

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

ADVANCES IN LEPROSY RESEARCH

Pathogenesis of Leprosy. Ciba Foundation Study Group no. 15. Ed. by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. and M. O'Connor, B.A. Pp. ix+101. Illustrated. R1.50. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

This book contains details of the most recent and important advances in leprosy research. It is recommended to leprologists, pathologists and others already familiar with the subject.

The problem of greatest urgency remains the culture of *M. leprae*. It has not yet been established with certainty whether the acid-fast organisms with which it has been possible to cause infections in experimental animals are in fact human leprosy bacilli.

Other subjects of practical importance investigated include histological changes in sensory nerves and the correlation between morphology and viability of leprosy bacilli. E.J.S.

RADIOTHERAPY IN MALIGNANT DISEASE

The Treatment of Malignant Disease by Radiotherapy. 2nd ed. By R. Paterson, C.B.E., M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S., D.M.R.E., F.F.R. Pp. vii+556. Illustrated. R9.00. London: Edward Arnold Publishers. 1963.

Under the old title of *The Treatment of Malignant Disease by Radium and X-rays* Ralston Paterson's principles and practice of radiotherapy was first published by Edward Arnold in 1948.

In the fifteen years that have elapsed since the publication of the first edition, it has been reprinted 5 times, proving the popularity of this standard work on radiotherapy as practised in Manchester. But for a long time radiotherapists have felt that during the past decade radiotherapy has expanded its scope and added to its armamentarium, and that a second edition to include this progress was already overdue. The present edition is therefore welcomed.

As before, the intention throughout has been to provide a factual account of both the principles and practice of radiotherapy at the Christie Hospital and Radium Institute, Manchester. There is therefore scant reference to the work of other authorities and institutions in the field of radiotherapy, which no doubt must have had an influence on radiotherapy as practised at Manchester. This is both the strength and the weakness of the book: Paterson speaks and records from personal experience—this is its strength—while its weakness is due to the fact that he hardly comments on radiotherapy as applied elsewhere.

Many of the chapters have been rewritten and brought up to date in this edition. There are now sections on megavoltage therapy, wedge filters and the use of radioactive isotopes in the treatment of disease. There is a special chapter on cancer chemotherapy written in collaboration with his wife Edith Paterson.

The paper and printing is excellent and the reproductions of a very high standard. The 2nd edition should be in the possession of all radiotherapists and is highly recommended for all surgeons and gynaecologists interested in the management of cancer patients. T.F.

HANDBOOK OF UROLOGICAL PROCEDURES

A Handbook of Operative Urological Surgery. By J. Swinney, M.C., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Eng.) and D. P. Hammersley, B.A. Pp. vii+271. Illustrated. R5.50. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

In recent years the constructive aspect of operative urology has made enormous advances. As a result numerous operative procedures have been described. For those not actively associated with urology it has been difficult to keep up with the new trend in operative urological techniques.

The volume under review is a wonderful reference book and is absolutely up-to-date in its description of many, though not all, new operative urological procedures. It is indeed encouraging to read a book which is not merely a repetition of what has been written previously. It is also encouraging to read a book which has been so illustrated that the illustrations themselves describe the operative techniques. The emphasis on plastic and reconstructive aspects of urological surgery so well illustrated will do much to encourage conservative surgery.

This book will find a very useful place in the reference library of any urologist and will serve as an excellent reference work to those who are associated or will be associated with any urological problems. P.J.D.

PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF HEAD INJURIES

The Posttraumatic Syndrome following Head Injury. Mechanisms and treatment. By S. A. Jacobson, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii+92. \$4.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This book is based on an analysis of the clinical symptoms and signs manifested by 200 patients with head injuries of varying severity. The author, a neurosurgeon, discusses the pathogenesis of these symptoms and signs and gives detailed instructions on treatment. He feels that most posttraumatic headache arises from injury to extracranial structures, e.g. scalp and neck, and directs his attention to these areas in treatment. He insists on an adequate period of bed-rest and, if symptoms persist, he moves on to physiotherapy, traction, or immobilization of the neck. He also feels that posttraumatic vertigo is due to inner-ear damage and dysfunction, and treats it with dramamine, reduction of salt-intake and phenobarbitone.

This book should prove extremely useful in the practical management of a difficult clinical problem. F.R.A.