

HAEMODIALYSIS

Extracorporeal Hemodialysis Therapy in Blood Chemistry Disorders. By J. E. Doyle, M.D. Pp. xvi + 353. Illustrated. \$11.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1962.

Dr. Doyle deprecates the use of the term 'artificial kidney', hence the cumbersome title of his monograph. There is a useful and adequate description of the common dialysers (and modifications) in current use—the 'Kolff rotating-drum kidney', the 'Kolff twin-coil kidney', the 'Allwall', the 'Skeggs-Leonard' and the 'MacNeill-Collins' dialysers.

None will disagree with the author's statement that 'a dispassionate evaluation' of the merits of the various dialysers is necessary, but Dr. Doyle (who has been associated with Dr. MacNeill) comes down heavily in favour of the MacNeill dialyser. Not all will agree with this choice.

The indications for haemodialysis are those conventionally accepted, but the clinical discussion is sketchy. While he is an enthusiastic advocate of early dialysis, the possibility of unnecessary dialysis is not sufficiently stressed. The sections on the effects of dialysis in specific disease states are of considerable value, but there is much superfluous and repetitive subject matter and, indeed, the book would have been just as effective if it had been at least 50 pages shorter. As a source of reference to the American literature the book has value and should be available to those seeking information on haemodialysis. L.E.

RENAL FUNCTION

Renal Function. By W. J. O'Connor, M.A., M.D. Pp. viii + 247. Illustrated. R3.25. London: Edward Arnold, 1962.

The title of this monograph is 'Renal Function', but it largely excludes a discussion of intrarenal mechanisms. It expresses the views of a renal physiologist whose own work has been mainly concerned with the results of acute experiments on conscious dogs.

The book is divided into three parts. Section A deals with agents which act on the kidneys. Section B attempts to account for changes in the urinary flow and composition, and Section

C considers 'some unproven theories', e.g. volume receptors.

Despite his stated aim of avoiding intrarenal mechanisms, there is a short and barely adequate description of the counter-current mechanism—a recent major alteration in the views on renal function.

There is much in Dr. O'Connor's book which is of interest to students of renal function, but not all will concur with his views. He stresses alteration in plasma-protein concentration as being a determinant of the rate of sodium excretion. He emphasizes that 'failure to appreciate the limitations of experimental data has led to much unsound speculation', yet he, himself, is guilty of constructing speculative graphs such as Fig. 56—a redrawing of Fig. 6 which, derived from acute experiments on one human subject, etc'.

The chief value of this book is to emphasize not only the importance of critical examination of observations concerned with the excretory function of the kidneys, but also the difficulties of interpretation. L.E.

HANDBOOK FOR CASUALTY WORK

The Casualty Officer's Handbook. By M. Ellis, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H. Pp. vii + 243. Illustrated. R4.20, plus 15c delivery charge. Durban: Butterworth & Co. 1962.

As books of this nature become available, it will be possible to estimate their value with more accuracy. Mr. Ellis' book surveys the methods in use in the casualty department of a busy hospital in Leeds of which he is the surgeon-in-charge.

Most of the book is devoted to dealing with injuries of the skeletal system, but it is not possible, with the space at his disposal, for the author to do more than touch on treatment. The inclusion of a detailed form of note-taking at the end of each group of injuries is a pleasing feature that will endear the book to medical students. Casualty officers are expected to have this knowledge of history-taking already well in mind and will look in vain for guidance for their immediate problem, which is to deal with emergencies only and to refer any more serious cases for specialists' attention or opinion. The book deals fully with the management of a few fractures,

recommending accepted and well-tried methods. On the other hand, some rather unusual methods of treating abscesses are advocated, advising incision, cleaning out and gentle curetting under an umbrella of antibiotics with primary suture; this is also advised for rectal and peri-anal abscesses and for breast abscesses. It is debatable whether the average casualty officer can be entrusted to carry out this treatment as a routine measure.

Discussing the differential diagnosis of the acute abdomen, the author brings much experience to the subject. His description of intussusception is particularly good and his advice to use the *signe de dance* in reverse is very ingenious.

Not all the treatment advised will elicit universal approval. In this age and year, there must surely be some anaesthetic that can be given for cases of dislocated shoulder. The series of photographs illustrating Kocher's method of reduction without anaesthesia make a very unpleasant impression, and the patient's face is shown to change from that of a calm, relaxed woman to that of a collapsed creature in anguish. Today these things, should not be allowed to happen, not even to the hardy good folk of Yorkshire. T.S.

