

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

PAIN IN ORTHOPAEDICS

Lectures on the Interpretation of Pain in Orthopaedic Practice. By A. Steindler, M.D., (Hon.) F.R.C.S. (Eng.), (Hon.) F.R.S.M. (Eng.), F.A.C.S.; (Hon.) F.I.C.S. Pp. xvii + 733. Illustrations. £7 8s. 0d. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1959.

Over many decades, some of the finest intellects in medicine have devoted themselves to the solution of the problems associated with pain. Why this should be so is quite obvious, for pain is the commonest single symptom that causes the patient to seek medical advice.

Dr. Steindler — one of the intellectual giants of orthopaedic surgery — finished the correction of the final proofs of this book a few days before his death. It may be looked upon as his epitaph. The book is for the discerning reader, and has been written in the form of 16 lectures. There is an extensive bibliography at the end of each chapter. The importance of

a book of this nature cannot be over-emphasized, for, with the establishment of definite syndromes, treatment becomes more definitive and less empirical. The most recent syndromes in the upper limb such as the 'shoulder-hand syndrome' and the 'carpal-tunnel syndrome' have done much to clarify some of the problems of pain.

This book has been well produced and can be strongly recommended even to the most eclectic reader of orthopaedic literature.

A.S.

NEUROLOGY OF INFANCY

Neurology of Infancy. By Anatole Dekaban, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 350. 185 illustrations. £4 16s. 0d. plus 2s. 9d. postage. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

This book is especially welcome because it is not just a textbook of adult neurology in terms of how much it might apply to children. It is necessary to be reminded that the development and perfection of cerebral functions is dependent on

the progress in maturation of the nervous system, and it is especially essential that those who study and interpret the behaviour of infants should be aware of this important fact. Progressive development of volitional and mental activity must be correlated with the progress of maturation in the brain. Any major disorder affecting the brain of an infant will produce such clinical manifestations as the stage of maturation permits and will interfere with the future development of function according to the nature and extent of the irreversible damage caused and the interference with the normal neuronal maturation that this produces.

The author surveys the important developmental landmarks

and correlates them with the maturation state of the nervous system. In subsequent chapters he outlines the principles of pathology, the clinical manifestations, and therapy of the neurological disorders that afflict the infant. The whole field is competently covered, the clinical descriptions are succinct and adequate; in general, with a few exceptions, therapy is satisfactorily described.

The book is well produced with many useful illustrations, and a minimum of printer's errors. It is essential reading for the paediatrician; the psychiatrist will find the opening chapters of great importance, and the neurologist and trainee will find it of general interest.

S.B.