

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

ESSAYS ON PSYCHOLOGY

Management of Anxiety for the General Practitioner. Ed. by N. K. Rickles, M.D., F.A.P.A. Pp. ix+108. \$5.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This booklet of 108 pages contains 10 essays by 7 different authors. There is much which is useful, some which is contradictory and much which is repetitive. It could, with advantage, be abridged and translated into English.

A good example of this writing, supposedly intended for the general practitioner, is the penultimate paragraph of chapter 7 which reads as follows:

'It is important to be clear as to the universe of discourse in which one is operating; thus the physiological concomitant of expectation, matching the psychological one we have just been discussing, manifests itself by a heightened neuro-muscular tonus in the range of 'anticipation' and by tension in the range of 'anxiety'. Psychological manifestations can occur without physiological manifestations, and *vice versa*, although as a rule they coexist.'

This is interesting literature which cannot be recommended.

R.S.

GENERAL PATHOLOGY

Leerboek der Algemene Pathologie. 2nd ed. By P. Formijne. Pp. vii+401. Illustrated. f30.00. Haarlem: De Erven F. Bohn. 1963.

The author of this book is a physician, and he lectures on general pathology at the University of Amsterdam. It is interesting to see how a physician deals with the subject of general pathology. On the one hand he writes at length about aneurysms, heart block, atherosclerosis, bronchial asthma, atelectases, etc., all subjects which should be discussed in systemic pathology. On the other hand there are twelve lines on metabolism of the various endogenous pigments, six lines on calcification and three lines on fat embolism. The reader of this book does not learn how to recognize a necrosis, finds not a word about ischaemic infarcts or lymphatic permeation of neoplasms, and is left in the dark about important aspects of general pathology such as lymphatic or nutritional oedema. Nowadays there are too many complaints that contemporary medicine has too much specialization. After having read this book, one does know why specialization is necessary.

H.W.W.

PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS

Hale-White's Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Therapeutics. 32nd ed. By A. H. Douthwaite, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. vii+519. R2.75. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

The author, together with certain colleagues, has completely revised this book—a difficult task since it is the thirty-second edition; the general layout of the material in the text appears not to have been changed, yet factually the book is well up-to-date. There is room for improvement in the classification of the groups of drugs on a practical clinical basis. Among other points noted is the lack of emphasis on the danger of anaphylactoid reaction from penicillin, nor is there any mention of the antidepressant drugs.

This book will continue to find favour with many readers.
N.S.

DIE EOSINOFIEL-LEUKOSIETE

The Eosinophil Leucocytes. By R. K. Archer, M.A., Ph.D. (Cantab.), M.R.C.V.S. Pp. xiv+205. Illustrated. R4.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

In drie dele, omskryf die monogram eerstens die probleem van eosinofiel-fisiologie in die lig van literatuur wat hierop betrekking het. Ten tweede word eksperimentele werk ten opsigte van die morfologie van eosinofiele en die verwantskap tussen hierdie selle en histamien, serotonien, kortikoïde en ACTH beskryf. Veral van belang is die feit dat die skrywer 'n 80% suiwer eosinofiel-konsentraat kon verkry vir studies op geïsoleerde eosinofiele. Die bevindings word in die derde deel gekorreleer tot 'n toetsbare hipotese.

Veral nuttig is die bylae oor kleurtegnieke, 'n aspek wat swak in bestaande hematologiese en histochemiese teksboeke gedek word. Die feit dat die perd vir die meeste van hierdie studies as proefdier geld, doen geen afbreuk aan die feit dat die ondersoek rigtinggewend is nie.

'n Goeie outeurs- en onderwerpindex toon dat die boekie bereid is om sy leserskring (fisioloë, patoloë en hematoloë) te dien.
H.P.W.

RADIATION IN GENETICS

Changing Perspectives on the Genetic Effects of Radiation. By J. V. Neel. Pp. viii+97. \$5.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This volume is the publication of a Memorial Lecture by the author. He describes firstly, studies which he and his colleagues did on the genetic effects of radiation on the populations of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. He then describes radiation effects on animals and gives reasons why results obtained in animals must be applied to humans with reserve.

The somatic effects are discussed and he draws attention to the fact that exposure to radiation is only one of the several factors in our changing culture. Although exposure should be reduced to a minimum, the final answer regarding the effects must await further knowledge of human population genetics.

This is an interesting book, written by an expert, and is of interest to all doctors.
A.J.H.H.

TREATMENT OF EMERGENCIES

Compendium of Emergencies. Ed. by H. Gardiner-Hill, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi+328. R5.70. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1963.

This book deals with the treatment of patients in a state of emergency from the time of onset until they reach a hospital, clinic or nursing home.

The 20 articles are by specialists in their subjects, and are easily read. Although this volume is primarily intended for the doctor who is expected to cope alone, it fails because it is impossible to cover all emergencies at any length in a book

of this size, so that many of the articles attempt too much, while others, realizing the impossibility, fail altogether.

