

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

*The Epidemiology of Multiple Sclerosis.* Ed. by M. Alter, M.D., Ph.D., and J. F. Kurtzke, M.D. Pp. xiv + 204. Illustrated. \$10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

Multiple sclerosis, which was a rare disease 30 years ago, has become relatively common in South Africa in recent years. Although some neurologists believe that this increase is more apparent than real, I am of the opinion that the disease is on the increase. If this is so, it may be of great aetiological significance.

The timely appearance of this book may stimulate further studies in this field. It describes epidemiological methods which could be applied in South Africa and possibly lead to a better understanding of the condition—perhaps even its elucidation.

A.V.B.

### SUDDEN DEATH IN INFANCY

*Sudden Death in Infancy.* By P. Geertinger, M.D. Pp. xv + 107. Illustrated. \$6.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

This short monograph in the American Lecture Series is written by a Scandinavian who is a forensic pathologist. He puts forward a tenable thesis to account for an important problem in the more highly civilized countries. The arguments that he uses to account for sudden unexplained death are convincing, though in some aspects the investigations are incom-

plete and merit further study. Understandably, he freely admits to a limited knowledge in the fields of biochemistry, endocrinology and embryology.

The book is concise and written in simple language making it easy to read, though grammatical errors (which should have been eliminated by the editor) are too frequent. It is, however, an essential addition to the medical literature and is recommended to all forensic and paediatric pathologists as well as clinical paediatricians.

R.O.C.K.

### GENEESKUNDIGE ETIEK

*Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine.* By M. Gelfand, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R. Pp. viii + 174. £12.6. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1968.

Die era van hernieude besinning oor die geneeskundige etiek is pas ingelui. Net voor die hartoorplanting en dus aan die voorraand van hierdie era, skryf Gelfand 'n boek wat raak aan die praktyksprobleme van elke dag.

Dit is op die man af en in 'n geselstrant wat die boekie 'n plek op die kassie langs die bed laat verdien. Die waarde daarvan is veral in die paar hoofstukke wat oor die dokterskap handel. Dit lewer die riglyne hoe om te antwoord op die vrae wat in elkeen van ons se bepeinsinge hul verskyning maak.

'n Pragwerk deur 'n bekende outeur—iemand wat oor dertig jaar die moderne en die primitiewe heelkuns met mekaar kon vergelyk.

H.B.