

PROSTATIC SURGERY

Transurethral Prostatic Surgery. By K. B. Conger, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. x + 140. Illustrated. R7.20. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; and London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1963.

All those interested in transurethral resection should find this monograph a welcome addition to their library. The 140 pages it contains are packed with wisdom and valuable technical descriptions. It is profusely and well illustrated, has an adequate index and is well produced. The author deals in turn with the training of novices in resection, details of the instruments used, their assembly and maintenance and the detection of faults, and intelligent observation and orientation during the operation. Succeeding chapters deal with the pre-operative study, the actual procedure, and postoperative care.

The 'cold punch' method used at the Mayo Clinic is not described, as the author does not use it. He prefers the

Nesbit type of instrument with spring retraction of the loop. This enables him to work single-handed and to insert his other forefinger in the rectum if necessary. The resection of bladder tumours is not dealt with.

This book is easy to read, meticulous in its attention to detail, and obviously based on sound clinical experience and practice.

It should prove helpful to any urologist who acquires it.

J.A.C.

PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH

Aspects of Psychiatric Research. Ed. by D. Richter, J. M. Tanner, L. Taylor and O. L. Zangwill. Pp. viii + 445. Illustrated. R6.30. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

This book, an aggregate of advances in psychiatric research during the last decade, gives an overall view of psychiatry

that is most valuable. It brings one up to date very satisfactorily in a variety of fields, which range from the genetics, biochemistry and neurophysiology of mental disorder, to psychiatry in relation to crime, industry, culture and legislation. The sections on mental defectives, childhood bereavement and chronic schizophrenic reactions are particularly well written.

This book is a must for psychiatrists, but will also be read with interest and advantage by others interested in the field.
L.S.G.

BONE REMODELLING

Principles of Bone Remodelling. An account of post-natal growth and remodelling processes in long bones and the mandible. By D. H. Enlow, Ph.D. Pp. x + 131. Illustrated. \$6.75. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This is a book for the expert. The practising clinician would feel more at home if more direct reference were made to the pathological states which arise, either from a failure or an excess of remodelling.

The key to the author's views is expressed on page 30: 'The process of remodelling involves the apposition of new bone deposits on certain selected surfaces together with a complementary resorptive removal of some bone from other surfaces'. Because bone is deposited only on an exposed surface of pre-existing bone, the contour of old surfaces determines the structural patterns of new bone deposits. Remodelling is thus 'an adjustment mechanism'.

The book is well produced and can be recommended as a reference volume.
A.S.

PATHOGENESIS OF HYPERTENSION

The Pathogenesis of Essential Hypertension. Proceedings of the joint WHO-Czechoslovak Cardiological Society Symposium, Prague, 22-29 May, 1960. Ed. by J. H. Cort, V. Fencel, Z. Hejl and J. Jirka. Pp. 477. Illustrated. R10.00. Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1962.

An excellent bird's-eye view of current ideas on the problems of hypertensive disease is given in this volume.

The section on aetiology is its chief weakness, and a representative of the World Health Organization at the symposium might be forgiven the following comments which are quoted in the book:

'As an administrator of WHO I will be asked to assist some country . . . As far as I can see what I am to say to them is that you must ensure that your children are born with low blood pressure, that they are born into the right sort of family, that they are white, that they work hard and don't worry, that they smoke hard, that they drink hard water and finally see that their wives have something like 10 children.'

There is no mention of the inherited disturbance of thyroid-noradrenaline balance as the basic factor in causation, nor of the therapeutic use of thyroid in which we in South Africa have been interested for the past 10 years.
P.M.

ENDOCRINOLOGY

An Introduction to General and Comparative Endocrinology. By E. J. W. Barrington. Pp. xii + 387. Illustrated. R3.50. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1963.

This is a well-conceived and admirably executed introduction to endocrinology. The greater part of the book deals with classical endocrinology, e.g. the hormonal aspects of digestion, metabolism and reproduction, the adrenal cortex and the thyroid. Of special interest to biologists are the chapters on colour change in vertebrates, hormones in crustacea, hormones in insects, and the final chapter on some evolutionary aspects of endocrine systems.