The articles bear the impression of the individual author, which is as it should be, so that controversial statements must be expected. But one wonders how many crocodile-bites have been seen by the author who refers to them. There is room for difference of opinion as to whether immediate X-ray in a head injury is essential or not—the author thinks that they are not, and he may well be right.

How many people have applied a leech for black eyes and with what effects? Where are these leeches to be kept available?

A very interesting suggestion is the use of the artificial kidney for certain cases of poisoning. This calls for fuller documentation.

The chapter dealing with shock is disappointing. In these days of hurry and traffic, treatment of shock should be stated explicitly and succinctly if valuable lives are to be saved. The author of this chapter does not deal with the problem adequately.

Dental emergencies again, a much neglected topic, are very adequately put.

The book can be recommended as part of a larger series on similar subjects.
T.S.

MECHANICAL PRINCIPLES OF CARDIOLOGY

Cardiomechanics. By S. D. Mouloupoulos, M.D. Pp. xiii+193. Illustrated. \$7.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The future training of a cardiologist must surely make provision for the study of the mechanical principles as applied to cardiac investigation. This book gives an introduction to these principles.

Cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons today have simply not received the training that is necessary to keep them up-to-date with the progress recently made in basic and applied science. The average doctor or specialist is not even familiar with simple, old-fashioned, high-school hydrodynamics when he faces intricate pressure curves, and today pressure curves alone are not enough. We need flow curves, cardiac outputs, dyecurves, etc. Even though haemodynamic understanding is indeed difficult to acquire, this book attempts an introduction to the subject, and further information can be gained by reference to the bibliography.

The criticism is that for the sake of brevity, explanations are too short. However, the book is worth while acquiring by cardiovascular groups. A reference to the shape of things to come is a passing reference to the continuous cardiac-output recorder, made by Professor Guyton of Mississippi. This consists of an oxygen-consumption recorder and an arteriovenous oxygen-difference recorder and a computer, performing directly the necessary calculation.

Perhaps the future haemodynamicist will only have to know how to press the button of the computer!
M.N.

DRUGS, MEDICINES AND MAN

Drugs, Medicines and Man. 2nd ed. By H. Burn, M.D., F.R.S. Pp. 235. R1.80. London: Unwin University Books. 1963. Available through Howard Timmins Ltd., Cape Town.

This book, although written for the general reader, may prove too technical and difficult to understand in parts; but nurses, pharmacists, and medical students embarking on their career will profit from this volume. The chapters can be read in isolation, since each one depends very little on what has gone before. Among the topics discussed are 'The actions of nicotine', 'Drugs acting in heart disease and coronary disease', 'Blood pressure', 'Allergy and antihistamine compounds', 'Alcohol and motor driving', 'Tranquillizing drugs', 'Diabetes and insulin', 'Obesity', 'The anti-cancer drugs', 'The thalidomide disaster'—all of great interest to the layman.
N.S.

TEXTBOOK OF OTOTOLOGY

Diseases of the Ear. By S. R. Mawson, M.B. (Camb.), F.R.C.S., D.L.O. (Lond.). Pp. vii+559. Illustrated. R10.00. London: Edward Arnold Publishers. 1963.

In this volume the author has set himself the task of producing a modern comprehensive textbook of otology especially geared to the requirements of postgraduate students reading for higher British degrees in the specialty of ear, nose and throat diseases. It is considered that he has succeeded admirably in this task—the book is the first British textbook confined to otology to appear since World War II, and it fills a definite gap. It presents sound modern British otological thought lucidly, and while fully comprehensive is not of ponderous size to dishearten the postgraduate student. The book, moreover, is liberally illustrated with clear line-drawings.

All in all, a must for the postgraduate student of otology and well worth a place on the bookshelf of the practising ear, nose and throat specialist.

D.V.M.

ANAESTHETICS IN EMERGENCY SURGERY

Anesthesia for Emergency Surgery. Vol. 2 of 'Clinical Anesthesia'. Ed. by N. M. Greene, M.D. Pp. ix+162. R4.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1963.

An increasing proportion of poor risk and elderly patients are now subjected to emergency surgery, contributing a disproportionate fraction of surgical mortality. Success depends on careful pre-operative assessment and preparation and on diligent postoperative care. The time-honoured phrase 'fitness for anaesthesia' is meaningless in any absolute sense, and the art of emergency surgery lies in doing the right thing at the right time, and doing it well. This concept, like the able editing of Greene, is evident throughout this book by the emphasis on physiology rather than actual anaesthetic technique, and the proof provided by Howland regarding the danger and superfluousness of calcium administration during massive blood transfusion is noteworthy.

These essays should certainly be available to all anaesthetists, particularly those in training.

J.W.M.