

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

### HORMONES AND SEX

*Sex and Internal Secretions*. 3rd ed. Vols. I and II. Ed. by W. C. Young, Ph.D. Pp. xxiv + 1,609. Illustrated. R12.00, postage 30c. (Volumes not sold separately.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1961.

The first edition of this book, edited by Edgar Allen, was published in 1932 and the second, edited by Allen, Doisy and Danforth, in 1939. These two editions have become classics. The third edition consists of two volumes of some 700 double-column pages each. Volume I contains a foreword by George W. Corner and is divided into three sections. Section A on the 'Biologic basis of sex' contains material on the genetic basis of sex and the role of hormones in the differentiation of sex. Section B on 'The hypophysis and the gonadotrophic hormone in relation to reproduction' includes an excellent account of the special cytology of the pituitary gland. Section C deals with the 'Physiology of the gonads and accessory organs'—the testes, ovary, mammary gland and a chapter on nutritional effects on endocrine reactions. Volume II is also divided into three sections. The first deals with the biology of sperm and ova, fertilization, implantation, the placenta and pregnancy, the second with the physiology of reproduction in sub-mammalian vertebrates which includes numerous references to work on *Xenopus laevis*. The final section on the hormonal regulation of reproductive behaviour includes information on mating, social and parental behaviour and a final chapter by Margaret Mead on 'Cultural determinants of sexual behaviour'.

In the preface the editor points out that relatively more space has been given to the role of the gonadal hormones in the control of reproduction and relatively less to the biochemical problems of hormone synthesis, utilization and metabolism. This is mainly because exhaustive reviews on the biochemical aspects of the subject have recently been published. A 'general review, only, on the biosynthesis of steroids and the effects of hormones on metabolism has therefore been included in Volume I.

These volumes will be of the greatest value to all interested in gonadal endocrinology. Clinicians will find much to interest them in the chapters on the physiology of the gonads and accessory organs and the chapters on implantation, the placenta and gestation.

The subject matter of each chapter is clearly presented, the illustrations, some in colour, are excellent and a full list of references is given at the end of each chapter.

The editor and his collaborators and the publishers are to be congratulated on a very fine piece of work. H.Z.

### SCHIZOPHRENIA

*Schizophrenia*. By F. J. Fish, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. 204. R3.25. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1962.

This is essentially a postgraduate textbook in which Dr. Fish reviews the European literature on schizophrenia and presents a lucid and clear exposition of the main views, especially those of the German workers. His presentation of Kleist's and Leonhard's work gives the English-speaking reader a painstaking classification of the various clinical forms of schizophrenia.

Several psychological, psycho-analytical and existentialist interpretations of schizophrenia are also described.

Some may argue that a detailed classification of schizophrenic illnesses is unnecessary and that an understanding of the psychodynamics of the patient is of more importance. However, to quote the author, '... Leonhard's scheme is a useful research tool, and ... investigation of the differences between the different sub-groups may lead to the isolation of pathoplastic factors, and thus clear the way for the identification of the basic neurophysiological disorder or disorders which form the essential lesion in schizophrenia'. A.A.Z.

### BREAST CANCER

*Tumors of the Breast*. Their pathology, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment. By M. Cutler, M.D. Pp. xv + 482. Illustrated. R15.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott; and London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1962.

This monograph represents the diagnosis and treatment of breast tumours based on Sir Lenthal Cheate and Dr. Max Cutler's 35-odd years' study of many thousands of patients with breast cancer. It is a modern version of Cheate's book published in 1931.

Stress is laid on precancerous lesions, and cystic disease is seriously incriminated. Benign and malignant epithelial neoplasia can quite readily supervene on the small cysts at different age groups. Mazoplasia, with its fibrosis and adenosis, a term preferred to chronic cystic mastitis and fibroadenosis, is not believed to be precancerous.

Very little is said about the staging of breast cancer, and the indications for radical mastectomy (which is still preferred for operable breast cancer) are mentioned. Reviews of all the other surgical treatments are well presented.

One small mistake—on pages 262 and 265, 'coracoid process' and not 'acromion process' should be noted.

The book is well illustrated, and should be invaluable to surgeons, radiotherapists and pathologists, in fact to all interested in the problems of breast cancer. P.H.