

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

### FAMILY PSYCHIATRY

*Family Psychiatry.* By J. G. Howells, M.D., D.P.M. Pp. xiii+110. R1.80. Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1963.

This book is of particular interest to those concerned with the development and organization of psychiatric services for the child and the family. It describes a hospital psychiatric service which is well integrated with all other services dealing with the child and his family. A diagnosis is made of the family's problems and needs, and these are then dealt with by 'intra-clinic-therapy' or 'extra-clinic-therapy'. Much of the value of this book is in the use of the 'extra-clinic-therapy'. It demonstrates what a small number of psychiatrists can do if they are given adequate auxiliary staff and administrative facilities.

M.V.B.

### LECTURES ON GENERAL PRACTICE

*Outlines of General Practice.* 3rd ed. Ed. by A. J. Laidlaw, L.R.C.P. (Ed.), L.R.C.S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glasg.). Pp. 71. R1.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

This book constitutes a verbal skeleton upon which to build systematic lectures on general practice. Much of it is concerned with the horrors of life as a general practitioner in a National Health system; for example, it enumerates a list of no less than 72 forms used by British general practitioners. There is nothing here that is not done better elsewhere. It fails to tackle at all the central problem so well posed on its first page: 'The big gap in medical training is how to meet the moral and spiritual needs of the patients with psychosomatic disorders who constitute a large percentage of surgery attenders.' Not recommended.

H.R.B.W.

### BIOCHEMISTRY OF ANAESTHESIA

*Inhalation Anesthetics and Carbohydrate Metabolism.* By N. M. Greene, M.D., M.A., B.S. Pp. ix+143. R5.60. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; and London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1963.

In spite of its widespread use, the paucity of available data regarding biochemical responses to halothane again reveals, with the appearance of this book, the empiricism still characterizing clinical anaesthesia in 1963. Well known for his biochemical research, the author has already impressed anaesthetists by his exceptionally clear and critical style in his standard book *Physiology of Spinal Anesthesia*. Again refreshing objectivity is found, for example in the author's opinion that little of the metabolic effects of ether (comprising 67 pages) are directly related to increased output of adrenaline.

Postgraduate students will find here the most lucid introduction to biochemistry of anaesthesia, and nobody associated with relevant teaching and research can afford to be without this commendably critical (and well-bound) book. J.W.M.

### PULMONARY FUNGAL INFECTIONS

*Fungus Diseases of the Lungs.* 2nd ed. By D. T. Smith, M.D. Pp. 113. Illustrated. \$5.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The republication of this book is timely from many points of view. Not only has there been an increase in the incidence of pulmonary fungal infections, but a great deal of knowledge concerning them has accumulated since the first edition of this book was published in 1947. The author has incorporated the new knowledge, including the more recent forms of chemotherapy, in this revised edition. The book outlines the clinical, diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of each infection and is a useful reference book which should be on the bookshelves of physicians, thoracic surgeons and radiologists.

The format is pleasing and makes for easy reference. The reproductions of chest X-rays are satisfactory. There is a good bibliography mainly confined to the American literature. Proof reading appears to have been careless since there are numerous errors. Apart from these small, but irritating, blemishes the book can be recommended for the factual information which it contains.

J.F.M.

### REVIEW OF ORTHOPAEDICS

*Selected Papers.* By Sir Harry Platt, *Bt.*, LL.D., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii+186. Illustrated. R2.50. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

In this volume the author has brought together a number of articles, addresses, speeches and memoranda on topics outside the field of clinical studies, ranging from the organization of a fracture service, and tributes to the founder of modern British orthopaedic surgery, Sir Robert Jones, and the Continental orthopaedic giants, to reflections on medicine, science and learning.

His personal knowledge of the great Sir Robert and Lord Moynihan, coupled with his affection and respect for them, helps to bring them vividly to life and lights up new facets in the lives of these two British 'supermen' of surgery. The author states that although these collected papers at first sight may appear to be an accidental sample, to him the connecting links are visible enough as they represent the evolution of some of his adventures in ideas. There is no doubt that this is so, for throughout the book we see Sir Harry revealed in every chapter as the true surgeon, with 'the eye of an eagle, the heart of a lion, and the hand of a lady'. We see also the man who was present at the birth of British orthopaedic surgery and who has helped to pilot it through a lusty infancy, and bouncing childhood into a mature adult. Even now he is actively planning to cope with the latest orthopaedic problem and killer (man-induced), viz. 'road disease'.

In expounding his views, ideas and visions, there emerges the picture of the author as a man who has 'wisdom and understanding and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore'.

All orthopaedic surgeons should possess this volume. It should be prescribed reading for all surgical postgraduates as a lesson in lucid writing, and also to broaden their surgical outlook.

It is produced in the beautiful classical Livingstone tradition.  
M.S.

#### PAEDIATRICS FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

*The Medical Care of Children.* Ed. by S. D. M. Court, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. Pp. xii+294. Illustrated. R5.00. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press, 1963.

This book has been written by a Newcastle paediatric team for the general practitioners who use the facilities which they provide. It is not a textbook for examination or reference purposes, but more of a para-paediatric ramble with digressions into paediatrics proper. There is much information useful to doctors in any civilized country, especially in the approach to problems such as constipation, enuresis, preven-

tion of accidents, adoption, and professional liaison between different doctors and between them and other children's services. Well written and interesting.  
F.J.F.

#### ESSENTIALS OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

*Electrocardiography.* By R. W. D. Turner, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E. Pp. viii+155. Illustrated. R2.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

This small, readable volume on the essentials of electrocardiography will serve as a useful primer to both general practitioners and postgraduate students. The material for the book is based on a series of articles which appeared in the *Practitioner* of 1962. The genesis and type of information which can be obtained by electrocardiography is described. A pitting assessment of miscellaneous topics, including vectorcardiography, is also included. A useful appendix and cardboard scale will serve as a guide to those starting out in this field.  
R.C.