

INTRODUCTION TO EXPERIMENTAL SURGERY

*Experimental Surgery*. 5th ed. By J. Markowitz, M.B.E., M.B.(Tor.), Ph.D., M.S.(Exp.Surg.)(Minn.), J. Archibald, D.V.M., M.V.Sc.(Tor.), Dr.med.vet.(Giessen), M.R.C.V.S. and H. G. Downie, D.V.M.(Tor.), M.S.(Cornell), M.V.Sc.(Tor.), Ph.D. Pp. ix + 659. Illustrated. R10.40. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; and London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1964.

Research has become a cornerstone of modern surgical practice and occupies a prime position in teaching. It is therefore imperative that every postgraduate student of surgery be well acquainted with the contents of this established and valuable textbook, recently revised and re-edited.

No textbook can possibly keep pace with new experimental work which is constantly being reported, and in this respect the book under review is also lacking. However, as a basic introduction to methods and technique in experimental surgery it is highly commendable. D.R. de V.

VENEREAL DISEASE

*Textbook of Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses*. 2nd ed. By R. R. Willcox, M.D.(Lond.). Pp. 492. Illustrated. R7.00. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1964.

This textbook, written by a world-recognized authority on venereology, is strongly recommended for students, general practitioners, venereologists and public health workers. Not only are venereal syphilis, gonorrhoea, non-gonococcal urethritis, Reiter's syndrome, trichomoniasis and the endemic trepanematoses fully covered, but there are also sections on experimental animal syphilis, penicillin reactions, and the many new antibiotics; as well as a very important section on venereal disease control.

The style is simple and lucid, and the illustrations excellent. A.J.W.

CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY

*How to Interpret Investigations used in Clinical Endocrinology*. By M. Perrault, B. Clavel and J-F. Colas-Belcour, translated by E. N. MacDermott. Pp. 136. R1.35. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1964.

This book, which contains numerous misprints, seems highly unbalanced. For some reason disorders of the posterior pituitary, the pancreas (diabetes and insulinoma) and the supra-renal medulla, the corticoid syndrome, and malignant disease acting as an endocrine organ, are all omitted. Several discarded and obscure tests are included, which can be of interest only to the expert. Not recommended. W.P.U.J.

BONE TUMOURS

*Tumors of the Soft Somatic Tissues and Bone*. (Vol. VIII of 'Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases', 2nd ed.) Ed. by G. T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S. and I. M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii + 574. Illustrated. \$26.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row, Publishers. 1964.

In this volume the authors have upheld the high standard achieved in preceding volumes of this momentous work. Descriptions of the various tumours are excellent and the illustrations truly outstanding. It must be admitted, however, that the authors' conception of the pathology of certain tumours is not held in all centres, with particular reference to the ever-controversial Erwing's tumour. Furthermore, their method of treating osteogenic sarcoma is both unorthodox and as yet unproven.

Apart from these minor criticisms I feel that this is a magnificent book, well deserving intense study by all who are engaged in the treatment of malignant disease.

W.M.R.

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

*Experimental Biology*. Measurement and analysis. By R. H. Kay. Pp. xiii + 416. Illustrated. R8.40. London: Chapman & Hall Ltd. 1964.

Both the title and the preface of this scholarly book suggest that it offers a comprehensive treatment of the techniques of experimental biology, and this at an introductory level suitable for a beginner in the field. Unfortunately neither of these implied promises is fulfilled.

Fully half of the book is devoted to a discussion of the techniques used to study the electrical phenomena that accompany transmission of the nervous impulse, while microscopy, spectrophotometry and gas analysis are scantily dealt with and such physical techniques as electrophoresis, chromatography, centrifugation and the use of radioactive materials are not discussed at all. The level of the discussion assumes a knowledge of electronics, optics and physics not possessed by most 'beginners' in South Africa.

I am acutely aware of the feeling of inadequacy that deprives young men with a medical school background, of the rich intellectual rewards that experimental biology has to offer. Unfortunately this book does little to help him over the initial emotional hurdles and there are many better works available for this purpose.

There can be no doubt, however, that for the man of experience, particularly for the electrophysiologist of experience, this book has a great deal to offer and can be strongly recommended. E.B.D.