

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### BURNS

*Research in Burns.* The proceedings of the First International Congress on Research in Burns, held at the National Naval Medical Centre, Bethesda, Maryland, September 19-22, 1960. Ed. by C. P. Artz, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xiii + 422. Illustrated. R7.80. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1962.

The most recent research symposium on burns has been sponsored by the US Army, the US Navy, the US Air Force and the Public Health Services of the United States. It records

the Proceedings at the First International Congress on Research on Burns held in September 1960. The volume is divided into nine chapters which include fluid therapy and fluid changes, metabolic and endocrine changes, liver changes, infection, toxins and convalescent serum, the local burn-wound and homo-transplantation. The most recent work on the subject, fully documented, is presented.

Perhaps the most interesting article to me was that describing the technique and the results of massive excision of the extensive burn — a subject that on the face of it appears to deserve considerably more attention than it has received hitherto.

T.S.

## PESIEKTE

*Plague in Southern Africa, Vol. 1.* The Siphonaptera (excluding Ischnopsyllidae). By B. de Meillon, D. H. S. Davis and F. Hardy. Pp. viii + 280. Illustrated, R4.00. Pretoria: Government Printers, 1961.

Dit is die eerste van 3 boekdele wat oor pes in Suid-Afrika handel. In 280 bladsye en 36 landkaarte is alles saamgestel oor vlooië en hul gashere wat in Suid-Afrika bekend is. Die boek is 'n uitstekende handleiding vir enigeen wat belang stel in die sistematiek van Siphonaptera en kan as 'n naslaanwerk vir entomolië aanbeveel word. Die kwaliteit van die drukwerk en illustrasies is goed, en 'n oorsigtelike register maak die werk met hierdie handboek aangenaam. H.D.B.

## SURGICAL HISTORY

*Great Ideas in the History of Surgery.* By L. M. Zimmerman, M.D. and I. Veith, Ph.D. Pp. xii + 587. Illustrated. R12.00, postage 30c. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Co.; and London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1961.

This fine book is the joint achievement of Dr. Leo Zimmerman and Dr. Ilza Veith of the University of Chicago. Dr. Zimmerman, a noted amateur of medical history, is head of the Department of Surgery, and Dr. Veith occupies the enviable position of full-time Professor of the History of Medicine. They have not produced another conventional history of surgery; instead they have presented the development of surgery in terms of the personal histories of some of the great surgeons of the past, together with copious extracts from the classical surgical literature. In addition, there are more than 100 illustrations, mostly reproduced from contemporary publications and these are skilfully used to recreate the fearsome atmosphere of the primitive operating theatres.

With so much from which to choose, the authors have naturally been arbitrary in their selections, and some may complain indignantly that their favourite Knight of the Flashing Scalpel has been accorded less honour than his due. But how much less interesting this book would be if the authors' selections and opinions always coincided with one's own.

In the far off days of Hippocrates, Celsus, Galen and Paul of Aegina, the privilege of healing was not yet divided between physicians and surgeons. But when mediaevalism descended on the world, treatment by operation came to be regarded as a rather vulgar form of manual labour, beneath the dignity of scholarly physicians. Even when the art of surgery progressed and the sophistication of surgeons increased, the division of the profession was maintained. As long ago as the beginning of the 14th century, Lanfranc of Milan and Paris was moved to exclaim:

'Oh Lord, why is there so great difference between a surgeon and a physician? . . . And yet many men ween that is impossible for one man to know both crafts. But thou shalt know well this, that he is no good physician that knows nothing of surgery. And the contrary thereof, a man may be no good surgeon if he knows no physic.'

For centuries, progress in surgery was dependent on progress in other branches of medicine—in anatomy, physiology and pathology; in anaesthesia, antiseptics, blood transfusion and antibiotics; and in clinical medicine. Now, after more than 600 years, Lanfranc's warning is being heeded. The advances which are taking place in cardiology, neurology and gastroenterology are to a great extent the results of renewed co-operation between physicians and surgeons. Enlightened physicians nowadays are often quite pleased to show off their knowledge of anatomy, while there is an increasing number of surgeons who are not greatly embarrassed when invited to use a stethoscope.

It is on this note that the authors bring the history of great ideas in surgery up to date. Tribute is paid to Billroth, Kocher, Horsely and Sauerbruch, who set the stage for the

spectacular achievements of modern surgery; and the advances in surgery, in turn, have provided a stimulus to further progress in the whole realm of medicine. H.G.

