

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### FORENSIC MEDICINE

*Lecture Notes on Forensic Medicine.* By D. J. Gee, M.B., B.S., M.C. Path., D.M.J. Pp. x + 268. £1.5.0. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

This book, intended for undergraduates, is divided into 3 main brief yet readable parts, each of about 85 pages, viz. medico-legal aspects of medical practice (applicable to the United Kingdom), forensic pathology, and toxicology.

The section dealing with forensic pathology is inadequate for local undergraduate training in forensic medicine, which is directed at providing sufficient depth of knowledge to permit the undergraduate on qualification to enter medical practice with sufficient background to enable him to undertake most of the everyday medico-legal tasks of a district surgeon's practice. L.S.S.

### SURGICAL CLASSIC

*Surgery of the Anus, Rectum and Colon.* 2nd ed. By J. C. Goligher, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. x + 1110. Illustrated. £10.10.0. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1967.

This 2nd edition of J. C. Goligher's outstanding work on the surgery of the anus, rectum and colon has been thoroughly reviewed and extensively revised and includes up-to-date chapters on congenital deformities and megacolon by H. H. Nixon and on colon motility by H. L. Duthrie. New material has been added on polyps and drastic alterations have been made to the chapters on minor rectal conditions, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. This book remains the best book on the subject in the English language and is a classic which should be on the shelves of every practising surgeon. Professor Goligher is to be congratulated on producing such an excellent contribution to surgical literature.

J.H.L.

### MATHEMATICS OF THE BRAIN

*A View of the Brain.* By J. S. Griffith. Pp. 79. 15s. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1967.

The author of this monograph is Professor of Applied Mathematics at Oxford University, and no doubt the mathematics are impeccable. Certainly the work is of interest to those esoteric souls who can read mathematics as they read

English, and yet are interested in biological function. The subject of how the brain might work has a fascination for a larger audience. 'Cogito ergo sum', said Descartes, and was satisfied. The author is not; he wishes to know not only what he thinks, but also how he thinks, and he has made a tangible effort to express neuronal activity in terms of computer mathematics. C.F.

### DIABETES

*Diabetes in the Tropics.* Proceedings of the World Congress on Diabetes in the Tropics, Bombay, 20 January 1966. Ed. J. C. Patal, B.Sc., M.D. (Bom.), Ph.D., M.R.C.P. (Lond.) and N. G. Talwalkar, M.D. (Bom.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. xviii + 673. R5.00. Bombay: The Diabetic Association of India. 1968.

These proceedings of a congress held in Bombay during January 1966 deal fairly adequately with present-day study on diabetes mellitus in the tropics. This book is mainly for the reader whose primary interest is diabetes and those interested in comparative and/or geographical distribution of the disease. I cannot, therefore, recommend it *in toto* to the general practitioner, the general physician, or even the general pathologist.

In approximately 600 pages it covers almost all aspects of diabetes, but as it is the work of multiple authors, there is inevitably considerable overlap.

S.K.

### SURGERY OF HAND INJURIES

*Surgery of Repair as Applied to Hand Injuries.* 3rd ed. By B. K. Rank, C.M.G., M.S. (Melb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), P.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S., A. R. Wakefield, M.S. (Melb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.A.C.S. and J. T. Hueston, M.S. (Melb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.A.C.S. Pp. xv + 350. Illustrated. £3.18.6. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1968.

As the authors state in their preface, the general medical public now realizes that the surgery of hand injuries is genuine emergency surgery carried out by men trained in a new branch of surgery deriving from orthopaedic, general and plastic surgical disciplines. This book is an essential and admirable companion to all who work in this field and deservedly remains a classic because of its content, beautiful presentation and clarity of thought which makes its study a pleasure. It is

notable how in the midst of exquisite detail the patient as a whole is never forgotten. It is a clear demonstration of the saying 'surgeon is a physician who operates', and sets a high standard for its readers.

B.R.A.B.

### LIVER BIOPSY

*Liver Biopsy Interpretation.* By P. J. Scheuer, M.D. (Lond.), M.C. Path. Pp. x + 138. Illustrated. £4.5.0. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1968.

To anyone interested in the liver, endorsement of a monograph by Prof. Sheila Sherlock leaves little more to be said.

This work is a practical aid to liver biopsy diagnosis and is intended for the working pathologist, the trainee pathologist and the interested clinician. It is essentially a bench book enriched by profuse illustrations, generally of good quality, but one is driven again to reflect how superior are good black and white photomicrographs compared with rather pedestrian coloured ones. Many of the latter leave much to be desired. The bilharzia granulomata depicted in Plate 16, to select but one example, demands so much of the imagination that it could well have been omitted.

The text is excellent and, in Sherlock's words, it contains everything that anyone should know about liver biopsy.

J.G.

### INTRATHORACIC SURGERY

*Operative Surgery.* 2nd ed. Vol. II: Thorax. Ed. by W. P. Cleland, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. Pp. xvi + 426. Illustrated. Cost of 14-volume set R194.00, 6-volume set R110.00. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1968.

This long-awaited edition replaces the original production published in 1967. The obvious allocation of space portrays the surge in the scope of intrathoracic surgical procedures, since less than two-thirds of the original volume was devoted to this field.

Obsolescent techniques have been thoroughly pruned, and precise well-illustrated accounts of the standard modern surgical diagnostic approaches and operation for pulmonary, diaphragmatic, oesophageal and extra- and intracardiac disorders have been included. In fact, comparison of the old volume with this new text almost covers the recent history of the operative metamorphosis that has occurred in this surgical region.

The list of distinguished contributors both from the United Kingdom and the United States of America, many of them leading authorities and pioneers, is indeed a recommendation.

This is a solid, practical work of great value to all interested in the practice of surgery, and particularly to the men training in this field and the general surgical trainee needing thoracic surgical orientation, without being the complete answer to the practising cardiothoracic specialist.

R.D.C.