

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

### NURSES' MEDICINE SUMMARIZED

*A Summary of Medicine for Nurses.* 4th ed. By R. G. Cooke, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Pp. 154. 95c. London: Faber & Faber Ltd. 1963.

A short concise booklet briefly giving the causes, symptoms and treatment of the more common diseases.

It does not claim to be a textbook of medicine for nurses, but just a summary to help the junior nursing trainee to have some idea of a new ward patient admitted with a diagnosis. It is useful and informative, and has been revised with modern developments. L.B.

### BILHARZIASIS

*Bilharziasis.* A Ciba Foundation symposium. Ed. by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. and M. O'Connor, B.A. Pp. xiii + 432. Illustrated. R6.00. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1962.

In 1962 the Ciba Foundation organized a symposium in Cairo about bilharziasis to commemorate the centenary of the death of Theodor Maximilian Bilharz. This book gives the full text of the papers delivered at the symposium by internationally well-known authorities on the subject. Modern aspects of research on bilharziasis are thoroughly discussed. The spirit of collaboration in the event will be evident to any reader of this book. H.D.B.

### DISORDERS OF THE ADRENAL CORTEX

*Adrenocortical Disorders.* A guide to diagnosis. By H. Miller, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P. and J. A. Durant, B.Sc. Pp. 70. R1.50. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1962.

Much information has been packed into this small volume. The chemistry, biosynthesis, metabolism and pharmacology of the adrenal cortex occupies just six short pages in all—as one might expect, the presentation is too superficial to be

valuable. The authors waste space by including a detailed account of the 'Kepler-Robinson-Power' test, which, they say, is 'widely used'. They also advocate the use of corticotrophin gel rather than intravenous ACTH as a test of adrenocortical responsiveness. These and other questionable statements make one unwilling to recommend this book. R.H.

### HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

*Hospital Administration.* By G. A. Robinson. Pp. xiii + 480. R7.23. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1962.

A competent hospital administrator must have a sound knowledge of all the departments in the institution of which he is in charge.

The author of this well-written and carefully computed book has scrupulously detailed the many facts and facets necessary to make possible and successful the administration of an organization that functions 24 hours a day for 7 days a week.

This book should be read by every would-be hospital administrator as well as by anyone (medical and non-medical) who has to do with hospital administration. As a work of reference it is a must. S.D.

### CHILD SURGERY

*Surgery of Childhood.* Ed. by J. J. M. Brown, O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Pp. xii + 1302. Illustrated. R20.00. London: Edward Arnold. 1962.

Twenty-seven selected authors, paediatric surgeons, general surgeons with an interest in paediatric surgery, and specialists in various fields have combined to give an account of the wide field of the surgery of infancy and childhood. Emphasis is placed on the clinical features and diagnosis, and the treatment in conditions peculiar to childhood is described in detail.

In most instances references to important papers are quoted as sources of valuable information. The chapters on ortho-



paediatric surgery are particularly good. However, in the section on acute haematogenous osteitis, the particular author states that bone drilling is rarely necessary and quotes the series of three hospitals in Scotland, the highest figure being 212 cases in 15 years. In the series reported from the paediatric surgical unit of the University of Cape Town, over 300 cases were treated in 5 years, and drilling of the bone is advocated as the treatment of choice.

The illustrations are good and the print excellent. This book breaches the gap between the *Essentials of Paediatric Surgery* by Nixon and the two volumes on *Paediatric Surgery* by the American authors, Benson *et al.* It will be of value to undergraduates, postgraduates and all those who have to care for the injured or sick infant and child.

S.C.

#### PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS

*Research Approaches to Psychiatric Problems*: a symposium. Ed. by T. T. Tourlentes, M.D., S. L. Pollack, M.D. and H. E. Himwich, M.D. Pp. ix + 238. Illustrated. \$5.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

This is a symposium on biological, sociological and psychological approaches to psychiatric problems which was held at the Galesburg State Research Hospital, USA.

The contributors are all eminent workers in their own field of research, and the result is a stimulating purview of the great activity in psychiatric research and the productiveness of multidisciplinary collaboration.

This approach is likely to break down the dichotomy of the psyche *versus* soma attitude and the opposition between the geneticists and environmentalists.

Nobody who is a serious student of human behaviour can afford to ignore this little book, which is packed with relevant information.

M.V.B.

#### ERITROPOIESE

*Erythropoiesis*. Ed. by L. O. Jacobson, M.D. and M. Doyle, Ph.D. Pp. xv + 399. \$6.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

Hierdie boek sal seker van groot waarde wees vir die laboratoriumwerker op hierdie gebied. Dit bevat egter niks vir die klinikus nie.

Die publikasie in sy geheel is die gevolg van 'n simposium wat gedurende 1962 in San Francisco gehou was. Die doel daarvan was om die verskillende navorsers op die gebied van eritropoïetien byeen te kry teneinde hulle werksmetodes en resultate te bespreek.

Dit sou onmoontlik wees om 'n opsomming te gee van die groot aantal bydraes. Dit is egter duidelik dat daar baie intensief gewerk word en dat daar alreeds veel ontdek is in verband met die stof eritropoïetien. Die boek handel oor metodes van standardisering van eritropoïetien, asook oor suiveringsprosedures en die chemie van hierdie stof. Daar is ook heelwat aangebied in verband met die ontstaan en die metabiese lotgeval van hierdie hormoon. Daar is ook studies in verband met die verhouding van eritropoïetien tot anemie en polisitemie asook tot renale afwykings en sistiese tumore.