## CHILDBIRTH FOR MOTHERS

*The Experience of Childbirth.* By S. Kitzinger. Pp. 192. Illustrated. R1.80. London: Victor Gollancz. 1962.

This book provides a complete manual for the expectant mother, explaining in detail the physiological and emotional processes involved in pregnancy and childbirth, and stressing the psychological preparation for parenthood by both husband and wife.

The author is a member of the Committee of the National Childbirth Trust of Great Britain, and the natural or 'prepared' childbirth methods she expounds are partly derived from the teachings of Drs. Dick-Read, Lamaze and Vellay. The expectant mother will profit greatly from this book—all aspects of childbirth are freely discussed, and the many diagrams make the physical course of pregnancy and labour intelligible to all. Breathing and relaxation exercises are given, and the stages of labour are described in detail. Especially valuable is the last chapter on the adjustment of the parents to the baby. R.M.

## ENDOCRINAL TRANSPLANTS

*Endocrine Tissue Transplantation.* By J. R. Brooks, M.D. Pp. x + 113. Illustrated. \$6.00. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This is a painstaking review of results obtained from attempts to transplant endocrine tissue. The ovary appears to be the organ most amenable to homotransplantation in lower mammals. In human gonadal agenesis homotransplants have evidently produced some effect for as long as six months. I am sorry to state that, despite Voronoff *et al.*, testicular homotransplants have never survived, so we must still look elsewhere for rejuvenation. Autotransplanting of testicular tissue, however, is quite compatible with survival of both interstitial and spermatogenic function, provided the temperature is carefully controlled.

This is a well-produced, interesting book, of value mainly to the research worker in a rather narrow field. W.P.U.J.

## VECTORCARDIOGRAPHY

*Vector Electrocardiography.* By H. N. Uhley, M.D. Pp. x + 339. Illustrated. R6.30. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co.; and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1962.

Despite its length, this book is in reality little more than a pamphlet. The argument, presented at elementary level, is concluded in but 32 pages. The remaining 307 pages are devoted to poorly-drawn pictorial sequences of development of some typical vector loops, with their simultaneous scalar lead derivations. These have been so arranged that 'a motion picture effect is achieved by flipping the illustrative pages of each chapter'.

Some readers may derive benefit from this work. More will simply find it not worth the price demanded. L.C.I.

## THE BASAL GANGLIA

*The Basal Ganglia.* Their relation to disorders of movement. By D. Denny-Brown, O.B.E., M.D. (N.Z.), D.Ph. (Oxon.), LL.D. (hon.), Dr. hon. causa, F.R.C.P. Pp. 144. Illustrated. R2.10. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

The Croonian Lectures give eminent neurologists an opportunity to muster and integrate the recent views on subjects of interest in medicine, and many of the lectures have become classic reference points. A great number of medical practitioners will have read Denny-Brown's lectures last year, and will be glad of this chance of reading them in an expanded version.

There are many more illustrations, and the degree of expansion may be judged by the fact that the original lectures contained 92 references while the present volume, which is a fuller version of the Croonian Lecture, contains 217.

Denny-Brown is undoubtedly one of the most distinguished neurologists living, and his approach has always been along both Jacksonian evolutionary and teleological lines: he has never been content with the mere descriptive method in dealing with a problem. Almost everything he writes brings original and fresh viewpoints to bear on his subject, but the trouble is that his thought is so compressed that it is often extremely difficult to follow his arguments. One is left with the impression that he is absolutely right, but one is not quite certain what he has said.

This lecture on the basal ganglia is undoubtedly as epoch-making as was Kinnier-Wilson's address on the same subject 35 years ago, and well worth the hard reading it imposes. It can safely be said that no one will read this book once without reading it twice.

J.M.MacG.

## SELF-HYPNOSIS

*Self-Hypnosis.* A conditioned-response technique. By L. Sparks. Pp. xiii + 255. \$5.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1962.

The author, apparently a lay-hypnotist, maintains that many human ailments are conditioned responses, similar to those described by Pavlov.

Hypnotic techniques can be utilized to condition desirable responses, and to facilitate deconditioning of undesirable ones.

He describes his technique for self-hypnosis through the use of code signals and visual imagery.

Various non-analytic therapeutic techniques, including time distortion and desensitization are described, with illustrative cases.

The writer shows good insight into, and understanding of, the many conditions which are amenable to hypnosis, without offering anything really new.

M.H.

