

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

### GALLSTONES

*Gallstones. Causes and treatment.* By A. J. H. Rains, M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. 188. Illustrated. R4.00. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1964.

This new monograph on the common condition of gallstones should be interesting to both physicians and surgeons. The

first half deals with the theories of formation of gallstones and the latter half with practical aspects of presentation and management. Historical interest prevails throughout and makes for easier reading. The less radical approach in management is interesting and controversial but the brief manner in which the uses of the choledochoscope are dismissed is disappointing and leaves a gap in the diagnostic armament for the occasional difficult case.

D.S.

## VORDERING IN HEMATOLOGIE

*Progress in Hematology, Vol. IV.* Ed. by C. V. Moore, M.D. and E. B. Brown, M.D. Pp. ix + 309. Illustrated. \$13.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1964.

Hierdie publikasie, die 4de van 'n bekende reeks, was gelukkig om in Carl Moore en Elmer Brown as redakteurs waardige opvolgers te vind vir die gestorwe Tocantins. Bydraes, uitsluitlik uit die V.S.A. versamel, is deurgaans van 'n besonder hoë gehalte, maar bedoel vir die navorser eerder as die internis. In besonder is monumentale werke oor normale en abnormale heem-sintese (42 bladsye), en die serologiese, fisiologiese en kliniese aspekte van leukosiet- en trombosit-iso-immunisasië (74 bladsye) werklik standaard-werk. Die klinikus sal waarde put uit die hoofstuk oor die huidige stand van terapie in akute leukemie (vincristine word aanbeveel as die doeltreffendste sitostatikum), en die belangrike bespreking van chloramfenikol-toksiteit. Dit blyk dat chloramfenikol twee afsonderlike bloed-afwykings veroorsaak, nl. 'n verbygaande, onbelangrike pansitopenie tydens terapie, en 'n ernstige, ware aplasiese anemie wat later aankom en geen verband hou met die eersgenoemde letsel nie.

Die hoofstukke oor eritropoëtiese, methemoglobinemie, biochemiese aspekte van bloedgroep-substans, Von Willebrand se siekte en lood-vergiftiging is almal puik oorsigtelike werke. Navoring oor die struktuur van menslike globulien en kennis van globulien-siektes soos mielomatose, makroglobulinemie van Waldenström, en Franklin se siekte, is 'n snel-ontwikkelende veld wat handig en leesbaar bespreek word.

Ten spyte van die aansienlike prys sal die gevorderde hematoloog die boek van waarde vind. Die afwesigheid van opsommings by meeste bydraes behoort hom nie veel te hinder nie, terwyl die enorme bibliografie die naslaanwaarde van die boek verhoog.

## CANCER

*Cancer Progress Volume, 1963.* Ed. by R. W. Raven, C.B.E., T.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. xiii + 254. R6.27. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1963.

This volume by Mr. Raven illustrates the team work that should be practised by surgeons, physicians, radiotherapists and research workers in the treatment of cancer. The various chapters deal with the progress in tumour virology, improvement in radiotherapy techniques, chemotherapy including regional perfusion and certain aspects of diagnosis, statistics, epidemiology, and a chapter by Robert Smith on the biological approach to cancer surgery.

This book should be read by all practitioners and we look forward to future editions.

## PARAPLEGIA

*Orthopaedic Surgery of the Limbs in Paraplegia.* By L. S. Michaelis, M.D.(Berlin), L.R.C.P.(Edin.), L.R.C.S.(Edin.). Pp. vii + 54. Illustrated. DM12.00. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1964.

Reconstructive and corrective operations, carefully selected and meticulously performed, have a definite and important role in the treatment of paraplegics. The correction of severe tendon and joint contractions is essential before the measures necessary for social re-integration can be commenced. The consideration and operative approach to para-articular ossification also merits special attention.

In this monograph, the author describes his operative experience in this field, based on 12 years' experience at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire, England. Important aspects such as haemoglobin level, haemostasis (paraplegics bleed more profusely and for longer periods because of faulty vasomotor control), and postoperative attention to positioning and placing of splints by the surgeon himself, are dealt with concisely and clearly. The danger of not interfering with recently learnt new coordination by ill-chosen tendon transfers in the upper limb is carefully stressed.

There is a short chapter on anaesthesia in paraplegics by Dr. Norman Welply.

It would possibly add to the value of this interesting monograph if a chapter on the role of plastic surgery in the repair of pressure ulcers could be included.

M.S.

## BASIC PSYCHIATRY

*An Outline of Psychiatry.* For students and practitioners. By F. Fish, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. vii + 270. R3.25. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1964.

This is a very interesting short account of psychiatry, written with admirable clarity and embodying a great deal of practical experience. Professor Fish often states his views with more conviction than one commonly finds in textbooks of psychiatry, but this merely makes the book more stimulating. He is always informative and often scholarly.

The chapter on general symptomatology is really excellent, being the best brief account of the subject I have come across. The bias is towards the German phenomenological and descriptive school, with a strong admixture of the Meyerian approach. The author does, however, give a wide view of other contemporary currents in psychiatry as well. One regrets the lack of chapters on mental defect and child psychiatry, but the book is nevertheless worth while—what is more, it is enjoyable reading.

L.S.G.

## KLASSIFIKASIE VAN VIRUSSE

*Viruses of Vertebrates.* By Sir C. Andrewes, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Pp. xi + 401. R6.30. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1964.

