

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

SKULL TOMOGRAPHY

The Interpretation of Tomograms of the Head. An atlas. By M. L. Daves, M.D. and W. E. Loechel. Pp. xvii + 248. Illustrated. \$17.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This book is essentially an atlas of normal anatomy of the human skull and its contents but with the difference that it concerns itself with the appearances of successive layers $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. thick. The skull is sectioned in four planes, sagittal, coronal, basal and oblique. The information is then presented as follows:

1. A tomogram of the skull before section with the ventricles filled with air.
2. An X-ray picture of each slab after section of the skull.
3. A labelled drawing of the same section.

The information obtained has a special value in tomography and for this purpose the investigation was undertaken. Because of shrinkage of tissue in preservation the information is probably not accurate in respect of the depth of the particular section as measured, but it is accurate with regard to the structures in any one section.

The book will have a real value for the radiologist who uses tomography extensively; those who don't, should.

Of the standard of the book production, suffice it to say that it is a Charles C. Thomas publication. L.W.

NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY

Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry, Vol. XVII. Ed. by E. A. Spiegel, M.D. Pp. xiv + 607. \$14.00. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

This hardy and very useful annual has appeared again with its usual profusion of facts reviewing the literature for the previous year. On the psychiatric side it is, at times, much more than a report, but rather a well-digested review of all the new work. This has resulted in some outstanding sections, among them, those on the psychotropic drugs, psychiatry and the law, and psychosomatic medicine.

The neurology and neurosurgery sections are equally well reviewed and constitute a veritable hoard of useful material. There are also considerable sections on the basic sciences — neuro-anatomy, neuro-physiology, neuro-pathology and neuro-pharmacology. A welcome section is devoted to rehabilitation procedures.

All in all, this is a useful guide to the recent literature, and an indicator of the newest ideas, trends and techniques.

L.S.G.

ELECTROMYOGRAPHY

Muscles Alive. Their functions revealed by electromyography. By J. V. Basmajian, M.D. Pp. xi + 267. Illustrated. R6.80, postage 30c. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1962.

This frivolous title conceals a most interesting and informative book on the more recent advances in electromyography. The history of muscle testing is well described. The book concerns itself essentially with the application of electromyography as a probe into the problems of those muscle groups whose function has always presented certain enigmas to both the clinician and the anatomist.

Recent work by the author on the activity of anti-gravity musculature, its bearing on tonus, and its close integration with the inert tissues such as ligaments and capsule joint structures, confirms the earlier work carried out by Joseph. This book is of particular interest to orthopaedic surgeons, specialists in physical medicine, ear, nose, and throat surgeons and ophthalmologists, but is of general interest to anyone who is concerned with the function of muscle, whether academically or clinically.

The book is well produced and well illustrated, and quotations are substantiated by a liberal list of references.

C.W.C.

CHILD PSYCHIATRY

Child Psychiatry and the General Practitioner. Diagnosis and treatment of emotional diseases of childhood. Ed. by A. J. Krakowski, M.D. and D. A. Santora. Pp. x + 190. \$5.75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This book reflects the increasing recognition of the important role of the general practitioner in the prevention and early treatment of mental illness. It is not a textbook. Each of the 12 contributors writing about special problem areas does so in his individual style and adds his personal experience. This makes it an interesting and stimulating book which should be read by psychiatrists as well as general practitioners.

M.V.B.

KNEE INJURIES

Injuries of the Knee Joint. 3rd ed. By I. S. Smillie, O.B.E., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.F.P.S. Pp. x + 536. Illustrated. R9.00, postage 35c. Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

The third edition of this comprehensive monograph has been expanded and largely re-written. Based on personal records of 5,000 meniscectomies, among other conditions, this contribution from one of the world's leading authorities more than fulfils one's anticipation. The book is well produced and generously illustrated.

An erudite discussion of the pathogenesis and morbid anatomy of meniscus injuries makes absorbing reading. Altogether 100 pages are devoted to the author's approach to osteochondritis dissecans, which is at once radical and conservative.

Much of the material is provocative, but the book is essential reading for postgraduate students and orthopaedic surgeons.

A.W.B.H.

OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

The Year Book of the Ear, Nose and Throat. (1961-1962 Year Book Series) Ed. by J. R. Lindsay, M.D. Section on maxillofacial surgery ed. by D. M. Lierle, M.D. and W. C. Huffman, M.D. Pp. 342. Illustrated: \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1962.

This Year Book is up to the usual high standard of its predecessors. It incorporates many of the new diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and advances in this specialty. The subject matter has been clearly written and adds a deal of useful information by well-chosen abstracts from recent literature.

The best summary of the year's literature has been made available in this handy book of reference. The editor is to be congratulated on having presented yet another volume containing readily assimilable information for those concerned with the practice of otorhinolaryngology.

H.C.W.

BLOOD VOLUME IN SURGERY

Blood Volume Dynamics. Studies in surgical disease. By H. A. Davis, M.D., C.M., Ph.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xiii + 146. \$7.00. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

The modern surgeon is frequently faced with the necessity of operating upon patients suffering from gross disturbances of fluid balance. In this book the author provides detailed evidence of marked changes in blood volume occurring in both acute and chronic surgical disease, and points out the futility of attempting to assess these changes clinically. The importance of blood-volume studies is clearly shown. A large amount of information is presented, including several new concepts of blood volume and its maintenance, and formulae for accurate prediction. Practical aspects of methodology are included.

This excellent book should be read, not only by the research worker, but by every practising surgeon.

W.M.R.