

FAT EMBOLISM

Fat Embolism. By S. Sevitt, M.D., M.Sc., M.A., F.R.C.P.I. D.P.H. Pp. x + 233. Illustrated. R6.27. London and Durban: Butterworth & Co. 1962.

This is the first monograph on fat embolism in English, long overdue in the traumatic environment of today. The author, as pathologist to the Birmingham Accident Hospital for the past 15 years, is well equipped for the task. All aspects are dealt with, from the history in the first chapter to medico-legal in the last.

The outlook of this monograph is essentially practical, but is based on the results of a scientific and judicial evaluation of the literature and the author's own extensive experience. He stresses that, while fat embolism can originate in sites other than bones, it is important as a rule only when it comes from bones, and that while fat embolism is most frequently seen in the lungs, it is only in the brain that it produces serious symptoms and death. Two of the 13 chapters are concerned with clinical aspects and prognosis and treatment, and this monograph should have a wide field of usefulness to clinician and pathologist alike.

The format is small and compact, and the volume has as much in it as those many times its size and weight. It loses nothing in readability from this, but some of the illustrations suffer from the reduction. There is a full bibliography and index.

It is strongly recommended to pathologists, specialists in forensic medicine, and surgeons, especially orthopaedic surgeons. J.G.T.

PLASTIC EYE SURGERY

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of the Eye and Adnexa. Papers presented to the First International Symposium of the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. Ed. by R. C. Troutman, M.D., J. M. Converse, M.D. and B. Smith, M.D. Pp. xx + 305. Illustrated. R7.00. Washington and Durban: Butterworth. 1962.

This is a series of papers presented to the First International Symposium of the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital. It contains contributions by such well-known ophthalmic plastic surgeons as Joaquin Barraquer, Francis Burian, Père Gabarro, D. Ralph Millard, Sir Benjamin Rycroft and Edmund Spaeth, to name but a few.

These papers are loosely arranged under the headings: tissue transplantation and foreign implants, general principles of plastic surgical operating techniques, tumours and fractures of the orbit, congenital and developmental abnormalities and trauma, the face and lids, and the cornea in plastic surgery.

Most of the contributions are merely the summaries of papers presented. This would probably make the articles difficult to follow for the interested, but unenlightened, reader and too sketchy for the surgeon who practises this kind of surgery and is seeking technical details. For such surgeons further study of a particular subject is impossible, since few of the articles are accompanied by bibliographies. There are also papers in the original French and Spanish with no English summary or a totally inadequate one. Some of the

German contributions have not had the English edited, and one reads of an eyelid angle 'deplaced' from one position to another (p. 116).

I cannot agree with 'the early publication of this volume' as lauded in the preface. The book is disappointing because the obviously excellent material has been too hastily and haphazardly thrown together. W.D.F.M.

RADIOISOTOPE INVESTIGATION OF BONE CONDITIONS

Radioisotopes and Bone. A symposium organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences established under the joint auspices of UNESCO and WHO. Ed. by F. C. McLean, P. Lacroix and A. M. Budy. Pp. xxiii + 522. Illustrated. R7.75. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

This volume is the report of the Proceedings of an International Symposium held in Princetown in 1960. The symposium was held in order that research workers in numerous laboratories could meet and exchange information on the use of radioactive isotopes in the investigation of various bone conditions. The papers presented deal with physiology, chemistry, histology and pathology of bone, but only the conditions that can be investigated by isotopes are considered. The subjects include autoradiography, calcium and phosphorus metabolism, the fate of bone grafts, age changes, etc.

This book is an excellent reference for all those interested in the physiology and pathology of bone. It is not, however, a clinical volume, but there are chapters which are of interest to clinicians.

The volume is well illustrated and the plates are clear. In addition, each chapter is followed by a summary and a report of the group discussion after the presentation.

The book ends with a complete bibliography.

A.J.H.H.

DIABETES FOR DIABETICS

How to Live with Diabetes. By H. Dolger, M.D. and B. Seeman. Pp. 160. R1.50. London: Museum Press. 1963.

I like this book enormously. It is well and interestingly written for diabetic patients, liberally interspersed with historical allusions and, as far as I can make out, entirely reliable information. The many practical discussions and explanations seem uniformly excellent. Here the diabetic will find the answers to his questions and will understand the reasons.

This is not primarily a practical manual—it does not contain detailed instructions for the care of the feet or exact diets—but it provides a basis for understanding. There is one brief paragraph on page 49 which is highly exceptionable: 'Obese patients should have their weight reduced to normal. A 1,200 calorie diet usually is enough to do this. Where a weight-reducing diet weakens a patient, it might be better for him to take insulin, or an oral drug, and relax the diet'.

Expunge this where relevant, and give the book to your patients (or their parents). W.P.U.J.

ECZEMA

Eczema. Its nature, cure, and prevention. By A. Bobroff, M.D. Pp. xviii + 244. \$9.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

That all patients with eczema can be cured in two weeks, provided they wish to be cured, is the theme of this book. The mainstay of the author's treatment is the use of crushed-ice compresses to stop itching. Unfortunately, one's confidence in the author is a little shaken by his writing that lichen planus and dermatitis herpetiformis are forms of eczema. This is a highly personal book with many references to classical writings, but with very few to current medical literature. S.S.

COSMETICS AND THE SKIN

Cosmetic Chemistry for Dermatologists. By E. G. Klarmann, Sc.D., D.Sc. (Hon.), Ch.E. Pp. vii + 126. \$5.75. Springfield, Ill.; Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Despite the title, this book should be read by all general practitioners and students. Cosmetics are in such wide demand today that a knowledge of the basic chemistry involved in their manufacture is a prerequisite in the investigation and treatment of the dermatoses which they occasionally cause. Brevity is here well combined with clarity in presenting the essentials of the subject. S.S.