

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Clinical Endocrinology. By T. S. Danowski, B.A., M.D. Vol. I: Pineal, hypothalamus, pituitary and gonads—pp. xix + 582. Vol. II: Thyroid—pp. xx + 540. Vol. III: Calcium, phosphorus, parathyroids and bone—pp. xvi + 490. Vol. IV: Adrenal cortex and medulla—pp. xvii + 494. Illustrated. R14.00 each (R48.00 per 4 vol. set). Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; and London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1962.

One single person writing the whole of a four-volume text-book (or should we call it encyclopaedia?) is a rarity today, and I hope it stays a rarity. Professor Danowski's industry is to be admired—I am sure few would be either desirous or able to emulate it. Unfortunately I am not quite clear as to its value—we have several textbooks of endocrinology, and we have several monographs of more specialized type which are continually being kept up to date. The present Teutonic type of work is neither of these. At first glance the lists of references appear momentous and all-embracing, but more careful scrutiny in subjects one knows well oneself reveals several gaps, and also an apparently rather uncritical appraisal of those references which are present. In fact the references are more a list of prowess than a carefully sifted compendium of values.

I make no pretence to have done more than read fairly carefully a few selected subjects in the text. Maybe I had bad luck, but I was rather unimpressed with the passages I did read. A whole volume on calcium and phosphorus metabolism devotes but a page or two to the common and important mixture of disorders known as 'osteoporosis'. Idiopathic osteoporosis of young people gets nothing at all.

The book is replete with collections of all sorts—most horrible is the collection of progeria on page 246 of volume 1. Tables of other collected reports of clinical features, results of treatment, etc., appear in plenty.

I suppose these books will be of greatest value as reference works in libraries, I have no scale at hand to weigh them out for money-worth; they are heavy, but would need to be at R14.00 each. W.P.U.J.

CANCER

The Year Book of Cancer. (1961-1962 Year Book Series). Ed. by R. L. Clark, B.S., M.D., M.Sc. (Surgery), D.Sc. (Hon.) and R. W. Cumley, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Pp. 527. Illustrated. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1962.

The Editorial Board has again produced an excellent volume covering, in 26 sections, the whole range of activity with regard to neoplastic disease. Over 300 abstracts of authoritative contributions to world literature have been assembled most effectively to bring into perspective current advances in knowledge and therapeutic techniques.

Emphasis has also been placed on improved diagnostic

techniques, both radiological and cytological. Head and neck cancer, cancer in children, cancer in the genito-urinary tract, and bone and soft tissue tumours, are afforded more space. The volume is confidently recommended. J.M.G.

PARAPLEGIA

Basic Research in Paraplegia. A conference sponsored by the California Spinal Cord Research Foundation under the auspices of the Los Angeles Society of Neurology and Psychiatry. Ed. by J. D. French, M.D. and R. W. Porter, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. x + 250. Illustrated. \$9.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

The papers at this conference were read by men of recognized accomplishment, the majority being clinical specialists noted for their contributions in this field. The papers are practical, but give the impression that the speakers have attempted to cover too wide a field; this is, however, offset by the references given at the end of each paper. It is a most useful book of reference and is highly recommended to specialists and research physiologists who wish to keep abreast of modern trends in the basic sciences of paraplegia. R.L.

EVOLUTION AND ILLNESS

Evolution and Illness. A short essay on the clinical significance of evolutionary vestiges. By R. M. J. Harper, M.A., D.M. Oxon. Pp. vii + 108. Illustrated. R2.50, postage 10c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

The thesis presented in this book is that people with pigmented naevi or supernumerary nipples have a special proneness to disease. The author does not mean neurofibromatosis and conditions with which this overlaps, nor fibrous dysplasia of bone. He points out that William Evans has referred to a disproportionate incidence of a form of congenital heart disease in people with polythelia; but his main point is that subjects with either of the two anomalies mentioned have a disproportionate liability to malignancy and those diseased states commonly associated with stress.

He also thinks that this study may lead to a unification of illnesses which at present are regarded as separate entities. The line of argument is something like this: 'Certain common structures found in human skin are vestigial in character, in that they present affinities with the organization of life at surprisingly ancient periods of man's evolutionary history. Evolutionary research has shed some light on what was first called the "foetal nature of human skin" by Bolk. More recently the concepts of "neoteny" and of "paedomorphosis" have been created to describe the method of evolutionary advance by retention in the adult organism of characters formerly found in the "young" stages of a species.' The author does not claim that the two anomalies are the only ones which indicate constitutional deficiencies; but he has chosen them because they are so easy to detect and record.

It would be interesting, but tedious, to convey to the reader

the rather obscure line of reasoning which links the pigmented naevus with the amphibian stage of our development. His failure to persuade me is enlightened by an expression of doubt in the mind of the author himself, who says on page 52: 'My own observations lead me to believe that there is not sufficient evidence to correlate organ disease with the segmental distribution of evolutionary skin vestiges'.

F.F.

FIRST-AID

Principles for First Aid for the Injured. By H. Proctor, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.E. and P. S. London, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. xiii + 244. Illustrated. R3.50, postage 15c. London and Durban: Butterworth & Co. 1962.

