

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION

A Manual for Psychiatric Case Study. 2nd ed. Ed. by K. A. Menninger, M.D., M. Mayman, Ph.D. and P. W. Pruyser, Ph.D. Pp. x + 189. \$5.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

This is the 2nd revised edition of one of the standard introductions to the practice of psychiatry. It deals in very practical fashion with interview technique, obtaining an adequate history, examining the patient, diagnosis, and recording the progress of the illness. It is full of precise information and wisdom.

L.S.G.

UNDERWATER MEDICINE

Underwater Medicine. By S. Miles, M.D., M.Sc., D.T.M. & H. Pp. 398. Illustrated. R6.00. London: Staples Press. 1962.

This unique publication deals with a subject that has not hitherto been considered at any length or in any detail. Surgeon-Commander Miles' book fills the gap with distinction.

As more and more people are taking up independent underwater swimming as a sport or a hobby, any medical man may find himself responsible for advising such people.

Several chapters are devoted to a very clear discussion of the physiological and physical problems involved and it is urged that research in underwater medicine be undertaken—'there is no greater contribution to be made to underwater medicine than that every accident should have the fullest possible and expert investigation'. The dangers of the snorkel and of the air tube are emphasized and diving suits of various types are described.

Nitrogen narcosis, called by the French the 'rapture of the deeps' and by the British more prosaically the 'narks', is also described, as is oxygen poisoning and the effects of both on sight, hearing, taste and the sense of position.

A description of the submarine, its habitability and its future is also added, as is a discussion on marine animals and on mammalian marine physiology.

While the primary purpose of the book is to make some contribution to the lessening of underwater accidents, the

author concludes that man must surely extend his underwater activities to organize profitable farming, mining and other occupations.

This imaginative book is eminently successful and it can be strongly recommended to anyone who lives near the sea and who is likely to encounter cases of underwater accidents.

T.S.

MECHANISMS OF HYPERTENSION

Hypertension—Neural and Renal Mechanisms, Vol. X. Proceedings of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research, American Heart Association, Cleveland, November 17 - 18, 1961. Ed. by F. R. Skelton, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 131 - 226. \$2.50. New York: American Heart Association. 1962.

The enigmatic subject of hypertension continues to provoke new and original clinical and experimental study. Here are presented some of the latest physiological mechanisms and experiments, biochemical assays, concepts and proposals by 10 contributors, backed by 163 cross-references. There is a revival of interest in the renin-angiotensin system, especially since the synthesis of angiotensin.

The spirited discussions of the panel recorded at the end of each contribution, sometimes serve to cloud the issues further, and in some instances are in direct conflict with the opinions expressed by some authors.

Obviously many basic problems remain to be unravelled and the relationship of human to experimental animal renal hypertension will remain largely indirect. Physiologists and biochemists will probably derive most benefit from this work.

M.B.