

DIAGNOSTIESE RÖNTGENOLOGIE

Einführung in die Röntgendiagnostik. Von Prof. Dr. U. Cocchi und Priv.-Doz. Dr. P. Thurn, viii + 339 Seiten. 419 Abbildungen in 547 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 49.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1959.

Hierdie boek gee nie voor om iets meer te wees nie as 'n inleiding tot die diagnostiese röntgenologie. Dit is dus geen naslaanwerk nie. Soos die skrywers dit self stel, is dit bedoel vir studente in die kliniese jare wat op die hoogte moet wees van die tegniek, wese, en grense van diagnostiese röntgenologie, en vir praktiserende geneesher wat belangstel in hierdie hulpmiddel. Hiermee slaag Professor Cocchi, bekende leermeester en navorsers, uitstekend in sy doel.

Dit is interessant dat daar in die geskiedkundige oorsig 'n herdruk is van Röntgen se oorspronklike publikasie 'Oor 'n nuwe soort van strale' in 1895. Dat Röntgen destyds reeds soveel fisiese eienskappe van die onbekende strale kon bepaal, is nog steeds 'n bron van verwondering.

Na 'n duidelike bespreking van die tegniek en fisiese beginsels, appaarte en inrigting van die röntgenafdeling, volg daar die gewone hoofstukke oor botte, gewrigte en inwendige organe. Sommige illustrasies, veral van die longe, kon beter gewees het. In ander opsigte is dit een van die beste werke in sy soort wat ek nog teëgekomp het.

A.D.K.

BREAST CANCER

Breast Cancer. The Second Biennial Louisiana Cancer Conference. New Orleans, January 22-23, 1958. Edited by Albert Segaloff, M.D. Pp. 257. 43 Figures. South African price. £2 2s. 6d. Local agents: P. B. Mayer, P.O. Box 713, Cape Town, and Westdene Products (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 7710, Johannesburg. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1958.

This monograph gives an excellent summary of the various points of view currently prevalent in the United States on the most intriguing problem of breast cancer. The various papers presented come under the sections of Basic biology, Definitive treatment, and Hormonal therapy. In the section on basic biology Emerson Day presents a full epidemiological survey and, amongst many interesting observations, notes the much more frequent prevalence of the disease in the West than in the East. No reasons are advanced for this and it presents a fruitful field for future investigation. The various causative factors that might initiate breast cancer are adequately discussed; so is the cytology of breast secretions. Emphasis is laid on the extreme variability in behaviour of breast growths. Besides differences in morbid anatomy and histology there are variations of heredity, age, hormonal type, menstruation, pregnancy, and the menopause in the host.

In the section on definitive treatment all the known methods of treatment have their various advocates, from the extended radical operation of Urban, through Haagensen's triple biopsy before radical mastectomy, to Garlands' championing of the MacWhirter technique of simple mastectomy followed by radical radiotherapy. It is interesting to note that Haagensen is narrowing his criteria for operability most rigidly, advocating operation only for the cases he feels can be cured, and condemning surgery in other cases as harmful and contra-indicated. Garland, in an excellent paper, very adequately answers Ackerman's criticism of the MacWhirter technique. Escher gives a short review of the various cytotoxic and cytostatic agents used in advanced disease.

In the section on hormonal therapy detailed descriptions are given of the value of the oestrogens, androgens, cortical steroids, and endocrine ablative measures employed; and the

great variability of the results obtained in different clinics add to the uncertainty experienced in deciding which patient will benefit from these measures.

The impressions one is left with after reading the views expressed at this conference is that the problem of breast cancer remains a most formidable one calling for renewed combined efforts for its solution.

I.M.S.

FLUID BALANCE

Essentials of Fluid Balance. 2nd edition. By D. A. K. Black, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 135. 6 figures. English price 20s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, Ltd. 1960.

The second edition of Professor Black's monograph incorporates minor changes to bring it up to date. The text is easy to read despite the large number of references for so small a book, and the figures are good. The style is clear and sometimes witty. The first 5 chapters deal with the general properties of body-fluid; water, sodium, potassium, and anions and acid-base balance; and in the 6th the author submits a helpful approach to treatment. Some useful additional information is appended. In the bibliography Professor Black draws attention to recent review articles, setting an example which other authors might profitably follow in books of this type.

