

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

FISIOLOGIE

Principles of General Physiology, Vol. II, General Physiology. Deur L. E. Bayliss. Pp. xxiii + 848. Geillustreerd. Londen: Longmans, 1960. Verkrygbaar van Longmans S.A. (Edms.) Bpk., Posbus 1616, Kaapstad.

Spesialisasie het op die gebied van die fisiologie meegebring dat lewensverskynsels deesdae gesien word as probleme in die biochemie, die histologie, die farmakologie of die biofisika en, om vandag 'n volwaardige fisioloog te wees, vereis 'n belesenheid wat selfs vir die mees entoesiastiese wetenskaplike 'n onmoontlike taak geword het.

In hierdie werk van Bayliss, een van twee baie lywige bande, vind ons 'n geïntegreerde eenheid onder die opskrif 'algemene fisiologie' waarin die hiervoor genoemde spesialiseringstings saamgevat is en tot een geheel saamgesnoer word. Dit is 'n werk wat slegs deur die gevorderde student in die fisiologie met vrug gevolg kan word en dit handel oor die breë natuurwetenskaplike beginsels wat kenmerkend is van alle lewensvorme, soos bv. voeding en metabolisme, eksitasie en inhibisie, groei en voortplanting, ens.

Die werk is ongetwyfeld 'n lofwaardige onderneming van die allergrootste waarde vir sowel student as navorser, 'n naslaanwerk wat 'n ereplek verdien in alle mediese biblioteke en op die boekrak van sowel die bioloog as die fisioloog. Dit is 'n waardige, gemoderniseerde opvolger van die klassieke werk van een van die grootste fisioloë van alle tye, William Bayliss, wat vir die eerste keer in 1915 verskyn het.

H.E.B.

DESCRIPTIVE AND DYNAMIC PSYCHIATRY

Psychiatry: Descriptive and Dynamic. By J. A. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. 342. 56s. Od. Londen: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1960.

The expressed aim of the author has been to describe concisely and make recognizable the various syndromes seen in psychiatric patients. He has been only moderately successful

in this, for the briefness of the presentation of necessity makes for a rather superficial survey. In addition, controversial aspects have been studiously avoided and there is a certain lack of critical evaluation which makes psychiatry seem a cut and dried affair which it certainly is not.

The general layout of the book and the treatment of the subject matter are sound although prosaic, with the rather surprising omission of a section on the organic psychiatric syndromes. The text is enlivened by case histories, and, at times, a rather wry humour; and an attempt has been made to weave some of the more complex psychodynamic formulations into it.

This book will be useful for the non-specialist—medical students, general practitioners—as a general survey of the field, but they will have to seek further for a full understanding of the subject and for practical help in dealing with many of the psychiatric cases they come across in the course of daily practice.

L.S.G.

NURSING

Modern Nursing. Theory and practice. By Winifred Hector. Pp. vii + 515. 145 figures. 30s. net. Londen: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1960.

This is a new book written by the principal tutor of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and based on her wide experience. Its 36 chapters cover the whole syllabus required by the General Nursing Council and deal with every aspect thoroughly and satisfactorily.

The opening chapter stresses the needs of the patient as a person and not as a case, and the final chapter deals with the care of the aged in hospital. A useful, and indeed valuable, chapter is that which outlines the handling of psychiatric patients.

The illustrations are clear and numerous without being overdone, the index is adequate, and the whole is a book that is entirely satisfactory and which can be recommended with confidence.

A.H.T.