

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

KLEINERE OPERASIES

Minor Surgery. By D. Kyle, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Cantab.), L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.). Pp. vii + 323. Illustrated. R7.50. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1968.

Die skrywer het bedoel om die boek 'n praktiese karakter te gee, en het wel daarin geslaag. Die boek is in twee dele verdeel: Die eerste is 'n algemene oorsig oor trauma infeksies en tumore. In die tweede deel word die algemene beginsels toegepas op spesifieke areas in die liggaam—die ekstremitate, die toraks, kop en nek. Ook die urogenitale sisteem en anus word bespreek. Net kleiner ingrepe word beskryf.

Die boek is hoofsaaklik aan te beveel vir die student en algemene praktisyn.
H.A.C.

MODERN VITAMINOLOGY

The Vitamins in Health and Disease. A modern reappraisal. By J. Marks, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.C. Path. Pp. 183. Illustrated. £3.0.0. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1968.

This book is an outline for modern vitaminology, written for students of medicine and related branches of applied biology.

Although conciseness was the keynote in the writing of each chapter, the subject matter is dealt with comprehensively. Each vitamin is considered separately and established facts are distinguished clearly from those aspects which need further investigation.

Unsaturated fatty acids are not considered, since these do not fall within the scope of Dr Marks's definition of a vitamin.

Chapters on nutritional significance of vitamins and on various technical aspects, including the assessment of vitamin status in humans, as well as a list of key references, form valuable adjuncts.

Illustrations are attractively designed and informative, and their reproduction is excellent.
J.J.D.

CALCIUM METABOLISM

Calcium Metabolism and the Bone. 2nd ed. By P. Fourman and P. Royer. Pp. xxi + 656. Illustrated. £4.4.0. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

This is the 2nd edition of a work which first appeared in 1960. The subject of calcium metabolism, although comprehensively covered, is patchy in parts. The section on the effect of steroids was disappointing, while the combination of osteoporosis and osteomalacia receives hardly any mention at all.

On the positive side, the list of 3,500 references extending to the middle of 1967 is impressive. The authors maintain that the diagnosis of osteoporosis rests upon evidence of structural failure, and this is a refreshing departure from the old empirical standards.

This is not an easy book to read. The text is cluttered by references instead of superscript numerals. The frequent use of clichés could have been avoided.
M.B.E.S.