The author has two aims, viz. to keep the 'book as short as possible, consistent with clarity', and to 'make the presentation somewhat general', and in these he has succeeded admirably. There must be few practitioners today who do not need to renew their acquaintance with the principles of fluid balance and to keep abreast of recent advances; and no better way can be recommended than to read this book.

E.B.A.

FOETAL OXYGEN

Oxygen Supply to the Human Foetus. A symposium organized jointly by The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. Edited by James Walker and Alec C. Turnbull. Pp. xii + 313. Figures. 47s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1959.

Safer abdominal delivery has solved many of the problems related to the mechanics of childbirth. The solution to present-day obstetrical problems seems to be bound up with a better knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the placenta. The report of the symposium held in Princeton in December 1957 reflects the new attitude of obstetricians, with special reference to research on oxygen supply to the foetus.

The 22 participants included such famous research workers as Walker (Dundee), Browne (London), Bartels (Germany), Metcalfe (Massachusetts), Minkowski (Paris), Prystowsky (Florida), MacKinney (Carolina), and Rooth (Lund).

The subject matter includes the vascular anatomy of the placenta, physiology of oxygen transport in the adult and the foetus, studies of uteroplacental blood flow and oxygen consumption, clinical studies of cord blood-oxygen levels, laboratory techniques, and asphyxia and clinical foetal distress. The discussions of the papers are published in full and add interest.

This research is still in its infancy, as shown by the fact that the drop in oxygen saturation associated with increase in gestation originally reported by Walker, is not confirmed by Rooth, Minkowski, or Prystowsky. The discussions of this aspect by these workers themselves is the most interesting part of the book.

The obstetrician interested in foetal distress and postmaturity will find this a most interesting book.

J.N.d.V.

HYPNOTISM

Harley Street Hypnotist. A doctor's story as told by Alan Mitchell. Pp. 248. 15s. 6d. London, Toronto, Wellington, Sydney: George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd. 1959.

Although a summary of the contents of this book by the publishers suggest that it 'will appeal to medical and dental professions for its authentic and accurate information', it is felt that a work like this is of limited value to the profession. On the contrary, it may certainly appeal to the lay public, for it is written in fictional style but based on authentic fact. The first half of the book comprises a series of lectures on hypnosis which were actually delivered in London in 1957. A light-hearted fictional style pervades these lectures, each of which constitutes a chapter of the book. It holds very little of stimulating academic interest to the professional man.

The second half of the book relates some run-of-the-mill stories which abound in many doctors' case records, and which may again find possible favour in a lay journal.

This book reflects, in my opinion to disadvantage, on the common assumption by the public that it is easy to attain proficiency in the medical use of hypnosis; such an impression is in contradiction to the attempts of various medical, dental and psychological bodies to establish hypnotherapy firmly on a scientific basis, which necessitates the completion of extensive training courses in the subject of hypnosis and the allied sciences.

M.V.S.

HYPNOSIS

Hypnosis, Fact and Fiction. By F. L. Marcuse. Pp. 224. 3s. 6d. Middlesex: Penguin Books. 1959.

This is an extremely easy to read Pelican. The style is bright and witty. Every aspect of what has now become an enormous subject is discussed in terms of facts and fallacies. Hypnotic techniques, hypnotists, patients, therapy, and the dangers of hypnosis, are all described and analysed.

The writer says, 'The book is intended both for general reading and for supplementary reading for courses in introductory psychology, psychopathology, personality and the like'. I have no hesitation in recommending the book for the lay general reader, though I wonder what impression Marcuse's own stage demonstration of hypnosis (p. 181) will make on the lay mind, in view of the deprecatory attitude the author laudably adopts towards stage hypnosis. While the writer says that his material 'comes from books, professional journals, magazines, lectures, newspaper articles and personal experience', no reference is made in the text to any of the serious present-day writers. This is a lamentable omission for the student who may wish to examine the source of the material more fully.

Finally, it is commendable that Marcuse maintains a sane perspective in viewing hypnosis as an aid in therapy and not as an extravagant panacea for all ills.

B.W.L.

ANAESTHESIA

A Practice of Anaesthesia. By W. D. Wylie, M.B. (Cantab.), M.R.C.P., F.F.A.R.C.S. and H. C. Churchill-Davidson, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. xv + 1056. 246 figures. 105s. net. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1960.

In 1916 Paluel Flagg could justifiably insist that the practice of anaesthesia was an art alone. Although rabid disciples of science may object, modern anaesthesia remains an art, but an art based, not as in Flagg's day upon anatomy and empiricism, but ever more firmly upon a deepening understanding of physiology and pharmacology.