The author pays special attention to the historical aspects of the subject; his account of the discovery of secretin is an excellent example.

The book is comprehensive in scope, well printed and illustrated. There are some 140 illustrations and 16 plates, and a well-chosen bibliography.

The work can be warmly recommended not only to zoologists, but also to physiologists.
H.Z.

IMMUNITY IN DISEASE

Mechanism of Cell and Tissue Damage Produced by Immune Reactions. 2nd International Symposium on Immunopathology. Brook Lodge (Michigan, USA) 1961. Ed. by P. Grabar and P. Miescher. Pp. 414. Illustrated. Sw.Fr.60. Basle and Stuttgart: Benno Schwabe & Co. 1962.

We are indeed fortunate in having this second symposium to bring together the vast amount of work done in recent years on the mechanisms of tissue damage produced by immune reactions.

It is a fascinating book, containing papers by scientists of international reputation. Of particular interest are the chapters on tissue damage mediated by delayed hypersensitivity, mechanisms of tissue damage in auto-immune disease, some of the problems in homograft rejection and runtting disease, and discussions on immune mechanisms as possible factors in human disease.

This is a book which should be read by all actively engaged in research and those interested in the modern concept of immunity in disease.

The editors must be congratulated on having produced such an exciting and excellently produced book.
G.S.

MANUAL FOR MEDICAL RESIDENTS

Medical Resident's Manual. By F. B. Flood, R. J. Kennedy and W. J. Grace. Pp. xxi + 311. Illustrated. \$4.95. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1962.

Our residents have found the *Physician's Handbook* and the *Handbook of Medical Treatment* invaluable. Each of these manuals is distinctly larger than the one now being reviewed, which is compact and crammed with useful information. It is surprising that a section or at least a chapter, on poisoning is not included. This would have swelled the volume somewhat, but it is to my thinking disproportionate to devote 20 pages to the basis of electrocardiography at the expense of the subject of poisoning.

A few suggestions for future editions:

When gout is suspected look for tophi in the pinnae of the ears. In cases of tight mitral stenosis, tricuspid regurgitation is an indication for surgery: the distinction from mitral incompetence might be clearly stated. A page on innocent cardiac murmurs would be advantageous. Acute or subacute hepatic necrosis may present not very differently from the ordinary cases of infective hepatitis—it is important to look for diminution of the size of the liver.
F.F.

SKIN TUMOURS

Melanotic Tumors of the Skin. By H. Z. Lund, M.D. and J. M. Kraus, M.D. Pp. 134. Illustrated. \$1.25. Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council 1962.

This is the third fascicle of section one of the *Atlas of Tumor Pathology* published by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and it fully attains the high standard reached by its predecessors.

High praise is due for the standard of the printing and for the beautifully reproduced photographs, both clinical and histological.

The physiology and histology of pigment cells is described, and a very readable review of pigmentary lesions, as well as of melanotic tumours, benign and malignant, is provided. For anyone interested in the subject it is a most useful reference. Many of the terms used are unfamiliar, but a full list of synonyms is usually given. Though not all the views expressed are generally acceptable, there is a fair survey of alternative views in this interesting but controversial subject.
J.H.

EPILEPSY

Living with Epileptic Seizures. By S. Livingstone, M.D. Pp. xix + 348. Illustrated. \$6.50. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This volume contains much useful information, derived from the author's vast personal experience, on the nature and management of epileptic seizures. The drug medication, and the socio-economic and interpersonal aspects of epilepsy are particularly well discussed. Problems of marriage, child-bearing and heredity, as well as topics such as education, sports, driving and life insurance in relation to epileptics, are fully dealt with. This book will be of value to those general practitioners and social workers who are responsible for the care of epileptic patients.

S.L.

ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Modern Concepts of the Pathogenesis of Coronary Atherosclerosis. By A. W. Branwood, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. vii + 144. Illustrated. R3.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

An impartial review of the present state of knowledge in all disciplines attempting to elucidate the nature of the disturbances leading to the development of this disease is given. The author covers the field from a consideration of pertinent hydraulic principles to the elegant techniques of surface intimal-cell preparations and cultures. This book will be of interest to the specialist in a particular field as well as to those who wish to keep abreast of current trends.

L.H.K.