

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

BACTERIOLOGY

A Textbook of Bacteriology. 8th edition, revised and enlarged.
By R. W. Fairbrother, T.D., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii +
502. Illustrations. 25s. net. London: William Heinemann
Medical Books Ltd. 1959.

The 6 years which have passed since the last edition of this book

(it is now in its 8th edition) have brought about greater knowledge of bacterial metabolism, chemotherapy and virology. The present edition incorporates new developments and eliminates the obsolete. It is a clear account of the science of bacteriology necessary for the medical student and can be recommended for this purpose.

A.H.T.

MALARIOLOGY

Malariaology. With special reference to Malaya. By A. A. Sandosham, L.M.S. (S'pore), Ph.D. (Lond.), F.R.E.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., F.R.M.S. Pp. xix + 327. Illustrations. 35s. Singapore: University of Malaya Press. 1959. Sole distributors, Oxford University Press, London, New York and Toronto.

Professor Sandosham has collected in this manual in convenient form the knowledge required by malaria workers in Malaya. As such, the chapter on the natural history of anophelines and an excellent key to common Malayan anophelines is, apart from certain basic principles, of limited value to workers in other parts of the world and especially in Africa.

The rapid advances in the control and eradication of malaria is indicated by the fact that no mention is made on page 264 of Pinotti's suggestion that malaria might be controlled by the addition of an anti-malarial drug like chloroquine to all the salt consumed by the population in malarial territories—a proposal for the eradication of the malarial parasite at low cost, without expensive vector control and without fear of the development of vector resistance to the insecticides used.

The excellent chapters on basic biological information on the natural history of malaria, and on malaria surveys, control and prevention, as well as the appendices, are valuable for the instruction of students anywhere. C.J.H.B.

THE NERVOUS MECHANISM OF PAIN

Pain and Itch—Nervous Mechanisms. Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 1. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. Pp. viii + 120. Illustrations. 12s. 6d. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

Amongst its other very useful functions the Ciba Foundation organizes study groups which meet to discuss prescribed basic scientific problems in relation to medicine. This report deals with one of the central problems of medicine—the nature of pain—and, because there is evidence suggesting a common signal-

ling mechanism, itch is included in the survey. Pain has always had a peculiar position in sensory physiology because it may be elicited by different kinds of stimulus but it is now reasonably certain that it is subserved by special nerve fibres, the gamma and the C fibres, and not by stimulation of any sensory nerve exceeding a certain level of intensity. This report by the leading researchers in the field of sensory physiology will bring the physiologist up to date, and the clinician, who is daily presented with the problem of pain in some form or other, would do well to find time to concern himself with these new physiological investigations. S.B.

TEXT-BOOK OF SURGERY

Lehrbuch der Chirurgie. 2., Verbesserte Auflage. Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. H. Hellner, Prof. Dr. R. Nissen und Prof. Dr. K. Vosschulte. xxxvi + 1,112 Seiten. 652 Abbildungen in 950 Einzeldarstellungen. Ganzleinen DM 84.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1958.

In this revised and improved edition each chapter is preceded by a comprehensive historical section.

The book opens with a discussion of wound healing, including its physiology, pharmacology and sequelae. This is of special value in dealing with burns and other forms of trauma.

Throughout the book the reader is introduced to the most modern forms of treatment. Radiotherapy is adequately dealt with without monotonous detail.

The discussion of breast cancer is in line with the teaching in the major British and American clinics. The four-stage classification is used and X-ray therapy is adapted to the clinical complications or stage at the time of diagnosis.

The interesting section dealing with cardiovascular surgery and extracorporeal circulation deserves special commendation.

The section on bone diseases, including benign and malignant tumours, is interesting and most instructive.

This new edition can confidently be recommended to all students of general surgery, postgraduate as well as undergraduate.

D.J.H.