

POLIOMYELITIS CONVALESCENT PHASE

The Recovery from Poliomyelitis. A study of the convalescent phase. By M. Singer, M.B., Ch.B. (Cape Town), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and P. Rose-Innes, M.B., Ch.B. (Cape Town). Pp. viii+106. Illustrated. R2.50. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

This excellently produced book does great credit to its authors and bears all the hallmarks of a classic. Owing to the widespread adoption of vaccine immunization against poliomyelitis, epidemics of this disease are, in future, likely to be rare occurrences. This monograph records, in succinct and direct language, the experience that has accumulated as a result of managing what may well come to be remembered as one of the last great epidemics to be suffered by a country possessing modern orthopaedic facilities.

The senior author, who was appointed Surgeon-in-Charge of the Poliomyelitis Unit of the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town, has brought to his subject a great deal of orthopaedic experience, which is reflected on every page. This is coupled with a happy ability to be able to see clearly what his objectives happen to be and to make direct moves towards attaining them. With the assistance of his Senior Registrar he has made a record of the vast amount of work that has gone into treating and rehabilitating a group of children who were stricken in the epidemic of 1956-7.

All the forms of treatment used in each phase of the disease are described, and common sense is reflected in every statement. As a guide to those who may encounter such an epidemic in future, the book is likely to be invaluable. The treatment of respiratory paralysis is fully covered and the means adopted to enable muscular recovery to take place with the minimum of permanent loss of power are described.

Of particular value are the methods devised to enable a relatively small personnel of physiotherapists and nurses to handle large numbers of cases. The simple but effective methods used to prevent contractures and to conserve the maximum strength of the non-paralysed groups of muscles are described in detail—they need not necessarily be complicated or expensive methods. It is for this particular reason that the book is likely to be of permanent value; it may well become the vade-mecum of anybody who is faced with a similar problem.

While nothing very startling emerges it is clear that, as a result of the devoted and organized application of orthodox orthopaedic measures, combined with intelligent improvisation, much can be done to save the community from what

could easily have become an intolerable burden of permanent economic cripples.

The format and printing and the numerous clear illustrations are a credit both to the photographer and to the publisher.

T. S.

ANAESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA

Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia. 9th ed. Ed. by C. L. Hewer, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 358. Illustrated. R5.00. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1963.

The first edition of *Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia*, edited by C. Langton Hewer, appeared in 1932. The present edition is the ninth, and it maintains the very high standard of its predecessors in summarizing the growth of knowledge in the rapidly expanding field of anaesthetics.

In this edition, the editor has called upon a panel of 11 well-known authorities in what may be termed sub-specialities of anaesthesia, to contribute. The result is excellent, for in this book one finds detailed reference and sound comment on practically every advance in anaesthesia over the past five years. Of the 11 sections, that dealing with muscle relaxants is most outstanding, and the chapter on obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia and resuscitation of the newborn should do much to stimulate new interest in this somewhat neglected field.

This is an excellent symposium for the specialist anaesthetist, and a sound source of reference to any recent development in anaesthetics.

A.B.B.

GENETIC ADVANCES

Progress in Medical Genetics, vol. II. Ed. by A. G. Steinberg, Ph.D. and A. G. Bearn, M.D. Pp. v + 378. Illustrated. \$12.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

This is not a textbook for beginners; the content is specialized, with the emphasis on recent advances in the widening arena of medical genetics. As in volume I, each chapter deals with a specific subject and each is handled by an authority in the field. Polymorphism among the plasma proteins and the hereditary aminoacidurias are comprehensively considered. Ophthalmogenetics, the genetics of antibody formation and the hereditary component in auto-immune diseases, are of clinical interest. Sections on chromosomal aberrations in mammals and a review of mammalian genetics provide a valuable counterpart to human studies.

I.F.A.

PAIN IN MAN AND ANIMALS

The Assessment of Pain in Man and Animals. The proceedings of an international symposium held under the auspices of UFAW (the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, 26-28 July 1961. Ed. by C. A. Keele, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.P., F.C.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. and R. Smith, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O. Pp. xi + 324. Illustrated. R3.00. London: Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. 1962.

This book has the merits and demerits of most symposia. It presents the views held in 1961 by each of a strong international team of research scientists, but it lacks the unity of a monograph or even of a standard textbook. The difficulty of communication of ideas on a subjective phenomenon such as pain is apparent, but the members of the symposium make a creditable effort to use the same linguistic terms as each other and in the same sense. The physiology of pain in man and animals is considered from both the theoretical and the practical aspects, and useful guidance is given on the conduct and interpretation of experiments involving pain. The book presents concisely much information that will be of value to workers in this field of investigation. A.W.S.

CHILD HEALTH

Preventive Pediatrics. Child health and development. By P. A. Harper. Pp. xiv + 798. Illustrated. \$14.95. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1962.

'The purpose of this book then is to bring together in one place as much as possible of the information and research which are pertinent to the health supervision of growing children and to describe the health services which are or should be available to them . . .'

' . . . the audience of this book was to be all physicians and public health workers who care for and provide services to children and their families . . . ' It deals with the normal and with problems, not diseases, and is a mine of information and of modern references. It should be welcomed, not only by paediatricians and medical libraries, but also by general practitioners and those engaged in education. F.J.F.

NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Neurological Examination in Clinical Practice. By E. R. Bickerstaff, M.D. (Birm.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. x + 357. Illustrated. R5.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

Many doctors find the neurological assessment of their patients difficult. Thus they tend to avoid or curtail this aspect of physical examination. An attempt to entice them into more de-

tailed observation of their patients is made in this book.

The author not only describes the different aspects of neurological examination, but also analyses them and illustrates them with excellent photographs. He includes special sections on the examination of children and comatose patients. He also discusses the indications for special investigations and outlines their general principles. This is a delightful book—it communicates clearly and precisely, and packs a mass of information into its 335 pages. F.R.A.

POISONS

Poisoning. Chemistry, symptoms, treatments. By J. M. Arena, M.D. Pp. xvii + 440. \$16.75. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The problem of poisoning is of increasing importance. General practitioners and paediatricians are more and more being called upon to deal with poisons of all types. In this comprehensive volume the doctor will find not only the general diagnostic considerations and principles of treatment, but also much other information.

In addition to details about individual poisons there are long lists of insecticides, rodenticides, fumigants, cosmetics, poisonous plants and animals, drugs, and chemicals used in industry. There are nearly 40 pages listing occupational hazards. The final chapter provides material of educational value to the physician and layman, and a guide to the organization of a poison centre; in 1961 there were 460 poison-control centres in the USA. This book is certainly an important contribution, and worth having. N.S.

DIABETES

Disorders of Carbohydrate Metabolism. Proceedings of a conference held in London at the Royal College of Physicians of London, 30-31 March 1962. Ed. by D. A. Pyke, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. 248. Illustrated. R2.50. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1962.

This book contains a really first-rate, up-to-date, presentation of the work in connection with and attitude towards, diabetes in Britain. Part of it is hard going and largely theoretical and experimental; part is simple exposition of practice. The discussion following each relevant section is invaluable. I do not for one minute agree with all that is presented here, but it is well and clearly set out and worth reading by anyone with any interest in diabetes.

I do not wish to single out any special contributions, but it is gratifying to observe how much interest is now being shown in the general state of 'prediabetes'. This subject enters into several chapters and is indeed given one chapter entirely to itself. How different from 10 years ago! W.P.U.J.