

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### ALDOSTERONE

*Aldosterone.* An international symposium, Nijmegen, 15 April 1961. Pp. 100. Hfl.12.50. Haarlem: De Erven F. Bohn, 1962.

This volume consists of papers delivered at a small symposium on aldosterone held almost 2 years ago. The 9 papers deal with facets ranging from the regulation of secretion of this hormone to techniques of determining it, as well as its clinical effects and the influence of antagonists. Most of the papers report an original observation; that of Gross on extrarenal effects of aldosterone is almost a review article. The most valuable part of such a symposium is generally the informal discussion — this is reported very scantily.

The important information of this conference has already been incorporated into textbooks. The purchase of this book can thus hardly be recommended.

R.H.

### STATISTIESE METODEDES

*Statistical Methods in Clinical and Preventive Medicine.* By Sir A. B. Hill, C.B.E., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Pp. viii + 610. Illustrated. R6.30, postage 25c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

Die skrywer van hierdie boek het veel gedoen om aan geneeskundiges die waarde van statistiese ontleding tuis te bring. Hierdie samevatting van sy beskouings en van werk waarin hy betrokke was, behoort sorgvuldig nagegaan te word.

Die boek word in drie dele behandel: Die eerste gaan oor die eenvoudige tog streng gekontroleerde kliniese proewe in verband met terapeutiese aangeleenthede. Daar word aangetoon hoe waardevol die statistiese eksperiment kan wees in teenstelling met eenvoudige waarnemings. Die noodsaaklikheid van goed opgestelde kontrolegroepe is uiters belangrik. Die faktore wat die aantal pasiënte wat gebruik word, be-

invloed, die eienskappe van die behandelde groep en die kontrolegroep, die toekenning van pasiënte aan een of ander groep sonder vooroordeel en die versekering van objektiewe metings, word veral beklemtoon. In hierdie deel volg daar dan interessante hoofstukke wat handel oor proewe met die gebruik van streptomisien by tuberkulose, antihistamien behandeling in die gewone verkoue, die gebruik van kortisoon en aspirien by rumatoïde artritis en oor antistolbeheer in gevalle van serebrovaskulêre ongelukke.

Die tweede deel van die boek gaan oor soortgelyke proewe en waarnemings in die gebruik van entstowwe en daar is hoofstukke wat gewy word aan kinkhoes, B.C.G.-entstof en Asiatische influensa-entstof.

Deel drie is myns insiens die mees interessante een, beskou uit die oogpunt van 'n internis. Dit gaan veral oor die epidemiologie en etiologie van siektes. Hier is eksperiment feitlik onmoontlik en moet die waarnemings in verband met die siekte sorgvuldig ontleed word. Die vernuf waarmee hierdie spuurwerk uitgevoer word en die oortuigende gevolgtrekkings in sommige instansies is stimulerend en maak hierdie aspek van die geneeskunde self opwindend.

Die statistiese ontleding in verband met die verhouding tussen die rookgewoonte en longkanker word goed aangebied en die gevolgtrekkings in verband met die rol wat rook speel by hierdie siekte is oortuigend.

Die slothoofstuk is 'n herdenkingslesing aan John Snow wat met die verbasendste en noukeurigste oplettheid en met groot persoonlike koste en ongerief, die aard van verspreiding van cholera in Londen tussen die jare 1849 en 1855 tot so 'n mate uitgepluis het dat hierdie gevreesde siekte uitgewis kon word.

Dit is duidelik dat Bradford Hill vir ons 'n nuwe instrument leer gebruik in die geneeskunde wat sy eie plek reeds meer as volstaan tot diens van die siekes.

A.J.B.

#### EARLY CARCINOMA OF THE CERVIX UTERI

*The Diagnosis of Early Carcinoma of the Cervix.* A practical handbook. By S. Way, F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vii + 100. Illustrated. R3.00. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

The clinical aspects of taking and the laboratory aspects of preparing smears for cytological assessment are simply but well documented. The technique of cone biopsy is described in detail. Reference is made to the methods of treating early carcinoma of the cervix.

This is a practical handbook, and the clear text and the many illustrations are easily followed. (I read it in one sitting of less than an hour and a half.) I consider that this work should be read by all medical students, all general practitioners, all gynaecologists and all who work in cytology laboratories. In its own way it is a masterpiece and is, I am sure, destined for many reprintings.

C.J.T.C.

#### PAEDIATRIC X-RAY EXAMINATION

*Radiography of Infants and Children.* By D. B. Darling, M.D. Pp. xv + 193. Illustrated. \$16.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

Radiography of infants is apparently quite simple. The patients wriggle so much that all that can be done, after applying lead-rubber protection where necessary, is to aim the central ray in the general direction of the part to be examined. A standard work on radiography deals only with adult patients so perhaps there is some reason for the attitude. As for children over 5 years of age, they often cooperate as adults do.

