

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

DERMATOLOGY

The Year Book of Dermatology. (1961 - 1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by R. L. Baer, M.D. and V. H. Witten, M.D. Pp. 467. Illustrated. \$9.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

This year's leading article is on psoriasis and summarizes recent advances in the knowledge of clinical features, biochemical changes and treatment. The editors rightly decry the attitude of therapeutic nihilism towards psoriasis which is still very common even among dermatologists. Those who have

access to the 1940 Year Book, which was the last to feature psoriasis, will enjoy comparing the two.

The abstracts, excellent as always, come from a limited range of journals, of which the *Archives of Dermatology* and the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* are the most popular.
J.M.

IMPAIRED FERTILITY

The Management of Impaired Fertility. By M. M. White, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. and V. B. Green-Armytage, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

Pp. xii + 320. Illustrated. R6.30. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1962.

This is a fine book. The authors have set out to emphasize the practical aspect of the subject of infertility and have succeeded admirably.

The work includes a section on the development, anatomy and function of the reproductive system, which may perhaps have been omitted in a book of so specialized a nature. The sections dealing with the investigation and treatment of the infertile couple are excellent.

The authors have naturally concentrated on the female aspect of the problem, but there is a very useful chapter on male subfertility.

The book is well illustrated and there is no doubt whatever that anyone concerned with the management of infertile couples would do well to acquire it. E.M.S.

TREATMENT OF TRAUMA

Principles of the Treatment of Trauma. Ed. by W. H. Kirkaldy-Willis and A. M. Wood. Pp. xi + 244. Illustrated. R4.20, postage 22½c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1962.

This is a book of basic surgery and it deals with basic subjects. It is divided into three parts, the first dealing with basic principles such as fluid balance and therapy, tissue repair and chemotherapy. The second part deals with burns and their treatment, with a separate chapter on the principles of wound closure. The third part deals with four specific injuries, viz. the injured limb syndrome, injuries to the upper limb, injuries to the lower limb, and spinal injuries.

The whole book is beautifully produced and must obviously be the first of a big series of monographs on trauma. T.S.

GLUCAGON

Glucagon: Chemistry and function in health and disease. By P. P. Foa, M.D., Ph.D. and G. Galansino, M.D. Pp. xii + 126. Illustrated. \$6.75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Glucagon is one of the 'newer' hormones—in fact the authors of this pleasant monograph still find it necessary to argue that it is a hormone. They certainly convince me. They present the evidence that it is the pancreatic islet A cell hormone, that its primary effect is on liver glycogen, but that it may also be concerned with gluconeogenesis, fat mobilization, renal tubular function and gastro-intestinal motility.

It was interesting to learn that pancreatectomy in the lizard produces hypoglycaemia, which is alleviated by glucagon. The lizard's A cells seem to 'predominate' over the B cells in the islets.

The hypothesis that glucagon plays much part in the aetiology of diabetes is considered and rejected, although secondary glucagon overproduction may contribute to the hyperglycaemic rebound following insulin hypoglycaemia.

This is a well-produced, well-illustrated and useful monograph, interesting and easy to read, though the text is a little cut up by a plethora of references (724). The clinical import of glucagon is not overlooked. The book is recommended to anyone who tries to keep abreast of the more important medical and physiological advances. W.P.U.J.

MYELOGRAPHY

Myelography. By R. Shapiro, M.D. Pp. 278. Illustrated. \$11.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

This excellent monograph would have had a well-deserved popularity had it been published 10 or more years ago. Then it would have coincided with the vogue which surgeons (neuro- and orthopaedic) enjoyed for curing disc lesions by operation. Since then they have realized that their results were not as good as anticipated and little—if any—better than those obtained by masterly inactivity.

Thus their interest in myelography has waned and is now

reserved for the very recalcitrant disc lesion or, more usually, for neoplastic disease.

Most X-ray departments have been grateful for this fall-off in myelograms since they are time-consuming, need good dark adaptation, and are highly productive of scattered X-radiation.

Shapiro feels that all the 'myodil' or 'pantopaque' should be extracted since, although they are now regarded as relatively innocuous, both these contrast media can and do produce arachnoiditis just as readily as 'lipiodol' did. To remove every little globule of contrast adds enormously to the tedium and X-radiation for all concerned.

So this book is strongly recommended to radiologists, and both orthopaedic and neurosurgeons should read and refer to it. W.J.L.

RADIOTHERAPY

Progress in Radiation Therapy. Vol. II. Ed. by F. Buschke, M.D. Pp. iii + 266. Illustrated. \$12.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1962.

This second volume of *Progress in Radiation Therapy*, like the first volume, discusses problems of current interest to radiotherapists.

The subjects discussed include potential radiation damage to kidneys, the tolerance of cartilage and bone to carefully planned radiotherapy, adjuvants to radiotherapy, the Russian approach to the cancer problem, and the pathologist's views on biopsies.

Although not as good as the previous volume, this book is worth reading. J.D.A.

PHENYLBUTAZONE

Phenylbutazone (Butazolidin). By H. K. von Rechenberg. Translated from the 2nd German edition. Pp. x + 197. R3.00. London: Edward Arnold. 1962.

Phenylbutazone ('butazolidin') was included in the Addendum 1955 to the British Pharmacopoeia 1953, but was omitted from the B.P. 1958. This was due to the many and varied toxic effects reported from the use of this drug. Nevertheless there are many physicians who still prescribe it.

