

TREATMENT FOR THE PRACTITIONER

*Modern Medical Treatment.* Ed. by H. Miller, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 416. R3.00. Postage 18c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

In his preface Dr. Henry Miller indicates that this book is designed for the general practitioner, each contributor describing his own methods of treating the commoner diseases in his field and avoiding comprehensive lists of all the therapeutic methods available. The result is a volume which is clearly written and convenient for reference. It would be surprising if one could find no faults, and indeed I cannot condone the omission of aspiration in the treatment of amoebic liver abscess; and there are other minor points with which I would disagree. Otherwise, however, there is little to criticize and much to praise in this book which should prove most useful to the busy practitioner and the senior medical student.

E.B.A.

ANAESTHETIC ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAPHY

*Practical Electroencephalography for the Anesthesiologist.* By V. L. Brechner, M.D., R. D. Walter, M.D. and J. B. Dillon, M.D. Pp. xii + 107. Illustrated. \$6.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

During the last decade electro-encephalography has established itself as an essential accompaniment to certain operations. These are usually those in which surgeons are using techniques such as bypassing the heart or the induction of hypothermia and hypotension. It is of vital importance at this time that the patients should not sustain brain damage because of anoxia or hypoxia.

A more-or-less continuous record of electro-cortical activity is thus of tremendous value to the surgeon, and the practical aspects of this 'anaesthetic' electro-encephalography have been ably dealt with in this monograph.

Apart from giving much valuable technical information, a point that is well made is that it is only in skilled and informed hands that electro-encephalography is of real value.

F.R.A.

ANAESTHESIA AND THE POSTOPERATIVE PERIOD

*Metabolic Effects of Anesthesia.* By S. H. Ngai, M.D. and E. M. Papper, M.D. Pp. viii + 89. \$5.75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

The nature and conditions of the clinical anaesthetist's work are such that his attention is focused mainly on the observation of abrupt acute changes in the physiological state of his patients. The more subtle changes due to anaesthetics which may not be immediate, and which extend into the post-operative period, have received inadequate attention in the past. This book summarizes the findings of a large body of experimental work on the effects of anaesthetic agents on metabolism. The information it contains is most valuable to both surgeon and anaesthetist alike; in particular the section dealing with the effect of anaesthesia on ventilation and acid-base balance which comprises more than half the book. This book can be thoroughly recommended for anyone concerned in the postoperative care of surgical patients.

A.B.B.

PSYCHIATRY

*Henderson and Gillespie's Textbook of Psychiatry.* 9th ed. Revised by Sir David Henderson, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S.G. and I.R.C. Batchelor, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.M., F.R.S.E. Pp. xii + 578. R4.20. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

The ninth edition of this well-known textbook has been extensively revised to incorporate many of the new advances in psychiatry.

The new chapter on 'Psychiatry and general medicine', though short, is welcome and will perhaps help to remind students and practitioners that a packet of tranquillizers and a diagnosis of 'functional' are not always enough for the neurotically anxious patient.

This is a useful textbook and adopts a sound multidimensional approach to psychiatric illness.

A.A.Z.

UROLOGY

*The Year Book of Urology.* (1961-1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by W. W. Scott, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 398. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

The format remains unchanged in this *Year Book*. Introductory articles to each chapter by experts are very welcome, but editorial comment at the end of selected articles reminds one too vividly of corrections to schoolday essays. Perhaps the Editor should write the complete book rather than daub his personal opinions at the end of other people's efforts.

The Americans obviously feel that, for at least the last two years, no article worthy of inclusion in the *Year Book* has appeared in the *British Journal of Urology*. Judging by some of the abstracts included in this year's effort one can only marvel at this lack of editorial discrimination.

I.J.

CARDIOPATHIES

*The Pluricausal Cardiopathies.* The Beaumont Lecture. By Hans Selye. Pp. liii + 438. Illustrated. R16.80. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

A great wealth of experimental work is presented in this volume. In fact it is almost overwhelming, and one has to pick one's way carefully through the details of experimental procedure, descriptive pathology with abbreviations confusing to the unwary, and theorizing on the experimental findings.

There is a great deal of repetition which could have been avoided and would have made reading easier. One cannot fail, however, to be impressed by this monumental experimental work and by Selye's interesting findings and stimulating thoughts.

The concept of pluricausal cardiopathies is developed by objective animal experiments. A large number of structurally quite distinct cardiopathies are produced at will by appropriate treatment with two or more agents, none of which is pathogenic in itself even when given in lethal amounts. Means of blocking these actions have also been produced.

From the clinical point of view the possible protective action of potassium, magnesium and chloride needs emphasis, and the relation of stress which may have a dual effect, both

preventing and producing cardiovascular disease, requires further investigation.

There is a great deal to be learned from this book, but the subject requires careful thought and study. A.J.B.

#### ANAESTHESIA IN INJURIES

*Anaesthesia for the Injured.* By L. J. Wolfson, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. ix + 110. R2.10. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

The injured patient can present the anaesthetist with a multitude of physiological and technical problems of an acute life-threatening nature. In this book the author sets about describing these problems and their management in a sound and practical way, which can only be based on a wide experience. The greatest emphasis is correctly laid on early and energetic correction of physiological defects before the actual anaesthetic and operative procedure.

The whole approach to the subject is thoroughly sound and well balanced, and I can strongly recommend this small book as valuable reading for all concerned in the management of the injured patient.

