewed. The outstanding value of the monograph, however, lies in its emphasis on goitre control and prevention.

Amazing reductions in the incidence of the disease have been achieved by iodization of salt or water supplies in some countries. WHO, in publishing this book, is pointing the way to complete elimination of the problem of endemic goitre.

Apart from its obvious importance in the field of public health, this volume contains a great deal of scientific information that will interest all who are concerned with the thyroid gland.

R.H.