

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

CASUALTY WORK

Emergencies. Casualty organization and treatment. Ed. by T. Schrire, M.A., M.B. (Cape), F.R.C.S. Pp. 366. Illustrated. R6.50. London: Staples Press. 1962.

This new work, which covers the field of hospital casualty practice in a most comprehensive and detailed manner, is, as far as I am aware, the only book of its kind in the English language.

The first part of the book deals with the factors concerned in the organization of the ideal casualty department, and the editor, while describing at length the requirements of the high-powered casualty department in a teaching hospital, has not neglected to show how smaller hospitals and institutions in outlying rural areas, by making full use of their more limited facilities and developing their unorganized potential, may effectively increase the service to the community.

Although the casualty department is unfortunately very often the first port of call for most patients for one reason or another, and therefore the image that it presents to the public is of some importance, the fact is that all too often the department is apt to be regarded by hospital staff as a somewhat dismal and vaguely disreputable place, and it is notorious that casualty departments generally have to struggle more than most to obtain their requirements in the way of staff and equipment.

This book shows very well what a false economy this can be, since a well-run, highly organized and efficient casualty

department can contribute greatly to alleviating the chronic bed shortage in the hospital itself, by judicious use of casualty beds.

The average casualty officer is usually a registrar climbing the ladder to greater things, but who has, alas, found himself temporarily incarcerated in the casualty department, trapped there by virtue of some extraordinary regulation pertaining to his speciality! For such as he, this book will prove a pleasant surprise, for diligent study will show him that in fact he is getting a wonderful opportunity to absorb and inwardly digest a wealth of clinical material, whether he be a budding surgeon, gynaecologist, or physician. Here he will learn not only the most effective way of dealing with a particular problem, but also the underlying physiological and pathological changes produced by trauma, a thorough understanding of which is so necessary if the correct treatment is to be instituted.

The book covers a wide field, and the overall standard is uniformly high, so that it is invidious to single out any particular chapter. However, special mention must be made of the sections dealing with infections of the hand, and with fractures, both of which are really gems, and will be much appreciated by students.

A special feature is a detailed description of the working of the multiple injury unit at Groote Schuur Hospital, a unit of which the hospital is particularly proud, and which in its comparatively short period of existence has been respon-

sible for saving many lives. A blueprint is also provided for the organizational basis of the casualty department at the time of a disaster when casualties are expected in mass.

As will be seen then, this is a most exhaustive volume dealing with all aspects of the work of a casualty department. The postgraduate student will find it an absolute mine of information on 'minor surgery' in all its aspects, and the undergraduate student who now has to spend part of his training in the department should regard the book as required reading.

This book is surely destined to run into many editions, and deserves every success. B.S.

PHYSIOTHERAPY IN CEREBRAL PALSY

Physiotherapy in Cerebral Palsy. By S. Levitt, B.Sc. (Physiotherapy) (Rand.), M.S.A.S.P. Pp. xvi + 130. Illustrated. R5.20. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

In this small book the author has accumulated a wealth of information and detail. In spite of this, it makes pleasant reading and the orderly presentation makes quick reference an easy matter. She has borrowed freely from many systems of therapy and this enhances the value of the book, for there are no rigid 'do's' and 'dont's'. The book is essential for practising physiotherapists dealing with a brain-injured child, and paediatricians, orthopaedic surgeons and specialists in physical medicine will benefit from having this excellent book readily available. L.S.

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 10th ed. By A. W. Bourne, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. and L. H. Williams, M.D., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. 381. Illustrated. R4.50. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1962.

Almost two generations of obstetricians and gynaecologists have had the pleasure of a *Recent Advances* by Bourne and Williams, and with this tenth edition the authors say goodbye to a very wide reading public.

Within a space of nearly 40 years, they have given us ten editions—a fine record indeed. Each edition has radiated the good common and clinical sense of these experienced writers.

In the present work, they have retained seven (rewritten) chapters of the ninth edition and have added six new ones. The authors state that they are impressed, not so much by the amount of actually new or recent additions to experience and knowledge, but perhaps more by changes of opinions on the outlook of hoary old subjects, such as induction of labour, the treatment of genital tuberculosis, carcinoma of the body of the uterus, and heart disease in pregnancy and labour.

The book includes a chapter on the vacuum extractor and electrolyte imbalance. There are also interesting appendices on the reaction of the body to blood loss, the physiology of oedema and cardiac arrest.

Specialists and those in training, will do well to read this book. E.M.S.

CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY

Chemotherapy of Cancer (Wld Hlth Org. techn. rep. ser. 232). First report of an Expert Committee. Pp. 52. 35c. Published also in French. Available through Van Schaik's Bookstore, Pretoria. 1962.

On such a complex and rapidly changing subject as this, occasional broad authoritative reviews are necessities. This is provided in this booklet in a highly readable form and is probably the best available today.

The temporary effect of the present chemotherapeutic drugs, in comparison to surgery and irradiation, is indicated as well as the necessity for close cooperation between chemotherapist, surgeon and radiotherapist. The two great problems in present-day chemotherapy, the optimum use of currently available agents for palliation and in integration with other methods of treatment, are brought well to the fore. This publication should be read by all those whose interests include, or border upon, cancer chemotherapy. G.R.H.S.

ANAESTHESIA

The Chemistry and Physics of Anesthesia. 2nd ed. By J. Adriani, M.D. Pp. xii + 849. Illustrated. R22.80. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

The second edition of Professor Adriani's book has been enlarged and revised, yet it retains, with its division into three sections, its qualities of readability and easy reference.

This volume contains descriptions and appreciations of chemical and physical properties of agents related to anaesthesia. Before discussion, basic principles are reviewed at the beginning of each chapter and relevant historical notes are provided.

Contained in the appendix is a glossary and an indexed bibliography, consisting of pertinent references to original and recent work in the various sections.

This work provides an excellent grounding in the subject of anaesthesia and is to be fully recommended to all who deal with this absorbing specialty. P.A.T.

AUTO-IMMUNE HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIAS

The Haemolytic Anaemias. 2nd ed. Part II—the auto-immune haemolytic anaemias. By J. V. Dacie, M.D. (Lond.), Hon. M.D. (Uppsala), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Pp. vi + 341-718. Illustrated. R5.00. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1962.

It is a tribute to the recent accumulation of medical knowledge that whereas in the first edition of Dacie's *The Haemolytic Anaemias*, published in 1954, one volume sufficed to cover the whole field of congenital and acquired haemolytic anaemias, the present volume deals only with auto-immune haemolytic anaemias. Part I of the second edition dealt with the congenital types and a third volume is to be published dealing with the symptomatic and drug-induced types, paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria and haemolytic disease of the newborn.

In Part II the auto-immune haemolytic anaemias of warm and cold antibody types are considered in detail from the clinical and serological aspects. In this field the author has himself made notable contributions and his personal experiences are added to surveys of the world literature. There is expansion, particularly in the sections dealing with the antiglobulin reaction and with aetiology and pathogenesis. The fascinating studies of Burnet and others favouring the hypothesis that the abnormal antibodies arise from somatic mutation, leading to the development of forbidden clones of antibody-forming cells, are discussed fully.

This is a most valuable book. Clinicians and laboratory workers will find in it everything they want, with a comprehensive bibliography. The general layout and style are very clear and there are numerous tables. Part III is eagerly awaited. H.A.B.

GYNAECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY

Gynaecological Pathology. By M. Haines, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. and C. W. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B. (Birm.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vi + 519. Illustrated. R9.00. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1962.

The authors describe the macroscopical and microscopical findings of the conditions which they consider relevant. The text is written in an easily understandable language. The illustrations are excellent, but there are some points which should be corrected in a second edition. The spelling of technical terms (lichen sclerosis, corpus Atretica) could be improved. The contents of the endometrial glands in endometriosis should not be called transudates. The authors state correctly that the common tumour of the myometrium is a leiomyoma, but they call it a fibromyoma.

Antoine is mentioned with regard to colposcopy, but he invented the colpomicroscope. These are unnecessary faults. If one happens to have the new edition of a world-famous book on gynaecological pathology on one's desk, one feels compelled to compare. Thereafter one feels convinced that in later editions this newcomer will reach the same standard. H.W.W.

CANCER OF THE MOUTH

Radiation Therapy in the Management of Cancers of the Oral Cavity and Oropharynx. By G. H. Fletcher, M.D. and W. S. MacComb, M.D. Pp. viii + 396. Illustrated. R13.20. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

This is a well-written, authoritative monograph, evolved from nearly a decade of postgraduate instruction in an institution where these cancers are soundly managed.

Principles and details of radiotherapy techniques are described, quoting many case histories. Methods of calculation are given in the physics section.

The doses advocated are higher than those generally used, but the results obtained are better than average.

Informative to clinicians interested in these lesions, this work should be readily accessible to radiotherapists and medical physicists.

