

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY

*Human Endocrinology*. Vols. I, II and III. By H. S. Kupperman, Ph.D., M.D. Pp. 1,191. Illustrated. R28.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This handsomely bound and boxed trio of slim volumes will grace any bookshelf. Written by and for the clinician, every page reflects the author's obviously considerable experience.

Few texts are perfect. An eye-catching error is the omission of an essential pair of brackets from the equation for the calculation of TRP in parathyroid disorders. Most endocrinologists would probably be surprised at the confidence with which the author differentiates, on biochemical grounds, between adrenal hyperplasia and carcinoma. The scientifically minded will gaze hopelessly at the renal mechanisms postulated for diabetes insipidus.

Other small criticisms are possible. These would however be trifling comment on a work containing such a wealth of clinical information. There are scores of fine illustrations. It is a pity that the high price of these volumes must necessarily limit their audience.

Confidently recommended as a formal gift for the senior (clinical) colleague.

L.C.I.

### EMBRYOLOGY OF THE EYE

*System of Ophthalmology, Vol. III. Normal and Abnormal Development, Part 1: Embryology*. By Sir S. Duke-Elder, G.C.V.O., F.R.S. and C. Cook, F.R.C.S. Pp. xxiii + 313 + xii. Illustrated. R6.30. London: Henry Kimpton, 1963.

Making embryology easy to read, easy to understand and easy to remember is a formidable task. Duke-Elder, with the assistance of Charles Cook, has accomplished just this.

Part I of Volume III of the *System of Ophthalmology* deals with the embryology of the eye, while Part II deals with congenital deformities. This division of two closely related subjects has some obvious disadvantages, but it does allow a clear and well-classified exposition of the subject matter.

Part I is divided into four sections. The first is devoted to a chapter on the history of the science of embryology, an exposition of the general scheme of development and of the determination of the eye. Section II deals with the detailed embryology of the eye, Section III with the development of the ocular adnexa and pigment and Section IV summarizes the major steps in pre- and postnatal development, correlating all the events occurring at selected time intervals.

This book can be highly recommended to all those interested in the embryology of the eye and the ocular adnexa.

M.H.L.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS OF LEARNING

*The Psychology of Meaningful Verbal Learning.* An introduction to school learning. By D. P. Ausubel. Pp. xiv + 255. \$6.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1963.

The aim of this book is to present a comprehensive theory of learning in the educational situation. Its scope is limited to reception and retention of the material learned. In this set

framework it deals with basic concepts of learning, meaning, the subsumption process in learning and retention, cognitive structure variables, intellectual readiness, learning by discovery, task variables and motivational variables. All these concepts are carefully defined and thought through at an obviously highly intellectual and abstract level which makes reading a very concentrated and somewhat laborious effort.

This book will have great value for the academic-minded educationalist interested in the basis of learning. R.v.Z.