

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

INTRACRANIAL TUMOURS

The Biology and Treatment of Intracranial Tumors. Ninth annual scientific meeting of the Houston Neurological Society, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas. Ed. by W. S. Fields, M.D. and P. C. Sharkey, M.D. Pp. xi + 505. Illustrated. \$15.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

The first half of this book, especially Chapters 2 and 6, by experts in tissue culture and histo-chemistry and by the pathologists, is closely knit and freshly informative. However, the second half is mainly mundane clinical and surgical expression.

The profound, challenging review of 20 years' experience in radiotherapy of intracranial neoplasm by Bouchard is different and should be studied (reference 1 on p. 350 should read 'vol. 72').

The overall material is adequate for symposia and should be available in large medical libraries, but hardly merits book form for individual ownership.

K.L.A.

RADIOGRAPHY FOR RADIOGRAPHERS

Care of the Patient in Diagnostic Radiography. By D. N. Chesney, Hon. F.S.R., T.E. and M. O. Chesney, F.S.R.,

T.E. Pp. x + 221. Illustrated. R3.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

The review of this pleasant little book should more correctly be found in a journal of radiography than in a journal of medicine. For it is written entirely for radiographers—particularly radiography students—by two teachers in charge of radiographic schools.

It is couched in essentially simple language; it is adequately illustrated and omits nothing from detailed discourses on the various sterile trays, tubes, syringes and contrast media required in the various specialized examinations which are likely to be carried out in an X-ray department.

It is doubtful if this book would be of any appreciable interest to radiologists, but to radiographers—especially students—it should prove of great assistance and should undoubtedly be read by them. And not only for examination purposes.

W.J.L.

QUALITY CONTROL OF DRUGS

The Quality Control of Pharmaceutical Preparations. Report on a European technical meeting, Warsaw, 29 May - 2 June 1961. Wld Hlth Org. techn.rep.ser., 249. Pp. 35. 35c. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1962. Available through Van Schaik's Bookstore, Pretoria.

This is the report of an international group of experts on the application of principles for the control of the quality of pharmaceutical preparations. The number of such preparations varies from hundreds to many thousands in different countries. The manufacturers are in the most favourable position to control their products, but a government control laboratory is necessary to inspect the control facilities, procedures and personnel.

This report reviews the general situation, discusses the responsibility of pharmaceutical manufacturers, the necessity for tests for the safety of new preparations, their examination, analysis and labelling, and the advantage of international non-proprietary names. It deals also with the organization of a national control authority.

N.S.

EPILEPTIC PERSONALITY

Personality in Epilepsy. By J. Guerrant, M.D., W. W. Anderson, M.D., A. Fischer, M.D., M. R. Weinstein, M.D., R. M. Jaros, M.D. and A. Deskins, Ph.D. Pp. xii + 112. \$6.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

The authors of this book have attempted to assess whether there are any grounds for differentiating an epileptic personality as an entity. They took three groups of patients—one group with 'idiopathic' grand mal, one group with psychomotor epilepsy and one group who had purely chronic medical illnesses.

Their findings are well documented but not very striking. The combined epileptic group showed slightly greater evidence of organic brain damage than did the medical group, and those with medical illnesses tended to be more neurotic than those with epilepsy. The epileptics were more aggressive and more negativistic than those with chronic medical illnesses, and had poorer adjustment to their families and employers.

These findings are not very startling, but the work will tend to correct vague impressions about the supposed gross degeneracy or complete normality of epileptic patients. It must always be kept in mind that groups are groups and individuals may be exceptional in almost any direction.

J.M.M.

ELECTROTHERAPY

Clayton's Electrotherapy and Actinotherapy. A textbook for student physiotherapists. 4th ed. By P. M. Scott, M.C.S.P., T.E.T., T.M.M.G. Pp. x + 371. Illustrated. R3.00, postage 20c. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1962.

The fourth edition of this book follows the general pattern of its forerunners.

Though the chapters on basic physics have been extensively revised, in common with most other books on electrotherapy, the method of presentation of the basic principles is open to criticism. Very probably this is due to the need to simplify, and possibly over-simplification has resulted; this in some cases leads to inaccuracy and consequent confusion.

The descriptions of techniques are easy to follow and the reactions claimed appear in the main to be compatible with current physiological thought. However it is a pity that no reference is made to published experimental work to substantiate or question some of the statements made, e.g. page 143: ACC > CCC; and page 304: the paragraph on vasodilatation. On the whole the book is a great improvement on previous editions and should be a useful addition to libraries in departments and schools of physiotherapy.

M.H.S.R.

TREATMENT OF FRACTURES

Modern Trends in Orthopaedics, 3. Fracture treatment. Ed. by J. M. P. Clark, M.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 259. Illustrated R6.25. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1962.