Darling and his chief technician, J. B. Anthony, take the subject further, inspired by Caffey, who writes the foreword. They show the importance of aids to immobilization, such as heavy sandbags, cellulose sponge, perspex plates, transparent plastic bucky bands, bandages, etc. They are always mindful of radiation hazard, and should a film be overexposed, the examination is not repeated but the film salvaged by means of the LogEtron. With organization these methods can be used in the busiest outpatient session.

Altogether this is a manual of radiography to inspire those engaged in paediatric X-ray practice.

L.W.

#### INTERNAL IRRADIATION

*Some Aspects of Internal Irradiation.* Proceedings of a symposium held at The Homestead, Heber, Utah, 8 - 11 May 1961. Ed. by T. F. Dougherty, W. S. S. Jee, C. W. Mays and B. J. Stover. Pp. xviii + 529. Illustrated. R10.00. Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1962.

This fascinating book covers a wide range of subjects having internal irradiation as their meeting point. There are very few reviews on this subject, and the contents of this book represent the subject matter of a symposium held in 1961. Perhaps of the widest interest are the contribution by Furth and Yokoro on the role of hormones in radiation carcinogenesis, and Faber's excellent account of the clinical effects of thorium dioxide injection (thorotrast).

There are also sections, with many contributors, on internal irradiation of the dog and on <sup>90</sup>Sr toxicity. Some of these chapters are of interest to those concerned with public health, pathology, radiobiology, and radiotherapy. There is also a section on dosimetry. A valuable specialist book for medical libraries and those with special interests.

R.S.

#### MODERN SURGICAL TRENDS

*Modern Trends in Surgery.* 1. Ed. by W. T. Irvine, B.Sc., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Pp. vii + 307. Illustrated. R6.55. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1962.

In this book recognized authorities have contributed to subjects of current surgical interest. Although it does not review the whole field of general surgery, all major recent advances are dealt with, not only as far as operative techniques are concerned, but also in selection of patients for operation and pre- and postoperative management.

The subject matter has been well chosen and covers such debatable topics as selective surgery in the treatment of duodenal ulcer; the treatment of complete prolapse of the rectum; the place of operative cholangiography; the surgical management of chronic pancreatitis; methods of treating portal hypertension; and the treatment of cancer of the breast.

Present methods of investigating and treating vascular disease, including renal-artery stenosis, are authoritatively discussed, and an informative chapter on renal transplantation has been included. The problems of fluid balance, massive blood transfusion and wound infection, which are of such great importance to most surgeons, are dealt with at length, and there are useful chapters on hypothermia and perfusion of malignant tumours with cytotoxic drugs. A special chapter on wound healing rounds off this comprehensive review of what is new in surgery.

This is an excellent book for bringing the busy surgeon right up to date with current surgical thought and is strongly recommended to all practising surgeons.

J.H.L.

#### GERIATRIC NURSING

*Geriatric Nursing.* A study of the work of geriatric ward staff. By G. F. Adams, M.D., F.R.C.P. and P. L. McIlwraith, A.M.I.P.E. Pp. xix + 77. Illustrated. 75c. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1963.

Geriatric wards in acute hospitals, where elderly patients can undergo investigation or active treatment and rehabilitation, are innovations in hospital services. This publication gives the results of an investigation carried out on the geriatric nursing problem in Wakehurst House and other institutions in Northern Ireland. The conclusions are very informative and sound and establish the fact that trained certified geriatric auxiliaries, under the supervision of a trained nurse with knowledge of geriatric nursing, can be safely employed. The book highlights the fact that two lectures on geriatrics in our South African nursing syllabus are inadequate and do not give nurses sufficient knowledge.

This book is of great value not only to geriatric homes in which there is some medical care, but also to general hospitals where there is a mixed staff of trained nurses, trainees and auxiliaries, in that it gives much information on the division of attention given to patients.

L.B.

## ARTIFICIAL VENTILATION OF THE LUNGS

*Essentials of Artificial Ventilation of the Lungs.* By A. R. Hunter, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.G., F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. vii+70. Illustrated. R1.25. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1962.

With the increasing use of artificial ventilation of the lungs, both as an emergency measure and as a long-term therapeutic aid, this booklet fills a very definite need.

It sets out concisely in 66 pages most of the essential practical information necessary for instituting modern artificial respiration, using the better-known types of British respirators. The book is not designed to provide detailed discussion of physiological and biochemical control of patients on intermittent positive-pressure respiration, but contains sufficient accurate instructions on this for all but the specialist in respiratory therapy.

It gives, as its title indicates, the essentials of artificial ventilation of the lungs, and it gives them very well. A.B.B.

## TUBERCULOSIS

*Health and Tuberculosis Conference 1962.* Transactions of the 6th Commonwealth Conference organized by the Chest and Heart Association, Ibadan, Nigeria, 26-31 March 1962. Pp. 248. Illustrated. R3.00. London: Chest and Heart Association. 1962.

