

LEIOMYOMAS

Smooth Muscle Tumors of the Alimentary Tract. Leiomyomas and leiomyosarcomas—a review of 2,525 cases. By J. E. Skandalakis, M.D., F.A.C.S. and S. W. Gray, Ph.D. Pp. xiv + 468. Illustrated. \$17.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1962.

This excellent monograph consists of a review of 2,525 reported cases and contains valuable information about pathological changes, clinical manifestations and treatment. It is well produced with 45 illustrations, a list of references at the end of each chapter, and an extensive bibliography of all the cases cited.

The book succeeds in its object of providing a background for future work on this subject and is strongly recommended to all clinicians, who will find in it the answers to most of the problems in the diagnosis and treatment of these rare tumours. D.J.d.P.

SURGERY

The Year Book of General Surgery. (1961-1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by M. E. de Bakey, B.S., M.D., M.S. Pp. 632. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1961.

I have nothing but admiration for present-day American surgery and for the American genius for bringing the highest quality of technical skill within the reach of the teeming masses of the United States. But American surgery is not world surgery. In all the many papers quoted in this book, less than 5% come from British sources, fewer than 1% from any other sources and only 1 single paper from the Soviet Union.

While the absence of reports from the Soviet are easily explained as being due to the 'ideological curtain', those from France and from the rest of Europe may be explained by linguistic difficulties. But there can be surely no excuse for not presenting a truer and more fair picture of the work of the non-American English-speaking surgeons of today. This irritating failure to recognize non-American work is not restricted to surgical writings.

In many forms of scientific advance, Americans have contrived to reap the fruits of other nations' inventions and have taken the credit therefor. Penicillin (British), jet propulsion (British), vascular surgery (French and Portuguese), and blood transfusion (Czech and Russian), are examples of this un-

pleasing characteristic. The fundamental discoveries in radiology, radiotherapeutics and nuclear physics can be traced easily to the original thoughts of Frenchmen, Germans, Britons, Jews and Italians living in the Old World, many of whom, it is true, sought and found refuge in the latter part of their lives in the USA. It is a churlish thing not to acknowledge these origins, and while this behaviour is common today and therefore not unexpected, it ill becomes a publication from a great nation. We can expect these chauvinistic manoeuvres from small and small-minded nations, not from the truly great.

The book maintains the high standard of previous publications and gives a true and proper perspective of the current status of American surgery. T.S.

GROWTH

Growth at Adolescence. 2nd ed. By J. M. Tanner, M.D., D.Sc., D.P.M Pp. xiii + 325. Illustrated. R4.75. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1962.

This is a comprehensive statistical and well-documented study on growth and development from childhood, through adolescence to adulthood. The author has drawn on his own wide experience to abstract, compare and correlate the work of leading investigators in spheres such as anatomy, physiology, endocrinology, psychology, etc. This multi-disciplined approach should be conducive to the understanding of all the facets of a complex problem, and the close interrelation which exists between many of the varying factors, from the apparently purely physical to the psychological, which obtain at adolescence. R.W.S.C.

HANDBOOK FOR HOUSE PHYSICIANS

The House Physician's Handbook. 2nd ed. By C. A. Birch, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi + 204. R1.75, postage 10c. Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

This small volume touches on and gives useful advice on most of the everyday problems and situations which the house physician will be called on to handle in his dealings with the patient, his relatives, the law and his colleagues. It has a useful section on clinical pathology and clinical proceedings, but the weight tables and drug list could have been left out with advantage.

This book will be invaluable to senior students and house physicians. K.S.v.E.