

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### STERILIZATION OF SURGICAL MATERIALS

*Recent Developments in the Sterilization of Surgical Materials.* Report of a symposium organized by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and Smith & Nephew Research Limited at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, April 11-13, 1961. Pp. xi + 232. Illustrated. R3.00 + 10c postage. London: Pharmaceutical Press. 1961.

Justifiably, of recent years an increasing interest has been displayed in the problems relating to sterilization of surgical materials. This excellent symposium serves to highlight the advantages and disadvantages of 3 methods: heat, ionizing radiations, and gaseous sterilization by ethylene oxide.

The use of the last is obviously still very limited, and gamma radiations will no doubt *ab initio* be confined to large sterilizing units serving big groups. It would appear that sterilization by heat will still be the method of choice in institutional practice for some time.

The difficulties of sterility testing are fully discussed, and it is abundantly apparent that the pitfalls in heat sterilization are many and varied. Achievement of the ideal requires close cooperation between production engineers and those responsible persons engaged in sterilization of surgical materials.

There is a wealth of experience embodied in these discussions and the symposium cannot be too highly recommended to those interested in sterilization problems.

D.McK.

### RADIOLOGY OF THE OESOPHAGUS

*Clinical Radiology of the Oesophagus.* By M. Brombart, translated by S. Kenny, M.A., M.D. (Dubl.) Pp. xx + 383. Illustrated. R8.40. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1961.

This is an excellent book that should be read by every diagnostic radiologist and all clinicians. It has deservedly been called a classic.

It was originally published in French seven years ago, but this does not really date the book, for while there have been some notable contributions about the oesophagus during this time, the major problems concerning the lower oesophagus, e.g. achalasia, reflux and hiatus hernia are still subject to debate. The author always keeps a balanced view while expressing his own beliefs and discussing his personal cases.

The radiological anatomy, physiology and pathology are more than adequately described and the illustrations—sketches and radiographs—are of excellent quality. The bibliography is comprehensive.

The only omission of note is that of congenital malformations.

The English version of this book reads easily and lucidly, despite the modest foreword by the translator Sheila Kenny.

C.J.B.M.