

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

CARDIOPULMONARY DISEASES

Advances in Cardiopulmonary Diseases, Vol. II. Ed. by A. L. Banyai, M.D., F.C.C.P. and B. L. Gordon, M.D., F.C.C.P. Pp. 347. Illustrated. \$12.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. 1964.

This second series of lectures of the American College of Chest Physicians was delivered during 1962 and covers 23 varied subjects. Once again the book is directed towards the postgraduate student and generally emphasizes the present status rather than recent advances in this field. It is claimed that 'the precepts . . . are aimed at clinical medicine as applied to daily practice' and this second selection fulfils this aim better than did the first volume. Pulmonary and cardiac diseases receive equal space and a chapter is devoted to the treatment of oesophageal carcinoma; the major emphasis is on diagnosis.

R.P.H.

ATRIOVENTRICULAR NODE

The Atrioventricular Node. And selected cardiac arrhythmias. By D. Scherf, M.D., F.A.C.P. and J. Cohen, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xiii + 466. Illustrated. \$18.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1964.

This monograph reflects the views and work of an authority in his field. Dr. Scherf has made major contributions in our knowledge of the AV node and writes with authority, clarity and comprehension. The bibliography is extensive and pays full tribute to early workers in the field.

For those interested in the AV node, its connections, the anatomy, physiology and rhythm disturbances that arise from this small but important structure, this monograph can be highly recommended.

V.S.

GOUT

A Short History of the Gout and the Rheumatic Diseases. By W. S. C. Copeman, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. ix + 236. Illustrated. R4.80. Los Angeles: University of California Press; and London: Cambridge University Press. 1964.

Dr. Copeman unfolds the fascinating history of gout and its therapy in the first half of this book. He emphasizes most interestingly the numerous leaders in Europe who were afflicted, and how this could have shaped world history.

The second half deals with other arthritides and tends to be a little repetitive as each disease is considered. It is sobering to learn how old many 'modern' concepts are, and how very recent many current ideas.

Numerous French quotations should not have been left untranslated—but altogether this is a most enjoyable book.

I.D.H.

HAEMATOLOGY

Blood Diseases. By M. A. Atamer, M.D. Pp. viii + 616. \$16.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1963.

This informative volume encompasses almost the entire spectrum of haematological disorders. The author has drawn freely on his personal experience and published facts to produce a book full of useful data and up-to-date references. The majority of subjects discussed are introduced by a historical note and a discussion of the physiopathology of the disorder, and much of the clinical data is presented in tabulated form.

The anaemias associated with the malabsorption syndrome receive only scant attention, and the large amount of case material is seldom subjected to critical review. But these are minor criticisms which do not detract from the value of the book, particularly to those in need of a digest of the recent literature in haematology.

I.N.M.