

DISEASES OF THE HEART AND LUNGS

Advances in Cardiopulmonary Diseases. Vol. I. Ed. by A. L. Banyai, M.D., F.C.C.P. and B. L. Gordon, M.D., F.C.C.P. Pp. 359. Illustrated. \$11.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1963.

This book represents 18 lectures delivered during 1961, under postgraduate courses sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians. The subjects selected vary widely, including, for example, aspects of pulmonary physiology, infant resuscitation, pulmonary diseases in industry, and traumatic heart disease. Much is, perforce, omitted and the lecture-form lacks some details which the specialist would seek in a book on 'Advances'. However, there is much useful information in a limited field, mainly for the postgraduate student. R.P.H.

NURSES' SURGERY

Nurses' Guide to Surgery. By P. Childs, M.A., D.M., M.Ch. (Oxon.), F.R.C.S. Pp. 321. Illustrated. R1.00. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1962.

This book should serve the purpose indicated in its title admirably. It is straightforward, and pleasant to read. It avoids showmanship, and also avoids the frequent error in so many books of this type of including large quantities of pathological pabulum quite unassimilable by the nursing digestion. The surgical information provided is adequate for nurses, and the basic principles and treatments are suitably correlated.

It is a paperback, and there are not very satisfactory line illustrations, which are mostly too diagrammatic. At R1.00, however, every nurse can afford to buy it and benefit from it. R.D.H.B.

EXCITATION

Excitation. By G. Ungar, M.D., D.Sc. Pp. xiii + 437. \$13.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This monograph deals with excitation at a cellular level (and hence with the physical chemistry of membrane activity), and at more complex levels in relation to receptor, effector, communication, rhythmic and homeostatic systems. It is therefore a book of general rather than sectional interest. Present views on each aspect of the subject are compactly presented and a generous bibliography is provided. There is a section on the pathology and pharmacology of excitation. The style is ornate in parts, but readable. G.B.-R.

MENTAL HEALTH PAPERS

Planning and Action for Mental Health. Ed. by E. M. Thornton. Pp. 347. R2.00. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. (for The World Federation for Mental Health). 1961.

Twenty-four scientific papers presented at the plenary sessions of the 12th and 13th Annual Meetings of the World Federation for Mental Health held at Barcelona in 1959 and at Edinburgh in 1960 have been brought together in this volume.

Both meetings fell within World Mental Health Year, which created great interest and stimulated new work. At the Edinburgh meeting some 300 new mental health projects were reported from 53 countries; more than 200 of the projects are in the scientific field.

Certain conclusions are inescapable; far from being limited to the medical aspects of mental health, the World Federation for Mental Health is concerned with making a contribution to the art of living, so that people might feel better, think better and perhaps act better.

Whatever our disciplines, we still do not know the answers to many of the problems that confront us; nevertheless we do all have the chance to add something to the fund of wisdom that is available to bring greater possibilities of good mental health, and of improving the quality of living for people of every nation.

The opportunities for work facing the Federation and its members in all corners of the world are immense at the present time. Recommended reading. H.M.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF MENTAL DISORDER

Mental Abnormality and the Law. By H. J. Wily and K. R. Stallworthy, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M. Pp. xiv+543. R6.30. Christchurch, N.Z.: N. M. Peryer Ltd. 1962.

The aim of this book is to state concisely and in simple language those things relating to the mind and its disorders which may be of legal interest, and to make those parts of the law dealing with mental disorder in civil and criminal matters intelligible to the doctor.

This book is concerned with principle rather than with detail, since the law may vary considerably in detail from one jurisdiction to another.

Even though the authors are primarily concerned with the law in New Zealand, extensive reference is made to the law in other countries including South Africa.

Included are interesting chapters on obscenity, suicide, the trial for a criminal offence and the mental state, the doctrine of diminished responsibility, and punishment.

The text is clear and the book is a pleasure to read. In its wide coverage this book constitutes an important, up-to-date reference in its particular field and is highly recommended. A.B.D.