

EXCRETION

Handbuch der allgemeinen Pathologie. Herausgegeben von F. Büchner, E. Letterer, F. Roulet. *Band V/2. Teil. Hilfsmechanismen des Stoffwechsels.* Pp. xi+689. 164 Abbildungen. Ladenpreis: Ganzleinen DM 178.00. Bei Verpflichtung zur Abnahme des gesamten Handbuchs Subskriptionspreis DM 142.40. Berlin, Göttingen, Heidelberg: Springer Verlag. 1959.

This work continues the German tradition of reference books and gives a comprehensive survey of general pathology. The present volume, the fifth issued since 1955, deals with excretion. The different subjects are discussed by authors with specialized knowledge, viz. Functional pathology of renal excretion, by Sarre and Gayer; Morbid anatomy of renal excretion, by Randerath and Bohle; Physiology of excretion in liver, gall-bladder, bile-ducts and colon, by Grogg and Staub; Pathology of excretion in liver and colon, by Kühn; Excretion in lungs, by Goebel; and Excretions through the skin, by Marchionini and Spier. Every chapter has its own extensive bibliography, including articles up to 1956 and 1957. The sections on renal and hepatic excretion are of a high standard, and so is the chapter on skin pathology. Sarre and Gayer give a good account of renal excretion, which is completed by the thorough contribution by Randerath and Bohle. Kühn's treatise about excretion in the liver seems specially interesting because of his unusual but useful classification of jaundice. He also mentions Minkowski's old theory of parapneidosis and discusses the role of the destruction of hepatic lobules and necroses. Even in cases of acute hepatitis and acute yellow atrophy Kühn thinks parapneidosis more important in the pathogenesis of icterus than the anatomical changes. This book should be of great value to physiologists and pathologists, particularly as it is written in rather easy German. H.W.W.

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Human Nutrition and Dietetics. By Sir Stanley Davidson, B.A. (Cantab.), M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.D. (Oslo), A. P. Meiklejohn, M.A., B.Sc., D.M. (Oxon.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.) and R. Passmore, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.). Pp. xii + 844. Illustrations. 84s. net + 3s. 4d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

The 3 authors from the Edinburgh school have produced an excellent survey of the subject. They have concentrated on human nutrition and relevant experimental and clinical data. There is an admirable absence of unwarranted extrapolation from research in animals. The bibliography has been carefully chosen, and it is gratifying to see South African workers well represented.

The physiology of nutrition and primary nutritional diseases (including obesity) is covered in 350 pages. The rest of the book deals with food, dietetics and nutrition in public health. This comprehensive approach has resulted in a rather long book, but it is lucid and interesting throughout.

There is a real need for such a book. It should provide valuable additional reading for medical students, who may be familiar with the senior author's text-book of medicine. Doctors will be glad to know of an up-to-date and practical review of nutrition. Dieticians will probably find the book invaluable. Its simple style and avoidance of very specialized terminology makes it accessible to other readers as well. A.S.T.

TUMOURS OF THE BLADDER

Tumors of the Urinary Bladder. By N. B. Friedman, M.D. and James E. Ash, M.D. Pp. 82. 86 figures. \$1.00. Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1959.

The series of atlases on tumour pathology continues its successful presentations in Fascicle 31a, which describes the tumours of the urinary bladder.

The astonishing excellence of the microphotographic printing is in itself a sufficient recommendation for all medical training institutions to insist upon the acquisition of this atlas. In addition, the publication achieves a desirable balance of pictorial and crisply written information on diagnostic, therapeutic and prognostic problems which is of interest to clinical pathologists, and the atlas is accordingly recommended to them also.

Over half the contents refer to the tumours derived from the transitional epithelium (urothelium), the rest being an account of the surprising variety of glandular, muscular, lymphoid and rarer tumours of the bladder and those conditions which may be mistaken for neoplasia.

A mild criticism relates to the limited pictorial account of the difficulty in distinguishing between some of the papillomas and papillary carcinomas, a difficulty which is specifically discussed in the text.

The publication emphasizes that the clinical pathologist is commonly not able to give a confident opinion on biopsy material owing to poor sampling on the part of the urologist. R.S.