Dit blyk dat daar waarskynlik meer as een eritropoïetiese faktor is en dat die fisiologiese uitwerking en die direkte effek van eritropoïetien nog maar baie duister is.

Klaarblyklik is hier nog 'n baie belangrike navorsingsgebied en die beskikbaarstelling van die werk en beskouings deur die verskeie navorsers deur middel van hierdie boek, sal seker baie bydra om verdere ontwikkeling te bespoedig.

A.J.B.

#### NUTRITION AND REPRODUCTION

*The Nutrition Basis of Reproduction*. By J. W. Millen, M.D., D.Sc. Pp. + 125. \$5.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas 1962

Nutritional factors relating to reproduction, sterility, fertility, malformation and disorders of pregnancy are discussed in relation to animal and human studies. The difference between the two is clearly brought out in well-defined and summarized chapters. Review of the extensive literature is,

however, stereotyped, and could have been much more critical and stimulating.

The paucity of good investigation of pregnancy among the malnourished in recent years (as opposed to war-time famine conditions) should be a challenge to the young obstetrician in developing and underdeveloped communities. This book could be a start to his reading.

J.D.L.H.

#### CLINICAL PAPERS

*Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 5, No. 4*. Compound and complex presentations—ed. by S. J. Behrman, M.D.; Premalignant lesions of the female genital tract and breast—ed. by R. W. Kistner, M.D. Pp. 931 - 1230. Illustrated. Published quarterly, subscription \$18.00 per annum. New York: Hoeber Medical Division. 1962.

This book is part of a series in which the issues appear every three months. Each issue contains one obstetrical and one gynaecological symposium, which in this volume are 'Compound and complex presentations' and 'Premalignant lesions of the female genital tract and breast'.

The general standard of the work is that of postgraduate level. The different articles contributed by separate authors are well supplied with illustrations where these are called for. As can be expected, the general standard of excellence of these articles is not uniformly maintained, but on the whole this volume is a good representative of a series worthy of regular consultation. It may be added that the editor of the obstetric section, Professor Behrman, is a graduate of the University of Cape Town.

E.M.S.

#### THE PSYCHE IN FEMALE DISORDERS

*Psychosomatic Obstetrics, Gynecology and Endocrinology*. Including diseases of metabolism. Ed. by W. S. Kroger, M.D. Pp. xxv + 820. \$19.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

In many obstetric and gynaecologic disorders the hypothesis of 'either/or' psychogenic *versus* organic disease being present is being replaced by the 'both' concept.

This is the latest of many recent publications on this aspect from the USA; in Great Britain Prof. N. Morris and Dr. Desmond O'Neill have pioneered a similar combined approach. The subject matter varies widely from the 'Effect of maternal emotions on foetal development' to 'New perspectives in obesity: integrated approach', and this diversity proves a disadvantage in that emphasis on important practical aspects is often lacking. There are excellent chapters on the psychosomatic aspects of habitual abortion, infertility, and menstrual disorders. For the gynaecologist and general practitioner there is much of interest and value.

C.J.T.C.

#### PATIENT DOSAGE IN RADIOLOGY

*Technological Needs for Reduction of Patient Dosage from Diagnostic Radiology*. A symposium. Ed. by M. L. Janower. Pp. xviii + 339. Illustrated. \$6.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This book presents the papers read, as well as the subsequent discussions, at a symposium on 18 different aspects of the subject. It fulfils a long-felt need in that it deals exclusively with the technical aspects of the reduction of radiation dosage to patients as opposed to the staff engaged with the work. It contains some very informative and useful data as well as an excellent bibliography, which should simplify and stimulate a deeper study of all the aspects covered. It is recommended to students and others actively engaged in diagnostic radiology since it deals with conventional equipment and also indicates the trend of future developments and research in this field.

P.L.M. le R.



## INTESTINAL BIOPSY

*Intestinal Biopsy.* Ciba Foundation Study Group no. 14. Ed. by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. and M. P. Cameron, M.A. Pp. 120. Illustrated. R1.50. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1962.

This concise and authoritative booklet covers the proceedings of a symposium on intestinal biopsy, held under the auspices of the Ciba Foundation. It includes chapters on the histological and electron-microscopic appearances of normal and abnormal intestinal mucosa, and the features of coeliac disease, idiopathic steatorrhoea and tropical sprue are considered in fascinating detail. The monograph is well-edited, and numerous excellent illustrations help make it easily readable. It should be of value to all those interested in the pathological and clinical details of small bowel disorder.

I.N.M.

## DRUG THERAPY

*The Year Book of Drug Therapy.* (1962 - 1963 Year Book Series.) Ed. by H. Beckman, M.D. Pp. 648. Illustrated. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1963.

This annual volume is always most welcome and never arrives too soon. There are, as usual, the numerous abstracts of a wide variety of articles from scattered sources throughout medical literature, and the now classical short and often cutting editorial comments. Professor Beckman repeatedly calls for controlled clinical trials, and condemns the use of shot-gun preparations. A new feature in the book is a long section entitled 'Precautions', in which the side-actions, actual and potential toxicities, and contraindications of drugs in current use are presented. This is a most important section, and in itself makes the book most valuable.

N.S.