

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

## AKUTE CHIRURGIESE BUIKTOESTANDE

*Surgery of the Acute Abdomen.* 2nd ed. By J. A. Shepherd, V.R.D., M.D., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. xi + 741. Illustrated. £5.13.11. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1968.

Hierdie is die tweede uitgawe van 'n boek oor akute chirurgiese buiktoestande deur 'n bekende chirurg in Engeland wat as gesaghebbende kan skryf. Die veld word goed gedek. Slegs buikbeserings wat in oorlogstyd voorkom en akute buiktoestande in die pasgeborene word nie bespreek nie. Beide hierdie toestande vereis egter sulke gespesialiseerde aandag dat 'n mens kan verstaan waarom dit nie in hierdie boek opgeneem is nie. Die belangrikheid van die verskillende akute buiktoestande in die praktyk bepaal die aandag wat die skrywer aan die toestande in die boek gee. 'n Mens wens egter dat sekere interessante toestande wat nie so dikwels voorkom nie, meer aandag kon gekry het.

Die skrywer stel sy gedagtes duidelik en die boek lees maklik. Hierdie tweede uitgawe het die inhoud van die boek tot 'n groot mate moderniseer.

Die eerste twee hoofstukke gaan oor die beginsels van diagnose en van behandeling. Die behandeling in die n-operatiewe fase, in diabetiese pasiënte en in pasiënte wat steroïede ontvang, word onder andere ook bespreek. Die laaste hoofstuk gaan oor mediese toestande wat as chirurgiese buiktoestande mag voordoen. Aan die einde van die boek is daar oor elke onderwerp 'n aantal verwysings wat die leser kan naslaan.

Alle nagraadse studente in chirurgie behoort hierdie boek te bestudeer. Dit is ook 'n boek van groot waarde vir die algemene praktisyn wat nood-chirurgie op die buik moet doen asook vir die kliniese assistent of registrateur in chirurgie en vir alle junior chirurgie. B.J.v.R.D.

## CONTEMPORARY NEUROLOGY

*Some Aspects of Neurology.* Symposium held at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1967. Ed. by R. F. Robertson, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin., M.R.C.P. Lond. Pp. 151. Illustrated. Edinburgh: The Royal College of Physicians. 1968.

This is a short, eminently readable book that deals with contemporary neurological problems.

The first chapter on the management of cerebrovascular disease is of particular interest to all physicians and neurologists because it establishes the criteria for investigation and treatment of this common medical problem. The section on headache is admirably lucid in its description of pathogenesis and aetiology. Other topics such as malignant neuropathy, neuropathies in general, cervical spondylosis and specialized neurological techniques and drugs are of wide general interest.

This is an up-to-date simple presentation and discussion of a wide variety of neurological problems that are exercising the minds of all physicians and neurologists at the moment.

F.R.A.

## DISORDERS IN GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS

*Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Vol. 11, No. 1. Physiology of labor—ed. by E. J. Quilligan, M.D.; Thromboembolic disorders in gynecology and obstetrics—ed. by G. V. Anderson, M.D. Pp. 318. Illustrated. Published quarterly by subscription only, \$18.00 per yr. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row. 1968.

The first section, 'Physiology of labour', is outstanding and will be extremely informative for clinicians, students and physiologists. Of special practical importance is the chapter on electronic evaluation of the foetal heart. Kubli's chapter on the influence of labour on foetal acid-base balance is one of the first publications from an admitted enthusiast that stresses the pitfalls of foetal scalp sampling.

The second section, 'Thromboembolic disorders', is disappointing, with much repetition and limited practical application. P.B.

## SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN DURBAN

*The Clinico-Pathological Manifestations of Schistosomiasis in the African and the Indian in Durban.* By S. B. Bhagwanand, M.D. (Natal). Pp. vii + 207. Illustrated. R4.75. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press. 1968.

A thesis approved in 1965 and published in book form in 1968. It seems a pity that advantage was not taken to condense and discard repetitive and irrelevant subject matter, as, for example, in chapter 2. There are too many editorial errors—27 + 17 = 40 (p. 108); high incidence of hepatic involvement of the liver (p. 140); hybridisation between man and cattle schistosomes (p. 9). The author has an annoying habit of referring back to previous chapters and tables without indicating where these are to be found. Symmers is referred to as Symmers St Clair often and as Symmers sometimes (p. 141).

