

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

PULMONARY CIRCULATION

The Human Pulmonary Circulation. Its form and functions in health and disease. By P. Harris, M.D., Ph.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. and D. Heath, M.D. (Sheff.), Ph.D. (Birm.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 354. Illustrated. R7.00. Postage 27½c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

This book can best be classified by quoting from the authors' summary: 'The pulmonary circulation has thus become an important meeting point for physicians, surgeons, physiologists and pathologists, and for a full understanding of the problems in this field it has become necessary for each group to appreciate the contributions of the others. For this purpose we have brought some of the physiological and pathological data together in this book to present an integrated picture

of the form and function of the pulmonary circulation in health and disease.'

Nearly exclusive use has been made of data obtained from human studies.

The physical and mathematical principles underlying measurement of flow, pressure and volume are presented in clear and readable form, as in the chapter on resistance and impedance.

Apart from the clinical physiology of various cardiopulmonary disorders, there are chapters on the haemodynamics in mitral valve disease and hypertensive pulmonary vascular disease, and the influence of the latter on the selection of patients for closure of septal defects; the bronchial collateral circulation and its abnormalities in pulmonary emphysema; as well as discussions on diffusion and the relation between

ventilation and perfusion. The titles of these chapters indicate the practical nature of this presentation.

Each chapter is followed by a list of the more important references to the literature, and the index is well arranged and adequately cross-indexed.

This monograph can be recommended to those readers indicated in the first paragraph of this review. H.P.W.

HISTOPATHOLOGY OF THE SKIN

Atlas of Histopathology of the Skin. 2nd ed. By G. H. Percival, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., G. L. Montgomery, C.B.E., T.D., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.F.P.S.(G.), F.R.C.P.E. and T. C. Doods, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.B.P., F.R.P.S. Pp. xi + 491. Illustrated. R13.00. Postage 26c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1962.

The authors in their preface state: 'The purpose of this work is to provide the postgraduate student in dermatology and pathology with a pictorial representation of the microscopic changes found in diseases of the skin.' In this they have succeeded most admirably.

The illustrations are so distinct and perfectly produced that I can strongly recommend this work not only to postgraduate students but also to dermatologists.

The authors quite rightly stress that this is an atlas of histopathology of the skin; it should therefore be used purely as such and not to replace, but to complement, a book such as *Lever's Histopathology of the Skin*. R.L.

CLINICAL ORTHOPAEDICS

Clinical Orthopaedics, No. 21, Ed. by A. F. DePalma. Pp. ix + 244. Illustrated. R6.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, Supplied in South Africa by Pitman Medical Publishers, London. 1961.

I have had the privilege of reviewing previous volumes of *Clinical Orthopaedics*. In this one, like the others, there are four sections, only one of which is concerned with the specific title subject. In this section there are some excellent essays, of which mention must be made of 'Spondylolisthesis in children' by Dr. Leon L. Wiltse, and 'Sciatic scoliosis' by Drs. Joseph C. Risser and Donald M. Norquist. In the chapter on a child's backache the author strains one's imagination somewhat by asking one to visualize cerebral palsy and athetosis, rickets, and intermittent claudication of back muscles as aetiological factors.

The photographs and radiographic reproductions are, on the whole, of good quality, particularly in the two very well-balanced, concise essays on infantile idiopathic scoliosis and paralytic scoliosis.

Each chapter has its own list of references. It is strange that most of the references used pertain to United States publications.

Section IV contains an interesting little account of the use of sheepskins to prevent decubitus ulcers; a method that has been used successfully in Milwaukee for at least 35 years. M.S.