Een van die mees bekende viroloë bied hier 'n werk aan wat nie 'n enkele woord te veel of te min bevat nie. Dit is 'n geskikte verwysingsboek wat (1) vinnig oriënteer ten opsigte van die bekende feite oor virusse, (2) hulp verleen om 'n virus te definieer, en (3) eienskappe vermeld waarop die klassifikasie van virusse gebaseer kan word. Die boek is in 4 afdelings verdeel: RNS-virusse; DNS-virusse; ongeklassifiseerde virusse; en chlamydozoëae. Van elke virus word die sinonieme, morfologie, ontwikkelings-kringloop, skeikundige samestellings, fisies-chemiese eienskappe, hemagglutinasie en antigeniese eienskappe, interferens, kweekmetodes, voorkoms, patogenisiteit, ekologie en kontrole-maatreëls vermeld. Iedere hoofstuk is ryklik aangevul met verwysings uit die literatuur. H.D.B.

## ANAEMIA AND CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA

*Modern Treatment, Vol. 1, No. 3.* Treatment of the anemias—ed. by E. D. Bayrd, M.D.; and Treatment of cardiac arrhythmias—ed. by J. W. Hurst, M.D. and R. C. Schlant, M.D. Pp. 531 - 789. Illustrated. Bimonthly publication, subscription \$16.00 per year. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row Publishers. 1964.

The chief concern of this book is with the treatment of the anaemias and of cardiac arrhythmias. Diagnostic problems are also considered briefly—in some places too briefly to be of value, though in others a useful differential diagnosis and explanations of the underlying mechanisms are given. The sections on the iron-deficiency anaemias, the different types of blood transfusion reactions, and ventricular tachycardias and fibrillation are particularly good.

Most of the information can be obtained from standard textbooks of haematology and cardiology, but there are useful sections incorporating recent work, e.g. the scope of testosterone as a haematinic agent, and cardiac resuscitation.

H.A.B.

## MENTAL HOSPITALS

*The Psychiatric Hospital as a Social System.* Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Conference on Community Mental Research, Social Science Institute, Washington University. Ed. by A. F. Wessen, Ph.D. Pp. ix + 190. \$6.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

This is an interesting study in depth of the mental hospital as a natural system or as a planned system, and the pros and cons of the therapeutic community concept. The problems of research in the hospital as a social system are also discussed with accompanying statistical data for those interested.

One is again reminded of the fact that a very important relationship exists between an individual and the group or groups in which he participates in his social system whether that social system is in a mental hospital or in the broader community.

E.M.v.W.

## CHILD HEALTH

*The Advancement of Child Health.* By A. V. Neale, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H. Pp. 191. R2.50. London: Athlone Press. 1964.

This little book comprises a series of lectures delivered at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In the first lecture the author traces the gradual development of a national conscience towards child health in Britain and Europe, from the bad old days of the 18th and 19th centuries up to the present time. This includes many fascinating milestones of history vividly portrayed.

Other lectures describe the development of maternity services and the resulting fall in maternal and neonatal mortality, the measures adopted to combat tuberculosis and an interesting historical and sociological survey of juvenile rheumatism. A selected bibliography is included at the end of each chapter. The words of Francis Bacon some 400 years ago, quoted by the author, are particularly relevant today to our vast problem of child malnutrition in this country: 'Commend rather a good diet than the frequent use of physic'.

Recommended to all concerned with the welfare of the child.

H.L.W.

## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

*Multiple Sclerosis.* A reappraisal. By D. McAlpine, C. E. Lumsden and E. D. Acheson. Pp. viii + 415. R5.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingston Ltd. 1965.

Dr. E. D. Acheson's excellent description of modern epidemiological methods will prove of the greatest value to those carrying out epidemiological studies in diseases of the nervous system. He describes the problems of classification and the difficulties of ascertainment, and makes a comparative study of the surveys of multiple sclerosis that have taken place in different parts of the world. He discusses the relationship to latitude and the low prevalence of multiple sclerosis among the White South African-born in contrast to the relatively high prevalence among immigrants to South Africa from Europe. Dr. Douglas McAlpine describes most admirably the natural

history of multiple sclerosis, the symptoms and signs, the problem of diagnosis, the course, prognosis and treatment. Dr. C. E. Lumsden gives an excellent account of the clinical pathology of multiple sclerosis and discusses the latest theories of immunology.

In my opinion this is the best book on multiple sclerosis that has yet been written and I can strongly recommend it to all who are interested in this fascinating and most puzzling disease.

G.D.

## LYMPHOMAS

*Lymphomas and Related Diseases.* (Vol. IX 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. xv + 395. Illustrated. \$18.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row Publishers. 1964.

Although entitled *Lymphomas and Related Diseases* this volume is the 9th in a series of 10: *The Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases*. There are 15 contributions by 29 authors, 28 of whom are American. Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith of Oxford, the only British author, contributes the introduction: 'The classification and natural history of the lymphadenopathies'.

The opening chapter discusses the differential diagnosis of enlarged lymph nodes. The roles of the cytotoxic drugs, radioisotopes, radiotherapy and surgery are all very adequately presented. The rest of the book deals seriatim with each of the generally recognized entities: the leukaemias, Hodgkin's disease, etc., as well as the treatment of tumours of the spleen and the differential diagnosis and treatment of pancytopenia. The final and the longest chapter, although a useful exposition of Stefanini and Dameshek's views on the haemorrhagic disorders, should have been confined to the subject of cancer and allied diseases.

The book is beautifully produced, but reflection of light from the glossy paper is irritating. The photomicrographs are excellent and the tables are clear and suitably titled. There is an extensive bibliography. The value of this book is attested by the fact that this is its second edition.

L.E.