

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

NERVE INJURIES

Nerves and Nerve Injuries. By S. Sunderland, C.M.G., M.D., B.S., F.R.A.C.S. (Hon.), F.R.A.C.P., F.A.A. Pp. xv + 1161. Illustrated. £12.10.0. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1968.

This is a most impressive book that covers the anatomy, physiology, pathology and clinical aspects of nerves and nerve injuries in a comprehensive and up-to-date fashion. It is the fruit of 25 years of careful personal observation and research by an Australian expert. A great deal of his experience was gained from the work he did on nerve trauma resulting from war injuries.

The book is large, well indexed, appropriately illustrated and immensely readable. No medical, neurological or orthopaedic library should be without a copy, and for its value it is reasonably priced for individual purchase. F.A.

PSYCHOSOCIAL NURSING

Psychosocial Nursing. Ed. by E. Barnes. Pp. xx + 316. £3.3.0. hard cover; £2.7.6. paperback. London: Tavistock Publications, 1968.

This is an interesting account of the development of the practice of nursing in a specific field and the ways of meeting the special needs of psychiatric patients. Insight is given into nurse-patient relationships and the essential skill in nursing and group work as a means of attaining this. Valuable advice is given on the selection of nurses for psychosocial nursing, which may prove adaptable to the selection of nurses in other spheres. The section on nursing administration is also valuable and helpful in present-day problems. I.M.M.

ELECTRONEUROMYOGRAPHY

A Manual of Electroneuromyography. By H. L. Cohen, M.D. and J. Brumlik, M.D., M.S., Ph.D. Pp. xi + 178. Illustrated. \$10.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row, 1968.

The methodology of electromyography, electrodiagnosis (strength-duration curves), and measurement of nerve conduction velocity is given in detail. Clinical records illustrating the application of these techniques in the diagnosis of various neuromuscular disorders make up the remainder of the text.

There is little or no discussion of underlying physiological or physicochemical mechanisms. Even enthusiastic 'electroneuromyographers' may well balk at the price of this volume.

L.C.I.

FACIAL SURGERY

Face-Lift Operation. By J. Vonley, M.D. Pp. vii + 122. Illustrated. \$19.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1968.

This is one of those unfortunate books which attempt to appeal to both the patient and her doctor, and fail. One-fifth of the book is devoted to a fairly instructive account of the operation of rhytidectomy, with a useful chapter on post-operative complications. The remainder, however, is little more than a rather selfconscious justification (maybe because the author is an otorhinolaryngologist!) of aesthetic facial surgery, irrelevantly illustrated. S.C.

CONGENITAL CARDIAC DISEASE

X-Ray Diagnosis of Congenital Cardiac Disease. By L. P. Elliott, M.D. and G. L. Schiebler, M.D. Pp. xviii + 240. Illustrated. \$11.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1968.

The dust-cover recommends the book to 'a beginner, to chart a course for him through the vast array of congenital cardiac malformations. Eleven of these are discussed regarding the pathological anatomy, altered physiology and clinical features in addition to highlighting the roentgen aspects.'

This book contains nothing new and has no message. The subject matter is circumscribed and incomplete and the descriptions are verbose. Much of the material is irrelevant—a long description of the mechanism of fixed splitting of the second sound in atrial septal defect (p. 107), and then numerous illustrations of phonocardiograms and vectorcardiograms. The radiological material could be condensed into one well-written chapter, except for the description on cardiac malpositions.

The book is in fact a partial introduction to cardiology, with the emphasis on the radiological appearance of the plain films of the chest. It needs more illustrations, greater emphasis on differential diagnosis, an approach to the 'unknown' chest film, and more discussion of the rarer disorders.

There are better monographs available and the volume is not recommended. M.S.G.