PAEDIATRICS

The Year Book of Pediatrics. (1961 - 1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by S. S. Gellis, M.D. Pp. 492. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1961.

This Yearbook is well up to the excellent standard set by its predecessors. The comments by the editor, which form a footnote to practically every well-chosen abstract from recent literature, bring the subject matter into clear perspective, and add much that is useful. The value of the book is greatly enhanced by the frequent further commentaries from leading authorities in the field. In addition to the above, the extensive coverage provided makes this Yearbook an invaluable source of information to those actively concerned with the practice of paediatrics, who wish to have current trends presented to them in a readily assimilable form. G.J.S.

HYDROGEN-ION REGULATION IN ANAESTHESIA

Modern Trends in Anaesthesia. 2. Aspects of hydrogen-ion regulation and biochemistry in anaesthesia. Ed. by F. T. Evans, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. and T.C. Gray, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., Hon. F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 219. Illustrated. R6.25. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1962.

Well-known for their 'Recent Advances' series in this specialty, the authors have deviated from their previous presentations and in this small volume they have concentrated on presenting recent work and concepts in biochemistry as it relates to anaesthesia.

Its eight chapters, by various illustrious authors, deal with new concepts of the nomenclature and presentation of hydrogen-ion regulation data and the measurement of pH and P_{CO_2} . Effects of hypercapnia and hyperventilation are discussed and acid-base balance in hypothermia and changes due to cardiac bypass are considered. The cholinesterases are reviewed and up-to-date concepts of these are discussed. The index is good and each chapter is followed by a comprehensive bibliography.

The editors are to be congratulated on producing yet another excellent work of great interest and value to all who practice anaesthetics. P.A.T.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Milieu Therapy in Schizophrenia. By Lt. Col. K. L. Artiss, M.C. Pp. xviii + 369. \$6.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

This book describes an experiment in treating schizophrenic soldiers in an American army hospital. The essence of the approach is that of community therapy, group therapy and the extensive use of non-medical ward attendants. It is a work of merit, and the author gives a most illuminating insight into the mind and personal relationships of the schizophrenic, as well as showing a most profitable avenue of treatment. This is a book for psychiatrists, especially for those who deal with schizophrenics in a hospital situation. L.S.G.

RHEUMATISM

The Immunology of Rheumatism. By J. B. Kwapinski, M.D., D.Sc. and M. L. Snyder, Ph.D. Pp. xiii + 255. \$9.00. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1962.

This book covers the vast amount of work which has been done on the immunology of rheumatism.

The authors have reviewed and evaluated this material as well as their own work in this field. Details of materials and tests used have been described.

For the reader who wishes to refer to the original papers an extensive bibliography has been included.

The research worker and clinician interested in rheumatism will find much of value in this book. K.S.v.E.

FOETAL MEMBRANES

The Human Amnion and Chorion. By G. Bourne, F.R.C.S. (Eng.), M.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 276. Illustrated. R4.50. London: Lloyd-Luke. 1962.

With the emphasis in obstetrical research being shifted lately to the placenta, many adequate descriptions of placental anatomy and physiology have recently been published. The human amnion and chorion had, however, been neglected. This monograph fills the gap. Mr. Bourne became interested in the chorion and amnion through his clinical interest in premature labour. In the course of his study he examined 4,000 placentae and their membranes.

In the first section of his book dealing with these findings he gives a detailed description of the structure and histological anatomy of the human foetal membranes, their nutrition and sex specificity. The second section covers the function and the third section covers the pathological changes of the membranes, such as amnion nodosum, squamous metaplasia and amniotic bands.

Research workers will find that the book is generously illustrated and contains an extensive review of the literature. J.N.d.V.

NEUROLOGY AND NEUROPSYCHIATRY

Recent Advances in Neurology and Neuropsychiatry. Ed. by Lord Brain. Pp. 282. Illustrated. R4.00. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1962.

The seventh edition of this work appears after an interval of seven years. New chapters on 'Consciousness and unconsciousness' and 'The cerebral basis of mind' by Lord Brain survey the latest physiological and clinical work in these fields.

In addition there are comprehensive reviews of electroencephalography and neuroradiology, which, today are indispensable aids to diagnosis and treatment.

