

BLADDER CARCINOMA

Industrial Bladder Carcinogenesis. By I. S. Temkin, translated from the Russian by J. J. Oliver. Pp. xi + 367. Illustrated. R10.00. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1963.

The author can be complimented on a very detailed survey of the problems of carcinogenesis in industry and in particular those related to the occurrence of carcinoma of the bladder. Although more than 65 years have passed since tumours of the urinary tract occurring in workers engaged in the manufacture of synthetic aniline dyes were found for the first time, in Germany, many countries were lax in promulgating effective legislation directed towards the notification of this disease: the conditions pertaining in various countries at that time are surveyed, and it is noted that Russia was the first country to introduce effective legislation.

A full discussion of the carcinogenic compounds associated with carcinogenesis in general, and bladder carcinoma in particular, shows that the basic dyes causing bladder carcinoma have been narrowed down to aniline, alphanaphthylamine, betanaphthylamine, benzidine and dianisidine and 4-aminodiphenyl. The clinical behaviour and carcinogenesis of these compounds are then fully discussed, together with others suspected of being carcinogenic. The pathogenesis is well documented and the work of innumerable authors is extensively quoted; the questions of selective action of different carcinogenic substances, the selective affection of the urinary bladder, length of exposure, latent periods in the development of carcinoma, the intensity of contact required, sex, age, etc., are all fully investigated.

The diagnosis is well documented, including the question of the discovery of microhaematuria, cytological examination of the urine, systematic cystoscopy (from which follows the description of the cystoscopic appearance of various bladder tumours), and also the part played by biopsy in assessing the type of tumour. Tumours of the renal pelvis and ureters are also considered, together with the clinical signs and character of the various tumour presentations. The clinical course and prognosis of the disease, together with the findings of other workers in this field, are considered, and the variations associated with benign and malignant tumours are discussed.

Prophylaxis is probably the most important aspect of the problem of industrial carcinoma, and to this end the author devotes much time and thought. The chapter on experimental production of tumours by workers throughout the world emphasizes that these tumours can be produced at will by carcinogenic agents. A further important point is that with adequate control, as evidenced in the USSR, the incidence is definitely being reduced by strict control measures, involving both medical control and industrial legislation.

The book has proved extremely interesting and informative, and those interested in the subject could well acquire this monograph for their library.

C.D.K.

RADIATION BIOLOGY

Effects of Ionizing Radiation on the Reproductive System. Proceedings of an International Symposium held at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Ed. by W. D. Carlson and F. X. Gassner. Pp. xii + 478. Illustrated. R10. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1964.

This is a most readable book containing 38 papers presented by some 60 world authorities, such as Charles Huggins, on reproduction and the effects of ionizing radiation on the reproductive system with special reference to the amount of radiation required to affect, in males and females: (1) drives (doses upsetting sexual drives, parental instincts, care of the young, and nesting habits); (2) fertilization (doses preventing mature gametes from uniting); (3) fertility-sterility (doses causing temporary and permanent sterility); (4) longevity (daily low-level doses carried through generations); (5) performance capabilities of offspring (doses sufficient to double the mutational load for a particular species).

There is no doubt that in the case of domestic crops more marketable products can be produced by increasing the frequency of mutations with ionizing radiation and the exercise of rigid selection. This poses the question: Have we not in ionizing radiation a ready medium of achieving maximum life and utmost vigour for human offspring by judiciously increasing the mutational load of the human species by daily subjecting them to small doses of ionizing radiation over and above the natural background radiation?

This is a most stimulating symposium especially for the scientist engaged in research on radiation biology and the allied sciences.

T.F.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis in Children. By F. J. W. Miller, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H., R. M. E. Seal, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P. and M. D. Taylor, M.D., D.P.H. Pp. xii + 615. Illustrated. R12.00. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

The title of this textbook gives the immediate impression that the authors intend dealing exclusively with the problem of childhood tuberculosis: this is, in fact, not so. They have cleverly and lucidly presented in detail the clinical, pathological, bacteriological, epidemiological and therapeutic aspects of tuberculosis, both pulmonary and extrapulmonary. Their theories and observations are supported and substantiated by their own personal experiences as well as by reference to authoritative work of other well-known personalities in the field of tuberculosis control. A remarkable feature of the book is the excellent reproduction of X-ray pictures of actual cases.

The chapter on tuberculin testing and BCG vaccination is particularly interesting. The authors recommend isolation before and after BCG vaccination, but stress the point that isolation is not practicable in mass inoculation and also the absolute necessity of reporting all accelerated vaccination reactors. This applies to the lesser developed countries and, in fact, is practised in the urban and rural Bantu areas in the Republic of South Africa, where mass BCG campaigns are carried out without previous tuberculin testing and isolation.

No specific reference is made by the authors to percutaneous BCG vaccination, but they describe a multiple puncture vaccination. The vaccine is reported to contain 83 mg./ml. of bacilli. This is equivalent to standard percutaneous vaccine used universally with the multiple puncture technique.

This book will be welcomed, not only by the chest physician and tuberculosis medical officers, but also by medical officers of health.

M.G.

