

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

SURGERY AND PSYCHIATRY

A Manual for the Surgical Management of the Psychiatric Patient. By J. A. Mendelson, B.S.Ed., M.M.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. ix + 56. Illustrated. \$4.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This is a brief and highly practical guide to a subject about which little has been written. It deals with many aspects of the surgery and surgical nursing of patients in mental hospitals, and is distinguished by a most understanding approach to the needs of the mentally ill who are also physically ill. Many useful surgical and nursing techniques are discussed, particularly with reference to the patient who is not able to cooperate fully in his surgical treatment. There are also useful chapters on postoperative care and rehabilitation.

L.S.G.

VANADIUM

Vanadium. Toxicology and biological significance. By T. G. F. Hudson, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. x + 140. R3.50. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Co. 1964.

Most of the world supply of vanadium comes from the USA, South Africa, South West Africa, and Finland. It is important in industry, and poisoning can occur. Vanadium is found in trace elements in many animal and human tissues, in enzyme systems and metabolic processes. It is therefore of great interest to biologists, biochemists, and pharmacologists. This excellent monograph provides a well-documented review of the many aspects of vanadium important to industry, industrial medical officers, toxicologists, and biological research workers in general.

N.S.

YEARBOOK OF MEDICINE

The Year Book of Medicine. (1963-1964 Year Book Series.) Ed. by P. B. Beeson, M.D., C. Muschenheim, M.D., W. B. Castle, M.D., T. R. Harrison, M.D., F. J. Ingelfinger, M.D. and P. K. Bondy, M. D. Pp. 807. Illustrated. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1963.

The Year Book of Medicine needs no introduction to the medical profession and may once again be wholeheartedly recommended. The current edition in every way upholds the high standard of its predecessors, covering the whole field of medical literature and reviewing virtually every important publication in the English language.

It is, moreover, much more than a mere collection of dull summaries: the editors are especially to be congratulated on the conciseness, clarity and readability of the material included—an example to all aspirant writers. The authority and refreshing commonsense of the editorial footnotes, as always, remain one of the best features of the book.

The present volume is recommended to doctors in all fields as an interesting and concise aid to keeping abreast with the advances in medicine.

H.M.

PRINCIPLES OF IMMUNOLOGY

The Specificity of Serological Reactions. Revised edition. By K. Landsteiner, M.D. Pp. xviii + 330. \$2.00 (paperback). New York: Dover Publications. 1962.

Karl Landsteiner is an outstanding name in the field of immunology—a winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1930 for discovery of the human blood groups and for elaboration of knowledge of other antigenic determinants on human red blood cells. The book gives a wide survey of thought and principles basic to a grasp of immunology.

In this revised edition there is also a chapter on molecular structure and intermolecular forces by Linus Pauling, and a bibliography of Landsteiner's works from 1892 to the year of his death in 1943. Following a discussion of the principal immunological phenomena and of immunization there are chapters covering the serological specificity of proteins, cell antigens, the nature and specificity of antibodies, artificial conjugated antigens, chemical investigations on specific non-protein cell substances and antigenic-antibody reactions.

In spite of the fact that recent studies have advanced the horizon of knowledge on this subject, this valuable work is essential reading for both the newcomer to, and the advanced worker in, immunology.

D.O.

ABSORPTION OF DRUGS

Absorption and Distribution of Drugs. Based on a symposium held by the Association of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Ed. by T. B. Binns, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.Ed., D.C.H. Pp. xi + 270. R3.75. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

In recent years much work has been done to elucidate the factors that determine the absorption, distribution, and fate of drugs. The information in this volume will prove most valuable to those working in this field, which includes those in academic medicine and in the pharmaceutical industry. Among other subjects considered are the physicochemical factors and kinetics of drug absorption, the influence of plasma proteins on the action of drugs, the blood-brain barrier, the placental barrier, the influence of particle size, and specific problems relating to particular drugs. The book makes fascinating reading for all concerned with drugs.

N.S.

CARE OF THE AGED

A Student's Guide to Geriatrics. By T. H. Howell, F.R.C.P. Ed. Pp. 199. R3.50. London: Staples Press. 1963.

This publication is an excellent book on the medical problems which arise in the care and treatment of elderly people. It deals with the diseases which are common in later life, and mentions the special care and nursing of these conditions. The chapters on psychology and mental disorders are very informative. It in no way takes the place of a medical textbook but emphasizes the special symptoms which may arise.

It is a valuable book for quick reference to geriatrics and is recommended to those who come across a great number of old people in their practice.

L.B.

ASPECTS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

An Introduction to the Science of Human Behaviour. By J. I. Nurnberger, M.D., C. B. Ferster, Ph.D. and J. P. Brady, M.D. Pp. xvi + 379. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1963.

This book lives up to its title. In one small volume the authors have presented a survey of the biological, psychosocial and behavioural aspects of human behaviour.

Based on lectures to undergraduate medical students, it is to be recommended not only for them, but also for psychiatric trainees preparing for their preclinical examinations.

A.A.Z.