SUPERVOLTAGE RADIOTHERAPY

Roentgens, rads, and Riddles. A Symposium on Supervoltage Radiation Therapy held at the Medical Division, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, 15 - 18 July 1956. Edited by M. Friedman, M.D., M. Brucer, M.D. and E. Anderson. Pp. xv. + 495. Illustrations. \$3.50. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., USA. 1959.

One glance at the list of contributions and the captions of the various chapters of the different sections of this symposium arising from Oak Ridge is an adequate indication that the volume comprises an immense amount of authoritative information.

Each chapter—and there are 69, beautifully illustrated—is produced by a recognized authority in the particular subject from different parts of the world; each section is rounded off by a résumé of the discussion, and the whole work is brought to an end by the inclusion of three valuable appendices and an extensive bibliography.

It would be invidious to single out any chapter or section for special mention. Each has its own appeal, whether it is concerned with dosimetry, machine design, moving-field therapy, clinical radiobiology, or what not.

The volume is highly recommended to those interested in supervoltage therapy. J.M.G.

VASCULAR DISEASE

Color Atlas and Management of Vascular Disease. By William T. Foley, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Irving S. Wright, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xi + 170. 194 illustrations. \$18.00. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1959.

In recent years direct arterial surgery has come well into the limelight, and the results from surgical management of obliterative disease are often quite dramatic, and certainly very much better than anything one could formerly offer the patient. In this atmosphere, and with the ever-increasing number of articles and monographs on the subject, one is liable to lose sight of the fact that a large percentage of patients with arterial disease do not qualify for direct surgical techniques, but nevertheless can be greatly benefited by conservative measures.

This little book, therefore, fulfils a most useful function, for it is devoted entirely to the conservative management of arterial

diseases. Throughout the book the various diseases are described briefly, and then illustrated by short case histories and most excellent colour photographs. The methods employed are based on sound reasoning and common sense, and they should most certainly be applied in all cases of arterial disease, whether they have been surgically treated or not.

The book can be strongly recommended to all medical men interested in this type of work. To general practitioners it will be particularly valuable.

W.G.S.

SURGICAL HOUSEMAN'S GUIDE

Surgical Service Guide. By Louis T. Palumbo, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S. Pp. 208. Illustrations. \$6.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

This concise little book could well have been called 'Aids to the Surgical Houseman'. It was primarily written for the residents on the author's own unit, where it served a definite purpose, because it is really a résumé of his own notes and instructions to them, on every aspect of the pre- and post-operative management of the surgical patient. He covers surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology and paediatric surgery, all in 208 pages, and his orders are laid out in tabular form. This leads to a certain amount of dogmatism, not universally acceptable, but which accords with the positive nature of this book. Many major aspects of surgery are rather summarily dealt with; the subject of 'fluids and electrolytes', for instance, takes up only 2 pages.

The management of the more minor surgical cases is well covered, and from this point of view this book should be of great value to the newly-qualified houseman, particularly in an institution where there is no senior resident available. Apart from this, it will have limited appeal.

J.G.

SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS AND MENSTRUAL DISORDERS

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Vol. 2, No. 1. March 1959. *Spontaneous Abortion.* Edited by D. N. Danforth, M.D. *Menstrual Disorders.* Edited by C. F. Fluhmann, M.D. Pp. 256. Illustrations. Published 4 times a year. Subscription \$18.00 per year. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1959.

In this volume two interesting and problematic subjects, viz. abortion and menstrual disorders, are discussed in great detail.

The section on abortion is extremely well written and no important aspect has been omitted. A whole chapter is given to cervical incompetence and its treatment. The indications for the Shirodkar operation, which is so much misused today, is discussed in detail. Not enough, however, has been said about the modern use of progesterone in doses of 100 mg. a day. Stress has also not been placed on the virilizing effect of long-continued treatment with progesterone in high doses.

The symposium on menstrual disorders is well worth reading and many aspects not known to the average gynaecologist and practitioner are mentioned. The chapter on the determination of basal body temperature in the management of menstrual disorders is extremely interesting and reminds us of this simple method in diagnosis and treatment. There are, however, so many writers and different opinions that the subject is not yet simplified enough for the busy consultant and practitioner.

