

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

## THE MAKING OF A SURGEON

*The Making of a Surgeon.* By Prof. Ian Aird. Pp. x + 140. R1.30. Durban: Butterworth. 1961.

Prof. Ian Aird is 'n bekende skrywer op mediese gebied. As professor in chirurgie aan die nagraadse mediese skool te Londen, is hy 'n persoon met heelwat ondervinding van nagraadse opleiding in chirurgie en hy skryf dus as outoriteit oor die opleiding van 'n chirurg. Hierdie boek kan ten sterkste aanbeveel word vir almal wat met die opleiding van chirurge te doen het, vir alle praktiserende chirurge, en vir hulle wat besig is met hul chirurgiese opleiding of dit oorweeg. Die boek is so geskryf dat ook die leek wat in chirurgiese opleiding belang stel, dit kan verstaan.

As 'n praktiese persoon benader professor Aird sy onderwerp uit 'n baie praktiese oogpunt. Feite word duidelik en in 'n goeie taal weergegee. In die behandeling van gevorderde opleiding in die chirurgie, bepaal professor Aird hom hoofsaaklik by toestande in Groot Brittanje. Daar is wel 'n kort stukkie oor chirurgiese opleiding in Suid-Afrika, maar dit is betreklik swak. Dit is duidelik dat professor Aird nie veel moeite met die inwin van gegewens aangaande opleiding in Suid-Afrika gedoen het nie. So verwys hy bv. net na drie i.p.v. die bestaande vyf mediese skole in Suid-Afrika. Chirurgiese opleiding in verskillende lande van Europa en in die V.S.A. word ook kortliks en oppervlakkig behandel en hierdie gedeeltes kon m.i. weggelaat gewees het.

In die eerste deel van die boek is daar 'n hoofstuk oor die geskiedenis van die chirurgie gevolg deur 'n besonder interessante en stimulerende hoofstuk oor die eienskappe wat 'n chirurg moet hê. Die hoofstuk oor die skoolopleiding van 'n chirurg kan ook in Suid-Afrika toegepas word, en professor Aird beklemtoon die belangrikheid van 'n goeie taalopleiding. In aparte hoofstukke beklemtoon die skrywer die belangrikheid van navorsing en van reise oorsee.

Wanneer professor Aird die registrateur in chirurgie bespreek, beklemtoon hy die belangrikheid van samewerking met 'n goeie hoof:

'I would like here to affirm absolutely that the way to learn operative surgery is to spend a few years as first assistant to a master, and by not doing too much surgery too early oneself . . .

He (the registrar) will develop operative techniques of his own for the handling of the commoner surgical situations, but he will have to learn by his mistakes, and it is not he who pays for his mistakes but his patients. There are a lot of dangerous and difficult surgical situations which crop up quite infrequently, and without a very long experience of assisting and of operating under supervision, he will not know how to handle these situations when he meets them. It is in these that there is danger for the patients . . . Not only does premature operative responsibility expose patients to risk, and clear statistical evidence has been documented to show that it does, but it also establishes a permanent low ceiling on a young man's ultimate potentiality as an operating surgeon.'

By die lees van hierdie boek kom 'n mens onder die indruk van hoe belangrik deeglike chirurgiese opleiding vandag is, en professor Aird slaag daarin om hierdie feit aan sy lesers tuis te bring. B.J.v.R.D.

## ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY

*Introduction to the Principles of Electroencephalography.* By L. F. Stewart, M.Sc., M.D. Pp. vii + 54. Illustrated. R4.00. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This is the work on electroencephalography that the general medical reader and electroencephalographic technologist alike have been waiting for. Combining the best information and theory from the British, French, Canadian and American traditions, it also supplies practical directions for the recordist, illustrated by particularly well-selected and clear reproductions of tracings. The normal rhythms and the applications of electroencephalography in the clinical fields of epilepsy and the localization of tumours are succinctly handled.

L.A.H.

## BRONCHITIS

*Bronchitis.* An international symposium 27-29 April, 1960, University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Ed. by N. G. M. Orië, M.D. and H. J. Sluiter, M.D. Pp. xi + 359. Illustrated. R6.20. Assen, Netherlands: Royal Van Gorcum Ltd. 1961. This book contains numerous excellent papers and the resultant discussion on many aspects of the problems of bronchitis. It suffers, as do so many reported symposia, from a slight lack of cohesion, which makes it the more difficult to read.

Asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and bronchiectasis are considered as a merging spectrum with differing peaks of emphasis. One other interesting point emphasized is the important role of potentially reversible anoxia in the causation of cor pulmonale.

The 50 participants repeatedly try to reach uniformity in terminology and definitions, so that future reports from different countries can readily be compared one with another. This important step should help to enrich our knowledge of this subject in the future. I.D.H.

## NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

*Experimental Neurology.* By P. Glees, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxon.), M.D. (Bonn). Pp. xii + 532. Illustrated. R7.50. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1961.

This is a translation by the author of a German text published in 1957 and called 'Morphologie und Physiologie des Nervensystems'; this would have been the appropriate title, translated into English, for this version. This is a text-book of neurophysiology, a subject developed through the experimental method, and it is necessary to know about the techniques and methodology of investigative studies, but this title might mislead. The author at one time worked in the Oxford Physiology Department, a school renowned for its neurophysiological research, and this is almost a guarantee of a good book; there is, indeed, little fault to find with what he has to say, though one has read better English.

The book deals systematically with the basic anatomical facts and the methodological techniques of neurophysiology. It progresses from a study of the simplest receptors, of the reflex arc, the spinal cord and so on to the most complex of brain mechanisms.

The author has brought this version right up to date and no text-book will be found to be so contemporary. References at the end of each chapter and a very good author and subject index add much to its value as a work of reference. It is certainly a worth-while text-book for those who wish to ground themselves in basic neurophysiology. S.B.