

CARDIOLOGY

Essentials of Cardiology. By S. G. Owen, M.D. (Durh.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.) and J. Vallance-Owen, M.D., M.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. v + 215. Illustrated. R2.50. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1961.

It is difficult really to know for whom this book is intended. It is certainly not sufficient for the postgraduate student, the specialist physician or the cardiologist. It is too superficial actually even for the undergraduate.

While one cannot find any erroneous statements or argue with any facts recorded, nothing is handled in depth. The style is delightfully conversational and the book is very easy to read. At the end of it one just wonders what has been gained.

What are the good points? I have never seen the hexaxial reference system more beautifully explained than in chapter 7, in which the principles of electrocardiography are discussed. Undergraduates should now be taught electrocardiography at the onset with the vectorial approach.

Cardiology has now become more and more applied physiology, and I feel that the approach in this book has not been physiological enough. M.N.

BREAD IN THE DIET

Het Brood in de Nederlandse Voeding. Een literatuurstudie over de samenstelling en voedingswaarde van tarwe, meel en brood. Rapport van een door de Nederlandse Vereniging van Meelfabrikanten ingestelde 'Commissie Voedingswaarde Brood'. Pp. xii + 366. The Hague: Nederlandse Vereniging van Meelfabrikanten. 1961.

During 1957, the Netherlands Association of Flour Millers appointed a committee of experts to study the role of bread in the Dutch diet, the nutrient losses occurring in the milling of wheat into the various grades of meal and flour and in the baking process, and the effect which such losses have on the nutrient content of the diets of various Dutch population groups. If necessary they were also to consider what steps should be taken to rectify nutrient deficiencies caused by these losses.

With the collaboration of the T.N.O. Grain, Meal and Bread Institute, a critical (and most comprehensive) study was made of the literature pertaining to the subject and of available statistics concerning the Dutch diet.

The book consists of the following main sections: the report of the committee dealing with all facets of the subject, a section under the heading 'comment' in which aspects not dealt with comprehensively in the report are further elucidated, graphs and tables, a comprehensive bibliography (about 3,000 references from the literature) and an author index to the bibliography. The book also contains summaries in English and French.

The study was concerned with the role of bread in the nutrition of the Dutch people only, but the basic facts presented on bread as a food are, to a large extent, generally applicable.

The study, which was carried out in an objective and scientific manner, again shows clearly how essential it is not only to study man's staple foods very carefully, but also to study the dietary context in which they are used, before tampering with them by way of 'enrichment' or 'fortification'.

The book should be a valuable addition to the library of those interested in nutrition, particularly in countries where bread is an important item of the diet. J.P. de W.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology. Vol. 4. No. 3. Cardiovascular-Renal problems in pregnancy, Ed. by R. R. de Alvarez, M.D.; Ovarian Tumours, ed. by L. Parsons, M.D. Pp. contd. 597-912. Illustrated. Subscription \$18.00 per annum. (Quarterly publication). New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1961.

This contribution to obstetrics and gynaecology can hardly be termed a journal—it is a very well-written book. Those doctors who regularly read *Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology* will know that some of the previous volumes have been good while others have been poor. One can say that this volume is surely one of the best yet to appear. The section on cardiovascular and renal problems in pregnancy is of a very high standard. P. du T.

APHASIA FOLLOWING HEAD INJURY

Traumatic Aphasia. A study of aphasia in war wounds of the brain. By W. R. Russell, C.B.E., M.D. (Edin.), D.Sc. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. (Edin. and Lond.) and M. L. E. Espir, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. vi + 177. Illustrated R3.80. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1961.

Ritchie Russell and Espir have had exceptional opportunities of studying cases of aphasia in head injuries; out of a total of 916 traumatic brain lesions, they found 280 cases of aphasia which they were able to use in these studies.

As always, Dr. Russell brings fresh ideas into his work, and his concept of central aphasia with long-standing post-traumatic amnesia being the result of damage to the fornix-hippocampal system in the dominant hemisphere, is a good example of his original views.

This book is of the utmost importance to all neurologists and those interested in speech mechanisms; the case-notes are short and precise, the implications clear and acceptable.

J. M. MacG.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Lectures on the Methodology of Clinical Research. By M. Hamilton, M.D., D.P.M. Pp. viii + 139. R2.10 + 8c. postage. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961.

This is a pleasant, easily readable series of lectures, written in good English. The title is a little misleading—this is really another book on the understanding and application of statistics to medical research and the necessary experimental

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designs. It does not, for instance, tell us how to run a metabolic balance study.

It can be recommended to beginners and junior (as well as senior) research workers, since it assumes little basic knowledge — even telling us that we must pronounce the symbol x^2 as 'K-eye square'. The author is really concerned with ideas

more than detail, and one is likely to begin getting interested in a topic, such as sequential design, only to find oneself reading about something quite different in the next paragraph.

Despite this slightly irritating property of incompleteness or even scrappiness, and a rather incomplete index, I recommend this book as armchair exercise to anyone interested in clinical research.

W.P.U.J.