BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

NUTRITION CONGRESS

Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress of Nutrition. Edinburgh, 9 - 15 August 1963. Ed. by C. F. Mills and R. Passmore. Pp. xv + 683. Illustrated. R10.50. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

Nutrition brings together many scientific, medical and veterinary disciplines so that an International Conference on Nutrition is bound to be of great general interest. This Congress was outstanding and attended by a galaxy of world authorities. The well-produced *Proceedings* is an excellent and unique record of current advances in a wide field. The plenary lectures and symposia are reproduced in full, with illustrations, and there are summaries of the sectional meetings.

Subjects include the relation of nutrition to industry, athletics, growth, cardiovascular disease, developing populations, the pre-school child, malabsorption, endocrine function, pregnancy, and animal production. This book should be a priority purchase for medical libraries and reference purposes. It sets a standard that could well be followed by other international congresses. J.D.L.H.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis. Ed. by V. C. Barry, D.Sc. Pp. viii + 281. Illustrated. R7.95. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1964.

This is an excellent summary of present thought on the treatment of tuberculosis. Each chapter is written by an acknowledged expert in the field covered, and references are fully listed. Particularly interesting is the chapter by Rist on the nature and development of resistance of the tubercle bacillus to chemotherapeutic agents. J.B.P.

PANCREATIC METABOLISM

The Structure and Metabolism of the Pancreatic Islets. Proceedings of an International Wenner-Gren Symposium held in Uppsala and Stockholm, August 1963. Ed. by S. E. Brolin, B. Hellman and H. Knutson. Pp. x + 528. Illustrated. R14.00. Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1964.

This is a highly specialized book and most of it will interest a very limited audience. The earlier chapters are concerned largely with comparative structure and physiology, but much of this will be of value to cytologists and histochemists. The clinician will find the last few chapters very interesting—in these are discussed the effect of prolonged administration of sulphonylurea drugs on the islets (though this is not very new), the pathological change in the beta cells in diabetes, with particular reference to their total mass, and some findings from the Ibstock diabetes survey with regard to plasma insulin activity in relation to glucose tolerance. The most fascinating chapter was that concerning the stimulatory effect of ketones on insulin production by the beta cell, discussed as yet another example of a stimulatory feed-back mechanism.

Each chapter ends with a general discussion and relevant references. The photographs are good—some are in colour. Most remarkable perhaps are the individually isolated beta cell granules, photographed by electron-microscopy. In a book of this size I was disappointed to find nothing on the pancreas of the diabetic's baby. W.P.U.J.

PEMPHIGUS

Pemphigus and Pemphigoid. By W. F. Lever, M.D. Pp. ix + 266. Illustrated. $10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Much of the credit for bringing order to the classification of the major bullous diseases is due to W. F. Lever, and this lucid summary of the present state of affairs is a monument to his work. Every aspect of the subject is discussed, illustrated and documented.

Lever never digresses far from his theme, but he takes the opportunity to point out that erythema multiforme could survive uncluttered by syndromes. J.M.

REFERENCE BOOK ON POISONS

Symptomatology and Therapy of Toxicological Emergencies. By W. B. Deichmann, Ph.D. and H. W. Gerarde, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. xvi + 605. Illustrated. $18.00. New York and London: Academic Press. 1964.

This is a rather expensive but valuable ready-reference book with new and up-to-date information on toxic agents. It is not a textbook of pharmacology but provides concise notes on a considerably large number of drugs and chemicals, and poisonous plants. It includes lists of compounds causing blood dyscrasias; the accepted threshold limit values for chemicals; the maximum permissible concentrations of various chemicals in food, drugs, and cosmetics; and tables on the acute toxicity of numerous chemicals. The drugs and chemicals are listed in alphabetical order for quick reference and there is a complete index covering all material included in the tables. There are also references to original papers dealing with cases of poisoning. N.S.

MENTAL RETARDATION

Medical Aspects of Mental Retardation. Ed. by C. H. Carter, M.D., F.A.A.M.R. Pp. xviii + 1062. Illustrated. $32.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

This book is written for medical practitioners. The authors stress the importance of environmental (as distinct from biological) factors in the production of mental retardation, and place the onus squarely on the medical practitioner to recognize the earliest signs of functional limitations in the infant and pre-school child.

For the specialist psychiatrist it affords a convenient reference volume in which all matters pertinent to mental retardation are mentioned. Each chapter is self-contained, and overlap between chapters is minimal. Where justified, a concise and lucid summary of chapters is provided, and the bibliography appended to each chapter is more than ample for the needs of those who would read further.

Between the covers of this one volume information is to be found which would be obtainable only after widespread research into the literature, much of which is available only in back numbers of medical journals. Every obstetrician, paediatrician and family doctor should read this book.

R.D.K.

THE RABBIT IN EYE RESEARCH

The Rabbit in Eye Research. By J. H. Prince, F.B.O.A., F.R.M.S., F.Z.S. (Eng.). Pp. xvi + 652. Illustrated. $37.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

The rabbit is well established as an experimental animal in ophthalmic laboratories mainly because of the similarities between this animal and man. Yet up to the present no concise volume has appeared describing the anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of the rabbit eye as a reference for the research worker. The void has now been filled by the publication of this book.

There are 18 chapters written by 10 contributors, each a well-established scientist in his field. Within these chapters are described the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, effects of all forms of radiation on the rabbit's eye, and a separate chapter on laboratory techniques. There is also an introductory chapter which summarizes the similarities and the differences between the rabbit eye and that of man, as well as the development of the rabbit eye. It contains, also, a very good description of the electron-microscopy of the tissues of the rabbit eye, in particular the ciliary processes and the retina.

The book is capably edited, with excellent illustrations, has a good bibliography at the end of each chapter, and is pleasant to read. The work can be highly recommended and is indispensable as a reference work for the experimental ophthalmologist and for scientists involved in eye research. M.H.L.