

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES

Industrial Injuries. Their prevention and treatment. By D. F. Featherstone. Pp. xi + 154. Illustrated. R3.25. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1964.

The author, a physiotherapist, discusses the prevention and immediate management of many of the injuries sustained while at work, in this rather slender book. The book is directed to industrial nurses, physiotherapists, safety officers and welfare officers concerned with rehabilitation. It contains much good advice from someone who has evidently had great experience in dealing with industrial and sport injuries, but it is not particularly suitable, nor is it intended, for medical officers who will require more detailed descriptions of treatment of individual injuries. T.S.

ADVANCES IN MEDICINE

Recent Advances in Medicine (Beaumont & Dodds). 14th ed. Ed. by D. N. Baron, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.C.Path., N. Compston, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. and A.M. Dawson, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 440. Illustrated. R5.00 (or R3.00 paperback). London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1964.

Because the last edition of this book appeared in 1952, it appears that the authors have attempted to review the innumerable advances in medicine since that date. To add to the ensuing wordiness, there is the unnecessary inclusion of some long-established clinical facts. The result is like a general dealer's shop overcramped with goods, mostly new but some shop-soiled. This display, which includes wares in all divisions of medicine except neurology, is unlikely to attract senior medical students or newly-qualified doctors into medicine as a specialty. The book will, nevertheless, sell well because it touches on almost all the significant recent advances and because R3.00 for the paperback version is a very good buy. Those many postgraduates (junior and senior) who are unable to keep up with the literature will find this a very adequate and almost unique source of what's what in modern medicine. They will thus be tempted to forgive the somewhat unstimulating style.

If future editions limited their scope and achieved a more pithy, critical and humorous style, this book would not only continue to be very useful, but would give more pleasure in its use. L.H.O.

DRUG THERAPY

The Year Book of Drug Therapy. (1963-1964 Year Book Series.) Ed. by H. Beckman, M.D. Pp. 640. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1964.

Dr. Beckman can be relied on to produce an interesting and useful volume. Once again he provides numerous abstracts of papers (good and bad) that have appeared mainly, but not entirely, in the American medical literature. Uncritical work or investigations not properly controlled are severely criticized by him. There is also a special section, growing in size, on the side-actions, actual and potential toxicities, and contraindications of the principal drugs in current use. In addition to the subject index there is an author index. There is no one interested in drugs who will not find something of special interest and importance in this book. N.S.

MITRAL STENOSIS

Open-Heart Surgery for Mitral Stenosis. Technique of operation by the left thoracic approach. By H. T. Nichols, M.D., D. P. Morse, M.D., G. Blanco, M.D. and A. Adam, M.D. Pp. x + 66. Illustrated. \$6.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

In this short monograph the authors make a plea for an open-heart operation for all cases of mitral stenosis requiring surgery. They point out that it allows full opening of both commissures of the valve, removal of calcium from the valve and from the left atrium, mobilization of the sub-valvular structures and correction of any insufficiency not diagnosed before operation. In addition it allows for replacement of the valve with an artificial one in case the valve is badly damaged during operation.

It is evident that the authors have had extensive experience with the open operation on the mitral valve and have been satisfied with their results. In this monograph the technique of the open-heart operation with the use of the heart-lung apparatus is described in detail. Numerous illustrations—probably to a large extent unnecessary—accompany the description of the technique. In addition, the technique of insertion of the ball-valve prosthesis in the mitral orifice is described.

This book will be of interest to the cardiac surgeon and will find its greatest value when used by a surgeon planning for the first time an 'open' operation on the mitral valve.

B.J. van R.D.

HYDRONEPHROSIS

Hydronephrosis. By J. C. Anderson, O.B.E., T.D., F.R.C.S.
Pp. x + 92. Illustrated. R2.50. London: William Heinemann
Medical Books Ltd. 1963.

This monograph, while dealing in detail with all aspects of the mechanism, pathology and other various forms of treatment of hydronephrosis, remains in essence a detailed study of the Hynes-Anderson repair for the condition—with line-drawings, radiographs, case histories and tables to confirm the general good results that make the author's operation—properly

conducted of course—the best procedure for hydronephrosis.

Specific instructions for the autoclaving of cystoscopes and ureteric catheters—the latter passed with a no-touch technique—are included in the appendix: it is unlikely that these recommendations will meet with general adoption although the lack of infection and good results attained may well be due to this very attention to detail.

The X-ray reproductions—mixed positives and negatives—are poor: the details of operative procedures both in photographs and line-drawings could certainly be improved upon.

I.J.