RADIOLOGY IN GENERAL PRACTICE

The Practice of Country Radiology. By D. de F. Bauer, M.D., C.M., M.Sc. Pp. xix + 260. Illustrated. \$11.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This is not a textbook on radiology, but an unusual book which attempts to teach recently qualified radiologists how to establish and run a private practice in country districts. It is written, therefore, for qualified radiologists (in the USA) and not for the general practitioners or specialists who use their own X-ray plants to examine patients. The latter groups would, no doubt, find the book more valuable than the qualified radiologist: this would certainly be the case in South Africa.

In South Africa a few radiologists have started in smaller centres in recent years, but they do not fall into the group for whom this book was written. The few radiologists who practise in the country are experienced men, who have retired from practice in the larger towns to run a radiological practice in a smaller centre, and they do not need many of the hints on how to run a practice, nor the technical details given in some of the chapters. A qualified radiologist does not require a discussion on what screens, films or grids to use, and it is surprising that these should have been included.

The most valuable part of the book is the discussion on the relationship between the radiologist and his general practitioner and specialist colleagues, also practising in the country. The difficulties described are not confined to country practice, but the radiologist will very soon find out for himself how to deal with these problems. Such chapters as 'Purchases', 'Accounting problems', 'Insurance', 'Employees', etc., differ greatly from practice to practice, whether in town or country, and the difficulties are very soon encountered and overcome by the radiologist with commonsense. One rather disappointing feature is that the subject of protection receives very little consideration.

An interesting point is that, while on page 55 it is stated 'Films made by a radiologist in his office are clearly the property of the radiologist', and this has been the attitude of radiologists for years, according to Senior Counsel's opinion recently obtained by the Radiological Society of South Africa this presumption cannot be sustained: a patient may require the films for a second opinion, or if he goes overseas, or under various other conditions, and it is unlikely that the Court would rule that the films did not belong to the patient.

The book is well presented and very easy to read. The few illustrations are excellent, but I do not know how many country practitioners could produce a lateral lumbar spine of the type shown in this book. In South Africa, where so much country work is done by general practitioners in private practice, or in the small hospitals, this book should be of some use even though its value to a qualified radiologist is limited. Although there are a few valuable technical details, the book can scarcely be regarded as essential for the qualified radiologist who has taken a diploma in radiology.

M.W.

LEG INJURIES

Accident Injuries of the Conjoined Femur. By J. Kulowski, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. Pp. xviii + 294. Illustrated. \$12.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

This book has as its theme the results and effects of injuries to the region extending from the hip joint to the knee joint, hence the name 'Conjoined femur'. In the first part the author develops his theme and in the second part illustrative case histories and methods of treatment are quoted.

It is unfortunate that there are several spelling errors, for example p. 138 'fracture sight' for fracture site, p. 140 'medical fracture dislocation' for medial fracture dislocation, and p. 143 'there series' for their series, etc. These will be corrected by better proof reading in the second edition and do not detract from the value of the book.

Many of the photographs of the accidents could be used as illustrations for a lecture on the horrors of 'road disease' but contribute little else.

In the preface the author writes 'this may appear to be a new look at familiar things in an unfamiliar way', and this he succeeds in doing. The book is well produced and is a tribute to the publisher.

A.S.

IMMUNOLOGICAL MECHANISMS

Clinical Aspects of Immunology. Ed. by P. G. H. Gell, M.B., M.R.C.S. and R. R. A. Coombs, M. R. C. V. S., B.Sc., Ph.D., Pp. xxvi + 883. Illustrated. R9.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This exciting new book compiled by 35 distinguished authors gives a comprehensive and detailed picture of immunity and allergy in relation to modern medicine, and is as important to the clinician as it is to the laboratory worker. The emphasis is on immunological mechanisms and immunopathology.

The opening chapter by Gell and Coombs forms the foundation and sets the standard of this remarkable book. The diagnostic applications of immunological methods are described in the first section. This is followed by a description of immunological functions of the lympho-reticular tissues, properties of complement, and mechanisms of protective immunity and a fascinating account of 82 cases of hypogammaglobulinaemia. About half of the book is concerned with the allergic state as responsible for hypersensitivity and clinical disease. The last section deals with procedures employed in prophylaxis and immunotherapy.

The publishers, too, must be congratulated on the high standard of production and the clarity and quality of the line-drawings and photographs.

G.S.

HIRSUTISM

The Hirsute Female. Ed. by R. B. Greenblatt, M.D. Pp. xi + 313. Illustrated. \$12.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This extremely useful volume on the specialized subject of female hirsutism has been ably edited by an author who has written widely on, and has an extensive personal knowledge of, the topic he presents. No less than five of the fifteen chapters are by Greenblatt himself, while the remaining list of contributors include, among others, such well-known authorities on endocrinology as Gold, Hamblen, Jailer, Liddle and Novak.

The subject is presented in an easily readable manner; there are ample illustrations and the case histories presented help to emphasize the points made. Much of the content is written in a 'question and answer' style, and each chapter has an up-to-date bibliography.

Recent advances in the use of anterior pituitary gonadotrophins (HP-FSH+HCG) and clomiphene (MRL-41) for the induction of ovulation, are fully discussed. Although not entirely comprehensive, the chapter outlining the approach to the clinical and laboratory investigation of the hirsute female is most useful.

This book is highly recommended for the gynaecologist who practises endocrinology, but will only be of limited use to the general practitioner or medical student.

H.E.