The present volume is a surprisingly detailed description of the very considerable foundation of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and pathology upon which the St. Thomas's school of anaesthetic artists base their techniques. It is a text highly to be recommended on several grounds. Firstly, it emphasizes the importance of solid foundations and adequate structural framework rather than the minutiae of decorative plinths and cornices which so many unthinkingly believe to be the hallmarks of true worth. Secondly, it covers almost the

whole field of clinical anaesthesia without being either too superficial or too detailed, an almost impossible task for such a rapidly expanding speciality. Thirdly, it is authoritative without being dogmatic, a virtue possessed by too few books and articles in the present world of medical literature.

No doubt there will be many who will disagree with some of the facts and opinions set forth by the authors and their contributors and, as in all new books, there are minor factual and printing errors awaiting discovery by the patient critic, but the volume is intended not as an ultimate source of authority but as an exposition of a particular philosophy of anaesthesia and the application of that philosophy.

Impeccably printed on glossy paper with ample line and photographic illustrations, the value of the book is further enhanced by very adequate lists of references arranged by chapter, and by a *vade mecum* and index. At 5 guineas the book is in fact extraordinarily cheap and should be in the possession of all occasional as well as all specialist anaesthetists.

C.S.J.

HELMINTHOLOGY

Medical Helminthology. By J. M. Watson, D.Sc. (Lond.), A.R.C.S. Pp. 500. 62 pp. of illustrations incorporating over 600 individual drawings. 84s. + 2s. 9d. postage. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1960.

Dr. Watson has attempted to include in one reasonably sized volume all the basic facts regarding the helminths parasitic to man, and one feels that he has done this in a most creditable manner. The result is a book which should prove of interest and value not only to undergraduate and post-graduate students but also to practising clinicians, pathologists, and public-health authorities.

The work is divided into 3 convenient parts. In Part I there is a general introduction to helminths and helminthic infections, and I found the historical review particularly entertaining. Part II forms the bulk of the book and comprises a systematic account of the helminths parasitic to man. Finally, there is a clinical section in which chapters are devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of helminth infections. There is a valuable appendix in which helminths found in common laboratory animals are listed in a convenient table.

Helminthology is a subject which is currently receiving much attention from public-health authorities and research workers all over the world. The author has therefore wisely included a special chapter covering the most important recent advances in this field, including those which first appeared in print when the rest of his book had already reached proof-reading stage.

The book is easy to handle, the print is large and clear, and I am impressed by the value of the inclusion of natural-size silhouettes of the more important worms.

M.I.S.

THE ARTERIAL WALL

The Arterial Wall. Edited by Albert I. Lansing, A.B., Ph.D. Sponsored by The Gerontological Society, Inc. Pp. 260 + ix. 17 pages of illustrations. 60s. + 2s. 6d. postage. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

The publication of this monograph was made possible through the generosity of a layman in a grant to the Gerontological Society.

The knowledge to date on the structure, physiology and biochemical processes of the arterial wall is authoritatively reviewed by authors who have made original contributions to their subject. Each chapter is clearly and comprehensively presented and includes a generous bibliography. The chapters presented discuss: the vasa vasorum, the vascular endothelium, arterial muscle, collagen and ground substance, elastic tissue, mucopolysaccharides, enzymes, lipid metabolism of connective tissue, and the metabolism of the arterial wall. Only scant reference is made to pathological processes. One of the aims of the book in providing a summary of our knowledge was to stress what we don't know, and this it certainly achieves.

This review will prove interesting to the informed practitioner and most valuable to research workers in this and related fields.

An analogy is often drawn between the circulatory system and a plumbing system. This monograph should finally end any further use of such a simple concept.

B.B.-S.

MANUAL OF SURGERY

Rose and Carless Manual of Surgery. 19th edition. Consulting Editor: Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. Pp. xv + 1389. Illustrated (12 colour plates). 84s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1960.

The 19th edition of this volume published this year carries on a long tradition. The first edition appeared in May 1898 and since that time the manual has become widely known.

It is of particular value as a reference work for students and practitioners on the specialities, rather than for general surgery. A number of distinguished contributors have brought the contents up to date. A particularly useful section is that on orthopaedic surgery.

This volume should continue to be popular with its valuable content, easy reference, and clear presentation.

P.A.T.