## ARTERIOGRAPHY

*Arteriography.* By D. Sutton, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.D. Pp. viii + 322. Illustrated. R7.00. Postage 25c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

This excellently presented, lucidly written and lavishly illustrated book is by an author who has great—indeed very great—experience of his subject.

It should undoubtedly grace the shelves of all X-ray department libraries, as well as the shelves of all surgeons who have any interest in arteriography, be it peripheral, cerebral or aortographic. There can be little doubt that in recent years the contrast medium used has been one of the greatest sources of danger and complications associated with arteriography, but with the newest media this has been almost eliminated. Even so, these procedures should not be lightly undertaken, and then only by experienced operators under suitable conditions.

W.J.L.

## PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT

*Current Psychiatric Therapies.* Vols. I and II. Ed by J. H. Masserman, M.D. Pp. x + 246 and xi + 289. \$7.50 and \$8.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1961, 1962.

These volumes embody the following features:

1. Special contributions from experts in therapeutic specialities both in the USA and abroad.

2. Annual summaries of the current advances in various modes and techniques of therapy by selected authorities in psychoanalysis, brief psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, existentialist and related schools, group methods with auxiliary modalities, family care, psychopharmacology, advanced institutional and rehabilitative practices, and other developments of theoretical and clinical importance.

3. Condensation of the best papers in psychiatric therapy presented annually at various professional meetings.

4. Reviews prepared by the Editor of special advances not otherwise covered.

The Editor hopes that the series will attain world-wide circulation as an authoritative text and progressive reference in the field.

He is succeeding in so far as these two volumes constitute an authoritative and comprehensive treatise on current practices in the field and lay a foundation for the reporting of significant advances in future annual editions. A.B.D.

## PAEDIATRICS

*Advances in Pediatrics, Vol. XII.* Ed. by S. Z. Levine. Pp. 389. \$10.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1962.

Practically half this volume is deservedly devoted to the viruses. One chapter gathers together all available information on viral encephalitides, and another covers viral infections in the neonatal period, dealing fully with Coxsackie myocarditis. The aetiology of neonatal jaundice is a subject of particular interest, and a study of the chapter on bilirubin metabolism is a 'must' for all paediatricians.

Other chapters deal with chemotherapy of neoplastic disease, calcium and phosphate metabolism, and teaching of paediatrics and the role of the paediatrician in developing countries. All of them are of remarkably high standard.

This is a welcome and useful book and will help to keep practitioners up to date.

S.C.S.

## SPORTS MEDICINE

*Sports Medicine.* Ed. by J. G. P. Williams, M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst. R.C.O.G. Pp. xi + 420. Illustrated. R6.00. London: Edward Arnold. 1962.

This book is like the curate's egg, very good in parts and incredibly bad in others.

The chapter on head injuries is poor, and obviously taken from other books.

Traumatic epilepsy and punch drunkenness is just skimmed over, and the statistics produced are inaccurate. This chapter is obviously written by Dr. J. L. Blonstein, who is a great medical supporter of boxing.

The author's description of injuries of the knee joint and their treatment is good, but that of shoulder injuries is not satisfactory. That old bugbear in sporting injuries, namely frozen shoulder, is merely mentioned, while its treatment is vaguely described.

The author discusses the Stoke Mandeville centre and its games; this is first-class. There are good hints on training, smoking, drinking, drugs and sex among athletes—sex among married athletes is encouraged while among unmarried athletes it is condemned!

The book is well-bound, nicely set up and well illustrated. I agree with the writer of the foreword, Sir Arthur Porritt, F.R.C.S., that every doctor who deals with injuries in sport should have this book. L.B.

## PHARMACOLOGY

*Recent Advances in Pharmacology.* 3rd ed. By J. M. Robson, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E. and R. S. Stacey, M.A., M.D. Pp. x + 406. Illustrated. R5.40. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1962.

The rapid progress in pharmacology necessitates new books of this type. The authors of this volume deal in masterly fashion with selected topics, consideration being given to the basic mechanisms of the actions of the drugs and their use in the treatment of disease. Here experts have given detailed information from recent investigations, in a most readable form, on such topics as 'pharmacologically active substances in the central nervous system', 'psychotropic drugs', 'catechol amines', '5-hydroxytryptamine', 'hypoglycaemic agents', 'diuretics and electrolyte balance', 'newer steroids', 'hypotensive drugs', 'bacterial chemotherapy', and others. This book is essential reading for research workers and teachers, and for all who are interested in the science of drugs. N.S.