Apart from these criticisms, and the fact that prognosis *per se* is dealt with in relation to hydro-ureter and hydronephrosis only, the book is of great value as a base 'for a new appraisal of bilharziasis and its long-term sequelae in the individual and the community . . . in South Africa'.

R.J.P.

## GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY

*Textbook of Gynecologic Endocrinology.* Ed. by J. J. Gold, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xxii + 682. \$23.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row. 1968.

This volume is a complete text of the very newest information on the subject of gynaecological endocrinology in all its varied ramifications. Thirty-six authors, among whom are many well-known names, have contributed chapters on their own special fields of interest.

The contributions have been grouped into 8 separate sections and each chapter concludes with a liberal list of references to the literature. There is inevitably some degree of overlap between some of the contributions, but the book in every way forms a fine reference manual for both clinician and laboratory worker, on a subject that is advancing at an extremely rapid pace.

It can be most strongly recommended to all interested in this very difficult branch of gynaecological study and practice. E.M.S.

## PSYCHODYNAMIC INTERPRETATION

*Treatment or Torture.* The philosophy, techniques and future of psychodynamics. By G. S. Jones. Pp. viii + 324. £2.15.0. London: Tavistock Publications. 1968.

In a lengthy philosophical discourse the author attempts to establish the scientific status of psychodynamic interpretive statements. He convincingly exposes the fallacies of reductionism, behaviouristic dogmatism and other errors in psychological thinking. He shows that psychodynamic interpretations meet the demands of scientific hypotheses in that they are falsifiable, testable and have predictive value. Unfortunately he then cites case material from group sessions and LSD treatments which read more like speculative metapsychology than scientific data, and his practical suggestions for training in psychodynamics do little to refute the accusation often levelled at psychoanalysis of it being an exclusive cult rather than a scientific discipline.

This book is written by a philosopher for those well-acquainted with the terminology of philosophy. It is heavy going for a mere psychiatrist such as myself, though well worth the effort. D.L.N.

## MESENKIEMREAKSIE

*Die Unspezifische Mesenchymreaktion.* Zur pathogenese der reaktiven mesenchymkrankungen. Deur W. H. Hauss, G. Junge-Hülsing en U. Gerlach. Pp. viii + 155. Geillustreer. DM 48.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1968.

Die skrywers gebruik die woord 'mesenkiem' sinoniem met 'bindweefsel' en hulle wil in die boek toon dat 'n verskeidenheid van faktore almal dieselfde of 'n soortgelyke mesenkiem-

reaksie kan uitlok. Die reaksie word met biochemiese en morfologiese metodes ondersoek in toestande soos byvoorbeeld aterosklerose; fokale miokard nekroses; miokardinfarkte; hepatitis; lewersirroze; diabetiese angiopatie; en 'n groep siektes wat die outeurs rumatiese siektes noem, maar wat in die gewone mediese taalgebruik kollageensiektes genoem word. In al hierdie toestande kan vermeerdering van veselagtige bindweefsel en/of grondsubstans waargeneem word, soos algemeen bekend is. Die skrywers probeer om te bewys dat hierdie, wat hulle 'nie-spesifieke mesenkiemreaksie' noem, die eerste en mees algemene liggaamsreaksie teen beserings (toksiene, hipertensie, dieet, sielkundige spanning, ens.) is. In aterosklerose is dit miskien aanvaarbaar. As dit egter oor siektes soos lewersirroze, rumatiekkoors, rumatoïede artritis en kollageensiektes gaan, is

die skrywers se nie-spesifieke mesenkiemreaksie as primêre weefselverandering nie sonder meer aanvaarbaar nie. Dit dwing die outeurs om bv. by bespreking van chroniese hepatitis die lewersel-nekroses as gevolg van die bindweefsel vermeerdering te beskou. Die antigeen antiliggaam reaksies in rumatiekkoors, rumatoïede artritis, sistemiese lupus eritematose, ens. word as in verband met die patogenese onbelangrik beskou en serologiese bevindings en waarnemings met die immunofluoressensie metode op dié gebied geïgnoreer. Dit maak die bespreking, as 'n geheel, onbevredigend. Beginsels van algemene patologie word herhaaldelik foutief of onduidelik bespreek. Ek het derhalwe die indruk dat nouer samewerking met deskundiges van verskillende vakrigtings 'n aanwinst vir hierdie boek sou gewees het.

H.W.W.