The Nigerian conference has undoubtedly stimulated medical and lay interest in tuberculosis, not only in Nigeria, but also throughout the African continent. One feels that the benefits of similar conferences in other underdeveloped parts of the world should not be underestimated.

The published proceedings of the conference cover a wide field and contain the thoughts and experiences of those faced with the problems of tuberculosis under diverse conditions. They should be of assistance to all interested workers in this field. J.J.d.P.leR.

## MOTOR INTEGRATION

*Motor Integration.* Ed. by R. Decker. Pp. x+109. Illustrated. \$5.50. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This book contains the lectures given at an institute (?congress) on motor integration held in Galveston, Texas, under the sponsorship of the Southeastern District of the Texas Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. The authors are in the main physical therapists, but the section on neuropathology and neurology has been written by medical men.

The main portion of the book is a standard introduction to neuro-anatomy, neurophysiology and neuropathology. The remainder consists of chapters on the use of afferent stimuli to facilitate or inhibit motor activity, and proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation and reflex inhibiting postures in the treatment of cerebral palsy. The use of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation is well described and the explanatory text, while brief, is adequate. This modality is used extensively in the physical medicine departments of our own hospitals, for the treatment of both spastic and flaccid paralysis. The inhibiting postures are based upon the work carried out in the main by Bertha Bobath in England. This form of treatment is also widely used in cerebral palsy schools in this country.

The book is essentially designed for the physiotherapist and for teachers of physiotherapy, and as such is a satisfactory work. Illustrations and production are standard. C.W.C.

## HYPERTENSION

*Dietary and Neural Factors in Hypertension.* By C. M. Wilhelmj, M.S., M.D. and H. H. McCarthy, M.S., M.D. Pp. x+153. \$6.75. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The title of this book will attract all those preclinical and clinical scientists and practising clinicians who are interested in the mysterious and widely prevalent disorder of hypertension. It should therefore be said straight away that those who want quick and definite answers will find 'naught for

their comfort'. On the other hand, those who realize that the diseases of man which resist analysis and treatment are mostly 'constitutional diseases', will find it a fascinating book. By 'constitutional disease' is here meant a disease which has its roots in the prolonged interaction of favourable and unfavourable environment on the genotype. This is another way of saying that diseases of multiple aetiology are built upon a genotypic predisposition.

If we are to uncover the causes of such diseases through clinical methods our studies and experiments have to be continued or followed up for 50 years or more. We are therefore forced to make preliminary studies on shorter-lived animals. But we must remember that there will be species differences and genotypical inter-individual differences which must be carefully watched before analogies are used to construct hypotheses for testing in man. These principles, although not directly stated, are clearly illustrated in this book through well-controlled experiments on dogs and in the conservatism of the conclusions drawn.

The authors are respectively professors of physiology and surgery at Omaha, Nebraska, and their monograph brings distinction to (at least in this country) a little-known medical school. The experiments are soundly conceived and carefully carried out under conditions of external and internal control, which should serve as a model for work of this type. A method for indirect reading of blood pressure by sphygmomanometry in dogs has been exhaustively tested and compared with direct readings. The limitations have been carefully defined and it is clear that sound deductions on long-term trends can be drawn by a single observer making repeated observations under rigidly controlled conditions.

The lability of blood pressure of dogs under stresses of curiosity, fear and unduly long periods of observation is clearly illustrated. Hour-to-hour and day-to-day variations have been studied in order to establish the limitations of determinations of long-term trends. The finding that on certain days in a given dog the auscultatory diastolic pressure cannot be recorded will remind the clinician of similar unexplained observations in sick and in apparently well humans. The role of peripheral neural factors has been studied by comparing the blood pressure in two legs of dogs submitted to complete unilateral sympathectomy. The role of neurohypophysis is studied by daily recordings of the reciprocal variations of capillary resistance and eosinophil counts.

The experimental tool is now complete. The significant trends found can be summarized as follows: Many dietary variations such as starvation, re-feeding and overfeeding with meat, balanced dog-foods, fats, and carbohydrates have been shown to have significant long-term effects on blood pressure in the dog. This animal is shown to differ from the rat in being much less susceptible to hypertension under high-salt feeding. Unilateral sympathectomy has almost as significant general effects as it has effects on the blood pressure on the operated side. The trends are deliberately abbreviated in this review because they have at present little if any clinical applicability. Those who are interested in their great scientific significance should read this excellent monograph themselves. J.F.B.

## SURGERY

*The Year Book of General Surgery.* (1962-1963 Year Book Series.) Ed. by M. E. DeBakey, B.S., M.D., M.S. Pp. 634. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

The value of these annuals in helping a busy surgeon to keep up to date is unquestionable.

A very full review is given of United States surgical literature, but the cover of British and European literature is less thorough. However, the recent advances in United States surgical practice are fully documented and abstracted.

The general advances of surgery and the alterations in surgical opinions and approaches are clearly brought out. The annotations by the distinguished editor are, as always, a feature of the volume.

This book must be at the bedside of every practising surgeon. T.S.