

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

METHOTREXATE IN TREATMENT OF CANCER

Methotrexate in the Treatment of Cancer, 2nd Symposium. Ed. by P. M. Worrall, B.Sc., M.B. and H. J. Espiner, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. xvi + 117. Illustrated. R4.50. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1966.

This is a fascinating volume which covers very ably and fully the place of Methotrexate therapy in carcinoma and also chorio-carcinoma and psoriasis, but like so many books is already 2 years out of date at the time of publication, which is a disadvantage in such a rapidly developing subject. There is a great deal of information on the mode of action of Methotrexate and on its place in immunology.

This book is essential reading for those interested in the chemotherapy of solid tumours, in intra-arterial infusion and for radiotherapists.

R.S.

SEX EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

What to Tell Your Children about Sex. Prepared by The Child Study Association of America. Foreword by M. I. Levine, M.D. Pp. x + 117. R1.60. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1965. Obtainable from Howard B. Timmins, Cape Town.

This work, prepared by the Child Study Association of America, is enhanced by its lack of verbosity. The layout enables parents and others who may be interested in the subject to refer to special sections with ease. Many parents, when their children spontaneously question them on the problems of sex and procreation, become flustered, while others are unaware that if their child asks no questions on this subject, it might well be opportune to introduce the subject.

The book tackles the problem, not as a separate entity, but interwoven into the growth process, from the early age of speech to the surges and urges of adolescence. An attempt has been made neither to simplify nor to be too technical. It is not only the child who needs sex education but the parent who needs enlightenment in teaching it.

A handy and useful book, recommended for its direct and easy approach to a sorely-neglected part of education. It should find a prominent place in the home libraries of all sensible parents.

J.B.L.

HISTORY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

A History of Ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania. By D. M. Albert, M.D. and H. G. Scheie, M.D. Pp. xiii + 388. Illustrated. \$13.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

We all love to read a good story, particularly when it is also a true story. Daniel M. Albert and Harold G. Scheie, the authors of this *History of Ophthalmology*, do not disappoint their readers.

They describe the history of ophthalmology at their medical school, the school attached to the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Many famous names in ophthalmology emerge during their narrative, e.g. Benjamin Franklin, Horner, Norris, De Schweinetz, Adler, Scheie, and one recognizes many milestones in the development of ophthalmology from the late 18th century to the present.

The book is divided into 4 parts—the first devoted to the period before 1870; part 2 covers 1870-1901 and describes the establishment of the chair of ophthalmology at Pennsylvania University; part 3 records the development of the department under the chairmanship of George E. de Schweinetz (1901-1924); and part 4 is devoted to the present era (1924 onwards). It is a well-written book which will be enjoyed by any doctor who is interested in the history of medicine.

M.H.L.

ISCHIO-FEMORAL ARTHRODESIS

Ischio-Femoral Arthrodesis. By J. C. Adams, M.D. (Lond.), M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (England). Pp. vi + 112. Illustrated. R3.50. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

This is an extremely well-produced monograph by an author who is of the highest standing in the orthopaedic profession. It deals solely with his experience of 125 cases of the nail and graft modification of Britain's ischio-femoral arthrodesis of the hip in which the fusion rate was 79%. He discusses fully the detail of the operation, the complications, especially the problem of fracture of the graft and also the future place of this type of operation in the treatment of the painful hip.

This is a highly specialized monograph which is strongly recommended to all orthopaedic surgeons.

J.A.v.d.M.