On the whole the high standard of this periodical series has been maintained, and I can only conclude with the statement that these volumes are valuable additions to our medical libraries.

R.W.A.N.

PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

Psychoanalysis of Today. By S. Nacht. Pp. vii + 228. \$5.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

This is not a text-book or a short outline of psycho-analysis in theory or practice, as might be inferred from the title, yet it has something of this character. What the editor has done is to choose and condense 8 of the 16 chapters of the first 2 volumes of a collection of studies published by the Institute of Psycho-analysis of Paris. The level of success in condensation varies greatly. The paper on 'Indications and contra-indications for psycho-analysis', based largely on Glover, is a model of clarity, but some papers suffer so much from compression that they are almost unintelligible.

Four papers deal largely with technical considerations, viz.

'Clinical analysis', 'Psycho-analytic therapy', 'Psycho-analysis of children', and 'Psycho-analytical theory of the psychoses'. Three deal with the general relation of psycho-analysis to medicine, neurobiology, and sociology. These large subjects can of necessity be dealt with only briefly in single articles, and the lack of any bibliography is therefore a serious omission. The book is uneven in quality, but some of the modern trends are well indicated.

W.A.S.

TREATMENT OF CANCER

Treatment of Cancer in Clinical Practice. Edited by P. B. Kunkler, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P., F.F.R. and A. J. H. Rains, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. Pp. xvi + 821. Illustrations. 100s. net + 5s. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

The editors state in the preface to this book that it 'is an attempt to breach some of the gaps which have threatened to develop between physicians, surgeons, gynaecologists and radiotherapists as a result of the inevitable specialization which follows growth in the body of knowledge'. This is exactly what is accomplished in the book, which is written by eminent British surgeons, radiotherapists and gynaecologists.

In the first 8 chapters the treatment of cancer in general is discussed. There is a chapter on the approach to surgical methods and technique. In this chapter the principles of radical operations for cancer, as well as smaller details of technique, e.g. the different methods of estimating the blood loss at operation, are discussed. There are chapters on the physics, principles and methods of radiotherapy, written in a concise and lucid way. Supervoltage therapy and the use of radio-active isotopes are discussed. There are up-to-date chapters on aspects of the chemotherapy of malignant disease and the hormonal control of cancer. The chapter which deals with the presentation of results and statistics will be valuable to those planning clinical series of trials.

The greater part of the book deals with the known malignant diseases of organs and regions, e.g. the skin, the eye and orbit, the salivary glands, the blood, the tonsils and nasopharynx, and the reticuloses. The indications and contra-indications for surgery and radiotherapy and the results of treatment are discussed. Methods and techniques of radiotherapy are described in detail and so are the surgical procedures, including not only radical operations for removal, but also the surgery of repair.

The whole book is clearly written and well illustrated. Important references are given at the end of each chapter. It is a good reference book and for the postgraduate student it will be invaluable. It can be highly recommended to all practitioners who deal with patients suffering from malignant disease.

B.J.D.

TEXT-BOOK OF SURGERY

Textbook of British Surgery. Vol. 4. Edited by H. Souttar, C.B.E., D.M. (Oxon), F.R.C.S. and J. C. Goligher, Ch.M. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Edin. and Eng.). Pp. viii + 699. 405 illustrations. 105s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1959.

This volume (the fourth of the series) contains a rather incongruous mixture of subjects.

Inflammation and pyogenic infections are treated along time-honoured lines readily recognizable by those of us brought up in the Saint tradition of surgical teaching.

Infections of the hand are deservedly allocated a separate chapter; the long-accepted principles laid down by Kanavel are modified very considerably in the light of the effects of antibiotics.

The chapter on acute fractures is important for the examination candidate.

The subject of burns is beautifully covered in great detail and is quite one of the best in the book; the practical approach to treatment is admirable.

Two-thirds of the book is devoted to orthopaedics. General orthopaedics is covered by an orthopaedic surgeon and general diseases of bone by a pathologist. In the remaining chapters orthopaedics is dealt with in detail and with clear presentation.

As with the previous volumes of this series, this book will have its main application in the preparation of the candidate for a higher surgical qualification.

The high standard of paper and format is maintained.

P.C.W.M.