J.D.A.

CHEST SURGERY

Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery with Related Pathology. By G. E. Lindskog, B.S., M.A., M.D., F.A.C.S., A. A. Liebow, B.S., M.D. and W. W. L. Glenn, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii + 1024. Illustrated. \$18.00. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1962.

This book represents a complete revision and extensive enlargement of a 1953 publication that was well received, and it now covers all types of disease within the thorax. The section on cardiovascular surgery is virtually a new portion and deals adequately with the advances and present status of most of this still-enlarging field.

While generally an overall picture of each subject is presented, with numerous references to other authorities, the authors' opinions do protrude at times and occasional illustrative cases of their own make for interesting reading.

The title may suggest a predominance of the pathological aspects, but this is not so. Indeed the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by artificial pneumothorax and phrenic paralysis, now largely superseded, is given rather too much prominence. Chapters on pulmonary physiology and extracorporeal circulation are adequate.

It should prove a useful, well-illustrated reference work for students, practitioners and specialists alike.

R.P.H.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The Growing Brain. An essay in developmental neurology. By M. C. H. Dodgson, M.D. Pp. viii + 238. Illustrated. R5.00. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1962.

It is important to try to explain the relation of structure and function in the central nervous system and the author of this book has attempted to do this through a study of the development of the brain. Unfortunately he has not quite succeeded in his attempt at bringing clarity to a very complicated subject, nor does his style of writing lend itself to ready understanding. The final chapters are sketchy and seem to be outside the field of the writer's personal training and experience. It would have been a better book had he been less ambitious and more restricted in his purpose. Nevertheless, those especially interested will benefit from a careful reading of the book.

S.B.

ENDOCRINOLOGY

The Year Book of Endocrinology. (1961 - 1962 Year Book Series.) Ed. by G. S. Gordan, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. 384. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Yearbook Medical Publishers, Inc. 1962.

Professor Gordan, who is the international *arbitrator elegantiarum* of all that is good in metabolic disease, has produced his usual annual *vade mecum* and *sine qua non* of the 'complete endocrinologist'.

It is strange that this country, with its vast store of metabolic disease, should be represented only three times in many hundreds of paper summaries: a case report from Cape Town, and 2 papers from Durban and Johannesburg, in each of the latter two, the Gillman brothers severally being co-authors. It is not hard to realize the loss to South African medicine that is represented by their departure.

G.D.C.

ANTISTOLBEHEER

Anticoagulant Therapy. By A. S. Douglas, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.C.P. (Ed.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. xi + 394. Illustrated. R5.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

Hierdie werk, geskryf deur 'n Skotse outoriteit en aangevul deur bekende werkers op dié gebied, moet sterk aanbeveel word as 'n volledige handboek oor antistolbeheer. Nie alleen word terapeutiese aspekte deeglik behandel nie, maar die stollingsmeganisme en teorieë van trombose word op heldere wyse bespreek, voorafgegaan deur 'n historiese oorsig van die hele veld. 'n Uitgebreide bibliografie dien as basis vir verdere naslaanwerk.

Mens voel egter dat die boek bevooroordeel is ten gunste van antistolbeheer; daar is 'n gebrek aan verwysings na werkers wat nie so oortuig is van die voordele nie. 'n Goeie oorsig word gegee oor die teorie en toepassing van die naverwante onderwerp, fibrinolise en trombolise.

F.P.R.

MEDICAL REVIEWS

The Scientific Basis of Medicine Annual Reviews 1962. Ed. by British Postgraduate Medical Federation. Pp. xi + 365. Illustrated. R4.00. London: Athlone Press. 1962.

This is an annual review of the theoretical basis of medicine and this issue covers a considerable field. The 20 reviews included in this volume give a firm scientific background to the more significant advances in medicine. This knowledge is indispensable to all postgraduate students and is of definite interest to research workers and even to workers in non-medical fields.

I found the successive chapters which were devoted to an explanation of chromosome analysis, nuclear sexing and human chromosomal anomalies and functional gene structure to be of particular interest and value. There are excellent chapters, however, in the field of microbiology, particularly with reference to recent work on the common cold and also to drug resistance. The field of auto-immunity is also satisfactorily discussed.

There are chapters ranging from oral hypoglycaemic agents and fundamental aspects of the radiotherapy of cancer to intricate discussions on regular folds in protein and polysaccharide change and biochemistry of enamel.

The reviews are presented in a readable and digestible fashion by experts in the various fields.

A.J.B.