

MEDICAL ANNUAL

The Medical Annual. A year book of treatment and practitioners' index. Ed. by R. B. Scott, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. and R. M. Walker, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. Pp. liii+610. Illustrated. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1961.

The new edition of *The Medical Annual* follows the well-planned pattern of its predecessors. Once more there are 4 special articles, dealing with: 'Human chromosome abnormalities', 'The management of paraplegia', 'Microsurgery' and 'Psychotic drugs'.

A considerable number of articles on the aberrations of human auto- and chromosomes and their effects on human development have recently appeared. Interest in these creative bodies is bound to increase with the passage of time, especially in view of current world events.

One inevitably also wonders how much undesirable influence the steadily increasing number of new and powerful drugs will be found to have on these same microscopic bodies within our somatic and germinal cells? Reviews in this direction should prove illuminating.

The article on paraplegia and its management is well written and instructive. One does, however, find it somewhat difficult to agree that all patients with spinal injury should be placed on their backs and picked up in that posture! The author might have enlarged upon this important point and also given his reasons for his warning.

The article on psychotherapeutic drugs covers much ground and should prove very useful to the profession. While this is so, it also serves to emphasize to us all the fact that never before in history have the nations of the civilized world stood in greater need of such aids to living. The number of these drugs will go on increasing in response to the demand from men who are finding it ever more difficult to survive—cast adrift as many find themselves, 'on life's solemn main'.

The Annual once again offers a wide range of reviews

culled chiefly from English-speaking sources, and it should prove to be a mine of information to all its readers.

Attention is drawn to an error on page 41, Table 3. The dosage should be read as *milligrams* and not grams.

G.C.A.v.d.W.

CHEMOTHERAPY OF TROPICAL DISEASES

The Chemotherapy of Tropical Diseases. By P. Manson-Bahr, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H. (Cantab) and J. H. Walters, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi+164. R5.60. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1961.

An authoritative account of tropical diseases and their treatment can be expected from these authors, who are so well known, and the reader is not disappointed. The style is clear and concise, and a useful section on drugs is appended. It is disappointing, however, to find no list of references although workers are frequently quoted in the text. For a small book like this, without illustrations, the price is high.

E.B.A.

MENTAL RETARDATION

Mental Retardation in Infants and Children. By Abraham Levinson, M.D. (Deceased), and John A. Bigler, M.D. Pp. 308. 53 illustrations. \$8.00. Chicago. Year Book Publishers. 1960.

That mental retardation has at last been succeeding in claiming its long-denied rightful place of equality among the other branches of medicine, is evidenced by the recent publication on the subject of several excellent books by medical men for medical men. One of the latest books of this nature is the one under review. In its preface one of its authors, quite rightly, states that mental retardation is primarily a medical problem. The time has now definitely arrived for members of the medical profession, also in this country, to realize and accept this fact, if they do not want to continue lagging be-

hind the admirable achievements in this field obtained in the USA and Western Europe.

This small book, 'written by practising paediatricians for all practising physicians', is admirably suited to supply the badly lacking and essential knowledge on mental retardation to the medical profession. 'What we know and what we do not know is here set forth simply and factually, while speculation and hypothesis are clearly labelled and held within narrow limits.'

Besides giving an excellent, concise, up-to-date description of all different varieties of mental retardation, including the more recent brilliant discoveries, this book contains also nearly all the answers to problems confronting medical men when dealing with a mentally retarded patient.

This book should be read by all practising medical men and can be highly recommended as a text-book to medical students.

W.K.

YEAR BOOK OF ORTHOPAEDICS

The Year Book of Orthopaedics and Traumatic Surgery (1960 - 1961 Year Book Series). Ed. by H. Herman Young, M.D. With a section on Plastic Surgery ed. by Neal Owens, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. Pp. 440. Illustrated. \$9.00. Illinois: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1961.

This year's edition is well up to the standard of previous years and is indicative of the changing face of orthopaedic surgery. Only a few papers are devoted to the discussion of tuberculosis of bone and joint, whereas there are large numbers concerned with rheumatoid arthritis. The intervertebral disc is hardly mentioned, but the section on hand surgery is well represented.

There are several reviews of interesting papers concerned with research in orthopaedic surgery.

This book is well worth reading by all those who are keen to know about 'what is going on'.

A.S.

CHEMOTHERAPY OF TUBERCULOSIS

Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis. By W. F. Russel, Jr., M.D., M.S. and G. Middlebrook, M.D. Pp. xiv+130. Illustrated. R5.20. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1961.

A well-documented handbook on the practical application of modern chemotherapy to pulmonary tuberculosis together with the results of such application.

A chapter of special interest is devoted to the chemotherapy of patients with pulmonary diseases attributed to infection with atypical mycobacteria.

Of great interest is the method of direct drug-susceptibility testing and primary isolation employed by the authors, which provides a practical answer to the clinician after only three weeks.

J.B.P.

CLINICAL ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAPHY

An Introduction to Clinical Electro-Encephalography. By R. R. Hughes, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. vii+118. Illustrated. R3.00. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1961.

Electro-encephalography is a well-established technique in the investigation of brain function and is responsible for the major advances in neurophysiology in the last decade. Its application in the field of clinical medicine is increasing rapidly, and the good doctor should be prepared to understand the rudiments of its principles and practice. This small book makes no claims other than to be an introduction to the subject of clinical electro-encephalography, and within this limit it serves its purpose most satisfactorily. The author has not concerned himself with the neurophysiological basis of the science, but confines himself to the commoner clinical states in which the investigation is of value and can be readily understood by those with no previous knowledge of the subject. If a tendency to some degree of dogmatism is noted, it is the price one has to pay for succinctness and simplification. The book is recommended to medical students and the interested general practitioner.

S.B.