

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### UROLOGICAL CANCER

*Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, 2nd ed.* Vol. VII: Tumors of the Male Genitalia and the Urinary System. Ed. by G. T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S. and I. M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xvii + 397. Illustrated. \$18.00. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1962.

Thirty carefully selected authors contribute to this volume which deals most comprehensively with tumours of the genito-urinary tract.

While almost perfect balance has been achieved in compiling the various chapters, one or two do not quite measure up to the excellence of the majority: all the more so where poor line drawings and sketches fall so far short of the beautiful self-explanatory Didusch illustrations of which we see all too few.

Hard put as I am to find faults in this well-produced and excellently printed volume, I am unable to agree with one contributor who advises closure of nephrectomy wounds without drainage, after removal of carcinomatous kidneys, while the printer's devil responsible for dating the Millin prostatectomy 1905 instead of 1945, did produce a chuckle.

An up-to-date bibliography of over 900 references at the end of this volume is the final stamp of its scope and importance. Its place on the shelves of all urologists and students of cancer is assured. I.J.

### METHOTREXATE AND CANCER

*Methotrexate in the Treatment of Cancer.* Report of the proceedings of a symposium at the Royal Society of Medicine, 18 September 1961. Ed. by R. Porter, M.R.C.P. and E. Wiltshaw, M.B., Ch.B. Pp. xi + 80. Illustrated. R3.25. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1962.

This is a valuable monograph for all those interested in the treatment of malignant disease, with special reference to the folic acid antagonist, methotrexate. There are full details on the biochemistry and pharmacology of this antineoplastic agent, and a number of papers dealing with its clinical applications. The latter include the treatment of advanced cancer of the breast, chorion epithelioma, and neoplastic disease of the female genital tract. There are papers dealing with the intra-

arterial and intrathecal administration of methotrexate. Very important from the practical standpoint are the questions and answers dealt with in the discussions of the papers. N.S.

### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

*The Year Book of Cardiovascular and Renal Diseases.* (1961-1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by W. P. Harvey, M.D., J. W. Kirklin, M.D., A. S. Nadas, M.D., O. Paul, M.D., V. E. Pollak, M.D., T. J. Reeves, M.D., R. W. Wilkins, M.D. and I. S. Wright, M.D. Pp. 474. Illustrated. \$10.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

This is a very useful book. Interest in cardiovascular and renal diseases has been increasing for some time and is still in its ascendancy. The publishers have inaugurated a Year Book in this field and a number of well-known editors have been employed; the result is a very successful volume.

The chapters have been divided into: cardiovascular function; cardiovascular disease in infants and children; heart disease in adults; coronary arteries and coronary heart disease; also, hypertension, vascular disease, cardiovascular surgery, and renal disease have been included. Techniques are adequately dealt with and pertinent literature is well referred to.

The authors have chosen the most important articles on their subjects in 1961-62. The comments of each editor beneath the papers are very useful and in themselves certainly add life to what might have been a lack-lustre summary of articles. This book is recommended. M.N.

### SOCIOLOGY

*Sociology in Medicine.* By M. W. Susser and W. Watson. Pp. x + 337. R4.20. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

While introducing social medicine from an anthropological, sociological and medical viewpoint, the authors have contrasted patterns of health and disease between primitive and industrialized societies. The development of both internal and external stimuli upon the family in contemporary Britain,

with particular reference to child and geriatric care, is presented comprehensively against a background of epidemiology, demography, cultural influences, and the effects of class

structure on industrial society, as well as the medico-social aspects of social mobility. A book highly recommended to both medical practitioners and sociologists. E.Z.