

INTERSEX

*Human Intersex.* By D. J. B. Ashley, M.D. (Liverpool). Pp. xi + 357. R4.00, postage 17c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1962.

The problem of human intersex has been much to the fore in recent years. The introduction of techniques of nuclear sexing and direct chromosomal observation, as well as general advances in genetics, biochemistry and embryology now permit—and demand—precise diagnosis. A book such as this helps to achieve this end.

Many clinicians will deprecate the lack of illustrations. The omission was deliberate, calculated to encourage an understanding of intersexual development rather than an appreciation of external genital characteristics and appearances. Dr. Ashley has reviewed most of the important concepts in comparative embryology and physiology and his work ranges widely over topics as diverse as parthenogenesis and the structure of the sex hormones. There are well over 800 references and the author must be congratulated on assembling his facts so well.

Certainly this book is strongly recommended to endocrinologists, paediatricians, obstetricians and surgeons—to all, in fact, who need to make decisions about this important subject.

R.H.

ORTHOPAEDICS

*The Year Book of Orthopedics and Traumatic Surgery.* (1961-1962 Year Book Series.) Ed. by H. H. Young, M.D. Pp. 463. Illustrated. \$9.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1962.

The years seem to get shorter as the number of each year's publications steadily increases. Once again we find ourselves grateful to the editors of this Year Book for their extensive coverage of the subject. The promised chapter on 'Developmental Orthopaedics' which will serve as a preview of new methods that are receiving their definitive clinical trials will add further spice to this already very interesting annual—'Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep'.

The short chapter devoted to peripheral vascular surgery gains in importance, since major limb trauma complicated by arterial damage is becoming so commonplace as the result of motor vehicle accidents. It behoves all orthopaedic surgeons to be adequately equipped to deal with arterial damage, since they often see these cases early and 'with the recent advances in peripheral vascular surgery some of these extremities can be salvaged rather than sacrificed'.

It need hardly be said that the high standard of this edition is on a par with that set by its predecessors.

A.S.

CANCER OF THE FEMALE GENITALIA

*Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, 2nd ed.* Vol. VI: Tumors of the Female Genitalia. Ed. by G. T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S. and I. M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xiv + 381. Illustrated. \$16.50. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1962.

This volume, written by 27 first-class authors, of whom Baud (Paris), Desaive (Liege), Kottmeier (Stockholm), and Watson (Saskatoon) are the only non-Americans, should be on the shelves of all gynaecologists as a reference book and placed there after thorough study. It is edited by Pack and Ariel. Modern methods of treatment, that is, surgery, chemo-, hormono- and radiotherapy (including super and orthovoltage irradiation) are thoroughly discussed.

The treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, as it affects the female genital tract, is neatly covered.

The book is well presented and bound. The references are placed at the end of the book, chapter by chapter, rather than at the end of each chapter as is the usual practice. This makes for good continuity.

It is an 'easy book to read', yet packed with information, since these authors are not only masters in their fields, but have also managed to concentrate world thought into their respective subjects.

J.T.L.

PATHOLOGY

*The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology.* (1961-1962 Year Book Series.) Ed. by W. B. Wartman, B.S., M.D. Pp. 476. Illustrated. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

This Year Book again appears in its familiarly informative and appealing manner, which makes it a necessary acquisition to all pathologists.

To encompass the wide field of publications beginning in September 1961, Professor Wartman now has four assistant readers. The pathology section is dominated by cell enzyme and electron micrograph based studies which are re-orientating much reasoning in pathology.

South African authors are again referred to in this publication—the widely accepted method for determination of fibrinogen by B. Ellis and A. Stransky is noted in the chemistry section. Here also a plea is made for a reliable standard bilirubin analytical method.

The clinical importance of ABO erythroblastosis management receives a welcome mention and the microbiology section has an improved cover this year, thus rounding off a well-edited Year Book.

R.S.

## MIKROBIOLOGIE

*Practical Introduction to Microbiology.* By E. M. Lindsay, B.Sc. (Dunelm), Ph.D. (London). Pp. xxvii + 227. Illustrated. R4.50. London: E. & F.N. Spon Ltd. 1962.

Die doel van hierdie boek is om as 'n inleiding tot die tegniese gebiede van die mikrobiologie te dien. Die boek is nie geskrywe vir geneeshere nie, maar kan 'n goeie hulp vir tegnoloë, gesondheids-ingenieurs en farmaseutiese spesialiste wees. Die drukwerk, papier en illustrasies is goed. 'n Gids van vakwoorde en hul definisies maak die boek algemeen verstaanbaar.

H.D.B.

## SURGERY OF THE HAND

*The General and Plastic Surgery of the Hand.* By P. Clarkson, M.B.E., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and A. Pelly, M.B., B.S. (Sydney), B.Sc. (Med.) (Sydney), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.A.C.S. Pp. xiv + 428. Illustrated. R6.30. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1962.

This new book is a review of current practice and opinion on the whole range of surgery of the hand, including trauma, congenital deformities, infections, new growths and such afflictions as Dupuytren's contracture, rheumatism and carpal compression.

The book can be recommended to surgeons in training as a practical guide in the primary treatment of hand injuries. The basic plastic principles by which primary healing is best obtained in the hand are described. After all, as Barrett Brown has stressed, 'deep healing cannot be better than skin healing'.

W.D.F.M.

## CARDIOLOGICAL PHYSIOLOGY

*Handbook of Physiology.* Section 2: Circulation, Vol. I. Ed. by W. F. Hamilton and P. Dow. Pp. vii + 758. Illustrated. R19.20, postage 30c. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1962.

This most recent addition to the *Encyclopaedia of Physiology*, at present being published by the American Physiological Society, maintains the standard set by the three volumes on neurophysiology which constituted Section 1. Once again authorship is in the hands of a strong international team and the treatment of the subject is exhaustive. The present volume covers the general physiology of the heart and its regulation, with reference also to the determination of blood volume, and with comprehensive treatment of the theoretical aspects of electrocardiography and phonocardiography. Chapters of particular interest to clinicians include 'Physiologic consequences of congenital heart disease', and 'The dynamics and consequences of stenosis or insufficiency of the cardiac valves'. Volumes 2 and 3 on the circulation will deal with details of regional blood flow and with the effects of circulatory changes on organ function.

The text is authoritative and the references on each topic comprehensive. Inevitably, with such diverse authorship, some chapters are more readable than others and there is some overlap, though this has been minimized by careful editing. This is a major work, which can be read with profit by all practising cardiologists and which should be in the hands of everyone engaged in cardiovascular research. No medical library can afford to be without it.

A.W.S.