The references at the end of each section provide an excellent guide to the recent literature and are an indication of the tremendous advances in the understanding of the functions and pathology of the nervous system in recent years. A.A.Z.

HALOTHANE

Halothane. By M. S. Sadove, M.D. and V. E. Wallace, M.D. Pp. 109 + 363 + 24. Illustrated. R12.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

'Experience is the best of schoolmasters, only the school fees are heavy' (Carlyle). Similarly, compared with the price of halothane itself, and especially with the costly experience of most uninformed anaesthetists, the high price of this rather grand book is not unrealistic.

It contains by far the best available account of all aspects of halothane anaesthesia on 109 glossy-paper pages in double columns. The remaining 387 pages comprise very complete abstracts of practically everything ever written about halothane up to the end of 1960, on more durable non-glossy paper. Thus only a quarter of the book is for consecutive reading while the rest uniquely offers the original literature itself for reference purposes.

The first part is comprehensive and detailed enough to satisfy both the expert and enquiring beginner. It is clearly

intimated that inotropic vasopressors are without appreciable effect on ventricular contractile force which is demonstrably diminished during halothane anaesthesia. While methoxamine ('vasoxyl') increases peripheral resistance and blood pressure, the cardiac output actually decreases if methoxamine is administered as recommended by Stephen and Little. These and other points, proved since this book was written, are well discussed in a practical helpful manner by authors who do not hesitate to give their own view, illustrating it from their extensive experimental and clinical experience.

This is the best book for the uninitiated, those preparing for a higher qualification in anaesthesia, and anyone wishing to refer to a point concerning halothane; no medical library should be without it.

J.W.M.

THE GYNAECOLOGIC PATIENT

The Gynecologic Patient. A psycho-endocrine study. By S. H. Sturgis and D. Menzer-Benaron. Pp. xviii + 243. Illustrated. \$7.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

This psycho-endocrine study is illustrated by many pertinent case histories and is presented in two sections. The first deals with functional gynaecologic problems with basic psychologic aetiology such as amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea and premenstrual tension. The second section is concerned with organic gynaecologic problems with secondary psychologic considerations and includes congenital anomalies, hysterectomy in benign uterine disease and infertility.

This book will be of interest to practising gynaecologists whose vision is not confined to the pelvis, and of particular value to those whose vision is so limited.

C.J.T.C.

OPHTHALMOLOGY

System of Ophthalmology, Vol. VII. The foundations of Ophthalmology — heredity, pathology, diagnosis, and therapeutics. Ed. by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder. Pp. xxii + 829. Illustrated. R14.00. London: Henry Kimpton. 1962.

The book contains a mine of information, including well-written accounts of the principles and physico-chemical basis

of heredity, of human genetics, of the nature of connective tissue and of 'auto-immunity', in addition to clinical examination of the eye and ocular therapeutics.

It includes up-to-date references to such subjects as ophthalmodynamometry in objectively assessing the efficacy of endarterectomy in carotid occlusion, and the possibility that posterior cortical cataract may develop after the long-continued administration of steroids.

However the size of the book and the mass of detail does raise the question of the precise role of a major modern textbook. The more the author is able to draw on his own personal experience and publications, the more acceptable the book becomes, but one realizes that there must unavoidably be chapters in which the editor is unable to make a personal contribution. If so, surely the literature presented should be critically evaluated and assessed, and not merely included to produce a massive tome? An unnecessary number of pages are devoted to, e.g. (i) serum therapy, quoting articles written 20-40 years ago; (ii) irrelevant drugs, such as yohimbine; and (iii) 'blood-letting'—yes—even including a paragraph on leeches; and many many other such examples. This book is likely to be a major reference volume to the medical profession, but perhaps its value would have been enhanced by drastic pruning of the material included.

M.H.

COSTING IN HOSPITALS

Costing and Efficiency in Hospitals. A critical survey of costing as an aid to the management of hospitals. By C. Montacute, LL.B., D.P.A. (Lond.), F.I.M.T.A., F.H.A. Pp. xv + 289. R2.50. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

In a well-written and easily readable book, the author has made a detailed study of hospital costing and its impact on administration. The survey includes a consideration of the relationship between standard costs and budgeting, an evaluation of costing in policy making, and the need for its appreciation by staff so that it may become an integral part of administration and not merely a financial exercise.

This book should find a place in every hospital library.

S.D.