

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

OBSTETRIE

Atlas of Obstetric Technique. By J. Robert Willson, M.D. M.S. Pp. 304. Illustrated. \$14.50. Missouri: The C. V. Mosby Co. Also obtainable from local booksellers. 1961.

J. Robert Willson is die professor van verloskunde en ginekologie aan die Temple-universiteit se geneeskundige skool te Philadelphia.

Hierdie atlas van hom beskryf puntsgewys die obstetriese manipulasies wat hy gebruik, en elke stap word geïllustreer deur besonder volledige en duidelike tekeninge. Die volgende prosedures word beskryf:

Normale baring, vertraagde skouers, die derde stadium, induksie van kraam, kraambeserings, tangverlossings (beide Neville Barnes en Kielland), aangesigsligging, voorhoofligging, stuitligging, dwarsligging, keisersnee, plasenta previa, en kraaniotomie. Die verhandeling oor tangverlossing en stuitligging is besonder goed en breedvoerig.

'n Indeks van moderne verloskunde is die feit dat die skrywer met opset nie dekapitasie beskryf nie, maar ek is tog verbaas dat hy ook simfisiotomie uitgelaat het.

Hierdie boek kan met vertroue aanbeveel word vir diegene wat die verloskunde beoefen.

J.N. de V.

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Atlas of Anatomy and Surgical Approaches in Orthopaedic Surgery. Vol. II. (Lower Extremity). By Rudolph Cosentino, M.D. Pp. vii + 263. Illustrated. R11.20. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This is quite a remarkable atlas of surgical anatomy. Dr. Cosentino is an orthopaedic surgeon who has painstakingly and beautifully dissected the lower limb so as to illustrate the organization of areas exposed by the surgeon. The artistry of the prosector is given full credit by the outstanding photographic techniques which have resulted in a series of plates of great value to the anatomist and surgeon.

There are a few minor criticisms. It is a pity that the detailed legends of Figs. 1 and 2 are not placed facing these plates because cross-reference is awkward. In Figs. 9 and 10, 'Internal Pudendal N.' should read 'Pudendal N.' There is also a slight inconsistency in the utilization of capitals for anatomical names, e.g., on page 14, 'Obturator nerve' and 'obturator artery' appear in the same sentence.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the fine production of this volume. It is highly recommended to both surgeons and anatomists.

R.S.

OPHTHALMOLOGY

A Synopsis of Ophthalmology. 2nd edition, by J. L. C. Martin-Doyle, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O. Pp. 249. R2.75. Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1961.

The publication of a second edition of this text-book is a welcome event. It stresses the demand for this booklet which fills a gap for medical undergraduates and graduates from schools where the facilities for teaching ophthalmology are not as good as they might be.

Most of the book is devoted to a systematic treatment of its subject matter. There then follows a chapter on the use of antibiotic drugs, another on the use of corticosteroids and a third on allergy in ophthalmology. The best section is that on squint which is up to date and accurate. The chapter on 'ocular signs in general disease' is also well presented.

Many of the sections in this edition have been rewritten e.g. glaucoma, whilst some are new, e.g. antibiotics and corticosteroids in ophthalmology. In spite of this there are some unfortunate omissions that considerably detract from the value of this work. Thus, the importance of a family history is not mentioned in the relevant chapter. There is no mention of the value of corneal grafting in superficial dystrophies; instead the outmoded and mutilating procedure of optical iridectomy is recommended.

No note is made of ankylosing spondylitis as the major cause of non-granulomatous iritis, and not to record the use of 'diamox' in the treatment of secondary glaucoma is a serious omission. Instead another mutilating procedure, posterior sclerotomy, is advised. In a new edition the continued use of confusing labels in the chapter on retinopathies, e.g. 'Renal retinopathy' is deplorable. One would prefer to see the progressive nature of the retinal vascular changes stressed, starting with arteriosclerosis and progressing to benign hypertension and sometimes into a 'malignant' phase. Then too, the basic feature of diabetic retinopathy, which is new-vessel formation, is not even mentioned.

I have pointed out some of the shortcomings and could add many more. Nevertheless, within its limits this is a most useful book for those that require a 'bird's eye view' of ophthalmology. Undergraduate students and general practitioners would be well advised to keep a copy of this book in their library.

M.H.L.

BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY

Recent Advances in Biological Psychiatry. Including a Havelock Ellis Centenary Symposium on Sexual Behaviour. Edited by Joseph Wortis, M.D. Pp. xiii+417. Illustrated. \$13.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1960.

This volume in its 29 contributions, high in the scales of experimental approach and critical evaluation alike, testifies to the vitality and progress of the biological approach to psychiatry.

The major subdivision of topics is as follows: Academic Lecture, 1959; Part I: Neuroanatomy and neurophysiology; Part II: Symposium—conditioning of the electroencephalograph in animals and man; Part III: Havelock Ellis centenary symposium 1859-1959—the analysis of the sex impulse; Part IV: Psychopharmacologic research; and Appendix: Remarks at the Fourteenth annual Banquet of biological psychiatry.

At the risk of being invidious I am compelled by space allocation to direct attention to 5 items only of this sumptuous feast. First, item 6 (page 70) brings us up to date on the significance of GABA in the brain. Second, the whole of Part II contributes experimental detail to the revolutionary vista opened up by conditioning of the EEG. Third, in 'Components of eroticism in man: cognitive rehearsals' (item 16, page 210), John Money adduces evidence from paraplegics and other clinical material as to the components of eroticism at an experimental *a posteriori* level. Fourth, the round-table discussion on toxic theories of schizophrenia (item 21, page 280), provides a comprehensive picture of the field, as well as the latest advances in the Taraxein problem. Finally (item 27, page 371), there is a round-table discussion focussing attention on the crucial matter of methodological problems in neuropharmacological research.

L.A.H.