

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

NEUROLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

Aids to Neurology. 2nd edition. By E. A. B. Pritchard, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.F. Pp. x + 480. Illustrations. 15s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

Like all the volumes in the 'Aids' series, this book is written primarily for the medical student. It seeks to provide the basic

essentials of neurology for his clinical years of study. The various neurological syndromes and diseases are described in a summarized form suitable for easy reference. Physical signs elicited by examination are generally described in terms of the tests carried out and the observations made.

The book is divided into 5 sections and deals with the clinical disorders of the peripheral nervous system, of the spinal cord, of

the brain, and of the vegetative nervous system. The final section is devoted to an outline of neuro-anatomy and neurophysiology, showing how these subjects throw light on the clinical material described and the interrelation of the various clinical symptoms. It also includes a scheme for routine examination of the nervous system.

Undoubtedly a useful 'aid' to the student.

A.H.T.

VENTILASIE VAN DIE LONGE

Automatic Ventilation of the Lungs. Deur William W. Mushin, M.A., M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., F.F.A.R.A.C.S., L. Rendell-Baker, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. en Peter W. Thompson, B.A., M.B., B.Chir., F.F.A.R.C.S. Hoofstukke oor *Physics of Automatic Ventilators*, deur W. W. Mapleson, Ph.D., A.Inst.P. Pp. xvi + 349. 191 afbeeldings. 47s. 6d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1959.

Die gebruik van spierverslappers as 'n roetine en die tegniek van doelbewuste apnee met gekontroleerde ventilasie het in die afgelope 20 jaar grootskaalse ontwikkeling meegebring op die gebied van meganiese ventilators. Die aansienlike verskeidenheid ventilators met gekompliseerde wisseling van fisiese en meganiese beginsels waarvolgens hulle fungeer, het vir die gemiddelde narkotiseur bykans 'n geestesverwarring geskep.

In hierdie lofwaardige handboek slaag die skrywers daarin om hierdie ingewikkelde aspek van moderne narkosetegniek klinkklaar te verduidelik. Binne die bestek van 2 hoofstukke word 'n oorsig gebied van die fisiologiese en kliniese faktore wat gepaard gaan met die tegniek van gekontroleerde ventilasie.

Ter inleiding tot die beskrywing van 60 verskillende ventilators bied Dr. W. W. Mapleson 2 hoofstukke waarin die fisiese grondbeginsels van hierdie masjiene bespreek en geklassifiseer word. Ons beskeie mening is dat hierdie afdeling van die handboek die gemiddelde leser sal afskrik. Uit die pen van 'n geskooldede fisikus spruit hier pitkos wat bokant menige praktiserende narkotiseur se vuurmaakplek sal wees. In 'n werk wat spesifiek aan praktiserende narkositeurs gerig word, waarsku ons teen die gevaar dat bydraes van verwante wetenskappe ongelukkig van so 'n gespesialiseerde aard mag wees dat dit die leser die kluts laat kwytmaak.

Die skematiese voorstellings en beskrywings van die ventilators is onoortrefbaar. Dit tref veral weens die saaklike eenvoud wat vir die leser wat onvertroud mag wees met besondere masjiene onmiddellik duidelikheid meebring.

Hiermee 'n handboek van onskatbare waarde vir alle narkotiseurs, asook vir interniste wat o.a. tydens die behandeling van poliomiëlitis, tetanus, miasteniese gravis, en vergiftiging met verdovingsmiddels voor respiratoriese probleme te staan kom.

J.A.P.

GROUP PSYCHIATRY

Group Psychotherapy — Theory and Practice. 2nd edition. By J. W. Klapman, M.D. Pp. x + 301. \$6.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

Revising a 13-year-old book on group psychotherapy, written when this treatment procedure was in its infancy, imposes a difficult task on its author. Only recently, as controversial issues have been clarified, has a coherent treatment discipline begun to emerge.

Some consider the origin of this potent means of psychological treatment to lie in 1905, when J. H. Pratt organized his patients with tuberculosis into groups, for imparting to them rules of medical hygiene; in addition to medical instruction, they obtained from their group membership definite encouragement and renewed self-esteem. However, these unsophisticated classes were not psychotherapeutic in considered design. Moreno is usually credited with founding group psychotherapy, in Vienna during the first world war. After the last war, in the 'forties, group psychotherapy had established itself by proving effective in treating combat neurosis.

A text-book that first appeared in 1946 had therefore already for subject a wide field of experience and a diversity of clinical approaches; there was justification for describing a confusing range of often ill-defined, ambiguous, uncritically-applied treatment practices. Dr. Klapman has not used the opportunity offered by a new edition to eliminate obsolete theorizings in favour of recent clarifications. An alert doctor wanting to inform himself of what group psychotherapy is supposed to do, what theory it rests upon at present, what actual clinical results it obtains, will probably set this book aside dazed and sceptical. The reader cannot but be confused when group psychotherapy is held to include everything from intensive, closed, long-term groups up to such oddities as library-book discussions. The author does not exert himself critically to arrive at definition in precise terms of what constitutes the rationale of group psychotherapy. Nebulous theorizing predominates. The technique which the author himself uses and recommends does not emerge plainly. The chapter on 'Assessment and results of group psychotherapy' is meagre and dodges the clinical issues.

The medical interest evoked by group psychotherapy is too considerable to permit this volume to pass as representative of contemporary serious writing on the subject. This treatment method merits more scientific appraisal than Dr. Klapman has accorded it, for weighty claims are being made for it. Group psychotherapy has been held to be a treatment producing a lasting change in personality, an invaluable method for teaching psychotherapeutic principles to doctors, and a tool for research in the social sciences. To convey the impression that merely collecting people into a group implies that therapy will occur is to undermine what advances have been made in this field.

H.W.