This monograph provides full details on the chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology, clinical effects and therapeutic uses of the drug, with an extensive bibliography (1,690 references). Although 'rheumatic' disorders have been the main field for phenylbutazone therapy there is hardly a disease in which it has not been tried. Clinical skill and experience are essential if the drug is to be used. This book gives directions to be followed to reduce risks of toxic effects. N.S.

CHILDHOOD TUMOURS

The Pathology of the Tumours of Children. Pathological monographs, No. 2. By R. A. Willis, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.P. Pp. xi + 200. Illustrated. R4.20. Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1962.

This book will fill an existing gap in paediatric literature. It gives a comprehensive review based upon a histological study by the author of over 700 different tumours in children. This personal approach to the subject is apparent also in the quoting of relevant articles. Consequently the reader is left with the impression that little work in this particular field has been carried out in the whole of the European continent during the last 20 years. However, the author's own experience and his use of clear language, together with the excellent illustrations, all contribute to make this volume a source of knowledge to anybody interested in a subject which is becoming increasingly more important. The publishers are to be congratulated for producing such a fine book. H.W.

HEAT AND THE HEART

Hot Climates, Man and his Heart. By G. E. Burch, M.D. and N. P. De Pasquale, M.D., Pp. xiv + 196. Illustrated. \$10.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This small book, which is clear and concise in style and well-produced, should prove invaluable in South Africa. It is based on a series of elegant human physiological experiments carried out by the authors over a number of years in New Orleans, and their observations are well related to clinical problems. The importance of the skin as a system of the body is rightly emphasized.

The book should help senior medical students as well as practitioners to understand many of the problems of adaptation to hot climates, and encourage rational treatment. The only serious criticism which can be offered is the price.

E.B.A.

PATHOLOGY LECTURE NOTES

Lecture Notes on Pathology. By A. D. Thomson, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. and R. E. Cotton, M.D., B.S. Pp. xv + 1040. Illustrated. R5.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1962.

These lecture notes are designed to be of value to post-graduate students preparing for higher qualifications in medical and surgical specialities. This decides their form, with the material classified and regimented to facilitate absorption and reproduction by the student, and their very wide scope. There are sections on the pathology of skin and eye diseases, on parasitology, and a more detailed one on haematology which includes notes on treatment, an unusual finding in a book on pathology.

For undergraduates in this country the book is not suitable, since general pathology is treated briefly and pathological principles are not discussed as such, but for postgraduates preparing for examination it can be recommended as a suitable revision text.

J.G.T.

APPLIED ANATOMY OF THE LOWER BOWEL

Surgical Anatomy of the Colon, Rectum and Anal Canal. By H. E. Bacon, M.D., Sc.D., Ll.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.S.M. (Hon.), F.P.C.S. (Hon.) and P. M. Recio, M.D., M.Sc., F.P.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.P.C.G. Pp. xii + 152. Illustrated. R8.50. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott; and London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1962.

Harry Bacon has an international surgical reputation and his book on the surgical anatomy of the colon, rectum and anal canal is well up to the expected standard. Embryological abnormalities are detailed and the colon itself is comprehensively described. There is perhaps place for more diagrammatic representations of the sphincter muscles, especially in relation to fistula-in-ano. The chapters on the arterial supply

of the bowel and its venous and lymphatic drainage are thoroughly good, and an interesting final chapter on the physiology of the rectum and colon, a virtually untapped field, completes matters.

This book is an excellent example of applied anatomy and should be studied by everyone.

A.A.B.

OCULAR TUMOURS

Tumors of the Eye and Adnexa in Infancy and Childhood. By C. E. Iliff, M.D. and H. J. Osssofsky, M.D. Pp. vii + 158. Illustrated. \$9.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This interesting monograph reflects the personal experience of the authors in the investigation and treatment of ocular and adnexal tumours in the young. Malignancy, apart from retinoblastoma, is rare, but tumours are common and frequently 'congenital'. Biopsies should be made for confirmation of diagnosis.

All common tumours are discussed, as well as certain uncommon conditions, such as agammaglobulinaemia. Urgent treatment of metastatic abscess producing proptosis is stressed. In treatment, irradiation is frequently used. Short descriptions of operative procedures are included. Recommended reading.

L.S.

BURNS

Burns and their Treatment. By I. F. K. Muir, M.B.E., M.B., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and T. L. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Pp. viii + 148. Illustrated. R2.75. London: Lloyd-Luke Medical Books. 1962.

A monograph based on the experience gained at the Mount Vernon Centre for Plastic Surgery which admits patients with burns from a large area of London, must always be both interesting and instructive.

The various chapters indicate the scope of the work under review. Burn shock is carefully dealt with, then the local treatment and the general care of patients with burns and scalds. Burns of special areas and burns of special types are next considered, and then the outpatient treatment of minor burns. Finally scars and contractures, mass casualties (an interesting discussion on this) and administrative problems are faithfully described.

The book is a splendid manual for house-surgeons and registrars who may be called upon to deal with burn cases. Indeed, every practitioner should have a very good idea of the first-aid treatment of burns.

If one may be permitted a small criticism, it is of the three coloured plates that are included. Each contains several pictures which are rather too small to be appreciated and to teach much. It would have been better to have used few pictures in larger sizes. But this is minor criticism indeed of a very good production.

T.S.