As progress takes place in the organization and treatment of injuries, it becomes necessary that our teaching of methods of treatment to first-aid candidates must be altered. For many years now the booklets issued as their official publications by the two major first-aid organizations, have been perhaps a little unsatisfactory. However, this book brings the matter up to date. It is essentially a book for guiding the teacher of first-aid and as such it is successful.

The book deals with wounds, bleeding, shock and injury, fractures and dislocations and a host of other matters particularly interesting to first-aid students. The subject matter has been set out very lucidly and clearly and should be of great assistance to teachers of this subject in many parts of the world. It is noted that the purpose of the book is to provide guidance both in practice and in training and the fruits of the authors' wide experience of injuries of all kinds are now at the disposal of doctors and other teachers of first-aid. The book can be highly recommended.

T.S.

HEMATOLOGIE

Progress in Hematology. Vol. III. Ed. by L. M. Tocantins, M.D. Pp. ix + 384. Illustrated. \$16.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1962.

Dele van hierdie reeks het tot dusver 3-jaarlikse verskyn. Vyf-en-twintig werkers, waarvan die meeste bekende name is, het bygedra tot die 15 hoofstukke van Deel III. 'n Besonder uitgebreide bibliografie is orals beskikbaar.

Inleidenders word die uitwerking van radioaktiwiteit op hemopoëse volledig bespreek, waarna Prankerd skrywe oor die fisiologiese en patologiese aspekte van eritrosiet-metabolisme. In 'n interessante bespreking van die oorsprong en werking van witselle, word onder andere beweer dat leukemiese blastelle langer lewe as normale leukosiete. 'n Elektronmikroskopiese studie van pluimvee-leukemie word gevolg deur 'n artikel oor die histo-chemiese differensiering van limfomata; 'n mens voel hier dat die waarde akademies eerder as prakties is en dat miëlomatose liefis uit dié groep gelaat moet word. Hoofstukke word gewy aan die inwerking van steroïedes op limfosiete, aan 'n studie van plasmaproteïene, met die klem op fraksionering en isoleringsmetodes (asook 'n uitstekende oorsig van seruloplasmin en transferrin), en aan 'n leeswaardige bespreking van haptoglobienes. Von Kaulla hersien die bepaling van bloedstolling met klem op tromboelastografie, en Waldenström skrywe oor hipergamma-globulinemie—interessant is sy bespreking van die voorkoms van M-proteïene, wat nie te wyte aan miëlomatose is nie. Sherry, Fletcher en Alkjaersig weergee andermaal die teorie van fibrinolise en wys daarop dat die Kliniese toepassing hiervan nog onseker en

moelik kontroleerbaar is. Laastens word die huidige onbevredigende stand van beenmurg-oorplanting bespreek.

Hierdie deel is 'n ryk bron van inligting vir die navorsers in hematologie—die klinikus sal dit waarskynlik te teoreties vind.

F.P.R.

ALIMENTARY PHYSIOLOGY

Gastro-Intestinal Physiology. By D. F. Magee, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon.), Ph.D. Pp. ix + 225. Illustrated. \$11.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Many major advances in the understanding of the physiology of the gastro-intestinal tract have been made during the past decade. Oesophageal, stomach and bowel motility have been investigated, and our knowledge of gastric secretion and small-bowel absorption has been extended.

Magee's book, the third on the subject published during the past year, is a well-written presentation especially suitable for medical students. The role of the antrum in gastric secretion and factors concerned with the inhibition of gastric secretion are well reviewed, but the established concept of the parietal cell mass is not included. But neither this nor the incorrect distribution of the parietal cells in the stomach shown in Fig. 18 detract appreciably from the value of the book.

I.N.M.

DRUG NAMES

International Dictionary of Drugs used in neurology and psychiatry. By C. M. Poser, M.D. Pp. xi + 157. \$7.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Nowadays a bewildering number of drugs are claimed to be of help to the neurologist and psychiatrist—many of them having several names.

Charles Poser's book, which offers a guide to these drugs, is thus extremely welcome. His book is in effect a dictionary which makes all information such as the trade names and chemistry of these drugs immediately available to the reader. An example of its usefulness is the discovery that thalidomide—a drug much in the public eye at the moment—has ten trade names as diverse as 'softenon' and 'distaval'.

F.R.A.

FUNGUS DISEASES OF THE LUNG

Disseminating Fungus Diseases of the Lung. By A. E. Greer, M.D., F.A.C.P., M.C.C.P. Pp. xxii + 398. Illustrated. \$14.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

With the increase of our knowledge of disease, we are becoming more and more aware of the role of fungi in general and of their significance in pulmonary pathology in particular. It is in this latter sphere that Dr. Greer has given us a valuable and authentic contribution.

The book deals with twelve fungal diseases—actinomycosis, nocardiosis, aspergillosis, North American blastomycosis, South American blastomycosis, candidiasis, coccidiomycosis, cryptococcosis, geotrichosis, mucormycosis, histoplasmosis and sporotrichosis—a chapter being devoted to each disease, with special emphasis on its pulmonary manifestations. It is well illustrated with case-reports, tables, X-rays, and photographs of cases.

The book can be highly recommended to clinicians, surgeons, pathologists and senior students, and to any medical library.

R.I.S.