The outstanding feature of this compact volume is the simplicity of style used throughout. The recommendations are representative of a cross-section of current British opinion. The essay on 'Multiple injuries' is particularly interesting. Useful advice elsewhere is for routine radiology of the pelvis

in all cases of severe lower-limb injuries to obviate the missing of masked proximal injuries.

This is not intended to be a textbook, but a *vade mecum* for 'the man who is beginning to take the responsibility for the treatment of injuries'. It should also prove valuable to the postgraduate candidate for a final revision after textbook mastery has been attained.

N.R.

ANAESTHESIA

Halogenated Anaesthetics. Ed. by J. F. Artusio, jr. Pp. xi + 144. R4.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

The acceptance of halothane by anaesthetists throughout the world has stimulated interest in other fluorinated hydrocarbons, and this lovely book contains fine accounts of chloroform, trichlorethylene, fluroxene, halothane, methoxyflurane, tribromethanol and ethyl chloride. The monograph is actually the first of an annual triumvirate to be published under the title *Clinical Anaesthesia* in Philadelphia, Pa. Judging from this first-born specimen, the 'intensely clinical' and practical approach has been over-emphasized, and the historical and research aspects sometimes held to such a minimum as to be irritating. Thus, the air-blood distribution coefficient of methoxyflurane is repeatedly mentioned without any information about its actual figure or even whether it is high or low!

I am therefore particularly glad to have this chance of welcoming also the accompanying venture by Little, Brown and Company of Boston, Mass., to publish 4 annual issues of symposia called *International Anesthesiology Clinics* which will incorporate discussions by authorities in related specialties or the basic sciences. I strongly recommend these 'whole clinical subjects' to anaesthetists in all stages of their training and all medical libraries should subscribe to them.

J.W.M.

SKIN DISORDERS

Dermatologic Differential Diagnosis. By T. B. Fitzpatrick, M.D., Ph.D. and S. A. Walker, M.D. Pp. 335. Illustrated. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

Dermatology, in common with all other branches of medicine, has made considerable advances in the last decade. Unfortunately time allocated to the teaching of this vast subject to undergraduates in all universities is far too limited to prepare the future doctor for dealing adequately with the numerous dermatoses. These, according to world statistics, will comprise at least 12% of all medical conditions seen in his practice.

This view must have been uppermost in the minds of the authors when setting out the text of this book. As they state in their preface, this is 'not a textbook, but a field guide of dermatologic diagnosis'.

Section 1 is devoted to distribution pattern. Sections 2-3 are simplicity itself, easy to read and to understand, with cross-references for descriptions of skin lesions, which are concisely dealt with in section 6.

To the busy general practitioner I would like to recommend this book as a valuable addition to his library.

R.L.

BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE SKIN

Biochemistry of Skin in Health and Disease. By C. Carruthers, Ph.D. Pp. xviii + 263. Illustrated. \$9.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Carruthers provides summaries of nearly 500 quite recent articles on skin biochemistry, with 130 tables of chemical data derived from these papers. Few of these articles were written in languages other than English or appeared after 1959. A general biochemical background is assumed, and a knowledge of recent trends is needed to enable one to follow the text. The topics reviewed are arranged under appropriate chapters and headings, but there is not much attempt at integration.

G.H.F.

ACUTE POISONING

Handbook of Treatment of Acute Poisoning. 3rd ed. By E. H. Bensley, M.B.E., B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C), F.A.C.P. and G. E. Joron, B.A., M.D., C.M., F.A.C.P. Pp. xii + 227. R1.50. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

The text of this handbook is divided into two sections. Section I is devoted to basic principles, general plan and methods of treatment. Section II provides some details about different types of acute poisoning and their treatment. Common causes of poisoning are dealt with mainly. The emphasis is on emergency measures.

A list of contents for an emergency poison kit is given, as well as notes on the collection and preservation of samples for analysis.

The scope of this book is intentionally limited, but it will be helpful to physicians called upon suddenly to treat cases of acute poisoning.

N.S.

LYMPHOEDEMA

Lymphedema. Causes, complications and treatment of the

swollen extremity. By S. A. Zieman, M.D., M.A., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. Pp. v + 161. Illustrated. \$6.25. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

By a detailed and painstaking review from biblical times to the present, the author achieves his aim, which is 'to bring the subject of lymphedema in bold relief before the profession'.

Anatomy of the lymphatic system (based on modern lymphangiographic studies) and physiology of lymph production and flow are admirably described.

The account of the aetiology and pathology of lymphoedema highlights many facets of interest and importance to the general surgeon.

The numerous surgical procedures employed in the management of lymphoedema are reviewed, and the author's method of needle lymphangioplasty is described.

There is a useful section on the technique of lymphangiography.

References are given throughout, as well as a complete bibliography.

With the new frontier of reconstruction operations on the lymphatic system in the offing, a monograph of this sort is timely.

L.B.