A.B.B.

#### PHYSIOTHERAPY

*Natural Movement.* By Lt.-Col. J. K. McConnel, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. Pp. viii + 103. Illustrated. R1.05. London: H. K. Lewis. 1962.

The subject matter is interesting and logical, and is based on sound physiological principles. The author's emphasis on afferent stimuli is in tune with current thought and practice in the re-education of movement. The use of a foot board for the bed patient has long been recognized as an aid to maintaining postural awareness. Lieut.-Col. McConnel's 'artificial floor' would appear to be a practical method of implementing this principle. More diagrams, particularly of the 'artificial floor', would make for clarity. Since each chapter is essentially a separate essay, there is automatically a considerable amount of repetition.

However, this is a thought-provoking and useful book, which should form a welcome addition to the library in all departments concerned in the treatment of patients by physical means.

M.H.S.R.

#### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

*Living at Your Best with Multiple Sclerosis.* A handbook for patients. By G. H. Hess, M.D. Pp. viii + 106. \$4.00. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This small book claims to enable the doctor to give complete care to his multiple sclerosis patients and to increase the patient's ability to care for himself. In attempting to instruct both the doctor and the patient, neither aim is satisfactorily accomplished. Nevertheless, this book should be of some value to the patient with multiple sclerosis because it does stress the psychological factors which are so important in this disease.

In the chapter on 'Specific medications' much emphasis is laid on the importance of diet and allergy, although there is certainly little evidence that treatment with diet or with anti-allergic agents is of great value in this disorder. The chapter on 'Physical therapy' is more useful.

Any book on the treatment of multiple sclerosis, written either for the doctor or the layman, is handicapped by the fact that the cause of multiple sclerosis is still unknown. Perhaps here in South Africa there is a vital clue. If we knew why the disorder is so uncommon among South Africans who stay in South Africa and yet relatively common among immigrants to this country, we might also know the environmental factor or factors responsible for this most important and mysterious disease.

J.G.K.D.

#### OBSTETRIC ANALGESIA

*Analgesia and Anesthesia in Obstetrics.* 2nd ed. By J. P. Greenhill, M.D. Pp. vi + 92. Illustrated. \$5.25. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Greenhill has no peer as an author in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology—at any rate not in the English language. His mature pen has now produced this book on analgesia and anaesthesia in obstetrics. It can be read in a couple of hours, but it contains everything of importance on the subject—not only drugs, as some imagine, but other techniques as well. I have come to the point of giving my junior students a lecture on the subject, but will instead give them this book to read. Every midwife—even her labour-ward counterpart in the USA—should read this work.

Under regional anaesthesia I found the answer to a burning question which neither Greenhill's nor anyone else's writing had previously revealed. Thus the whole range of those attending in the labour ward must derive benefit from this handbook.

O.S.H.

#### DIABETES AND THE PANCREAS

*The Pancreas in Human and Experimental Diabetes.* By S. S. Lazarus, M.D., M.Sc (Med.) and B. W. Volk, M.D. Pp. viii + 279. Illustrated. \$10.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1962.

This book on the pancreas in diabetes is written by two pathologists with long experience in diabetes produced in experimental animals. When writing on their own subject they are very good. The text is illustrated with clear photomicrographs, including some in colour and some electron photomicrographs. There is an interesting historical introduction and adequate lists of references. I think the chapters could be improved by the authors giving us their own conclusions in each one—as it stands we are left rather in the dark about the relative importance to be attached to the various publications which are discussed.

There is little for the clinician here. The section on clinical subjects, e.g. the thyroid and diabetes, and pancreatitis, are short and incomplete. There are some surprising omissions with regard to the pancreas in relation to human diabetes: the hyperplasia of the islets of stillborn infants of prediabetic mothers, and the well-known giant islets found in young diabetics whose diabetes has been of very short duration.

This is a well-produced book for the specialist, the library and the research-worker.

W.P.U.J.

#### OPHTHALMOLOGY

*The Year Book of Ophthalmology.* (1961-1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by W. F. Hughes, M.D. Pp. 382. Illustrated. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

This volume, as before, contains abstracts of the most important articles that have appeared in world ophthalmological literature in the year under review.

The fault with abstracts generally is that their brevity makes reading difficult and absorption almost impossible. However, these abstracts, with accompanying pertinent editorial comment, are sufficiently lengthy to make reading and comprehension easier.

This year Rycroft writes the special article on keratoplasty, a timely and valuable contribution.

This volume continues to be the best summary of the year's literature and a ready book of reference; and as such can be recommended.

L.S.

#### PSYCHIATRIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

*The Burden on the Community.* The epidemiology of mental illness. A symposium. Contributors: J. D. N. Hill, G. M. Carstairs, A. Cartwright, G. Innes, W. M. Millar, G. A. Sharp, W. I. N. Kessel, F. M. Martin, P. Sainsbury, J. Grad and M. Shepherd. Pp. xiv + 130. 50c. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

This very useful primer on methods and techniques used in the burgeoning field of psychiatric epidemiology is a distillate of the experience of prominent British workers in the field. It will be gratefully received by all who are concerned in assessing the incidence and prevalence of mental disease in the population, which is today one of the most vital topics in psychiatry because of the need to assess therapies properly and the needs of the community.

L.S.G.