

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

MICROBIOLOGY

Microbiology. By B. D. Davis, M.D., R. Dulbecco, M.D., H. N. Eisen, M.D., H. S. Ginsberg, M.D. and W. Barry Wood jnr, M.D. Pp. xi + 1464. Illustrated. \$23.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row. 1967.

Basically a medical textbook, this volume contains a wealth of information for those who require a broad basic knowledge of the subject at an advanced level. This text is the first to be treated upon a molecular basis. Despite its modern approach the historical aspects are adequately covered. The section on bacterial physiology contains an excellent chapter on genetics, as does the section on virology. The immunology section is logically arranged, with particular attention being paid to cellular and molecular phenomena. There are 33 chapters which deal with microbial infections of man and emphasis is placed upon the relation of bacteria, fungi and viruses to human disease. The nature and structure of viruses is treated in detail. There are many excellent electron-micrographs reproduced and in general the quality of the illustrations is superb. At the end of each chapter are short lists of selected references. Despite the fact that the protozoa are not included, this is probably the best microbiology textbook available.

An excerpt volume of this text made its appearance in 1968. The new volume, entitled *Principles of Microbiology and Immunology*, contains all the general parts of the parent text but much of the purely medical material has been left out. The new book, smaller and less expensive, is intended for graduate students and biologists concerned mainly with the general properties of microbes.

D.W.

CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS

Cervical Spondylosis and its Neurological Complications. By B. H. Smith, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 231. Illustrated. \$12.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

Cervical spondylosis (e.g. osteoarthritis of the cervical spine, usually with disc degeneration) can cause damage to the cord itself, the nerve roots, the vertebral artery and probably the sympathetic chain.

That severe, persistent headache, even the unilateral migraine type, is often caused by a pathology in the cervical spine and can dramatically respond to treatment of the neck condition, has been realized only quite recently. More and more other neurological disturbances are now recognized, or suspected, to originate from the 'cervical syndrome', and there is some danger that too many hitherto obscure conditions are now explained in this way (vertigo, nausea, ataxia, trigeminal neuralgia, tic, disturbance of hearing and vision, etc.).

The volume under discussion is an attempt to summarize our present state of knowledge. It is systematically arranged in a survey of anatomy, physiology and pathology, as well as the various clinical manifestations grouped as radiculopathy, myelopathy and vascular insufficiency.

The writer is a neurologist and orthopaedic readers might disagree about a point here and there, e.g. the inference that anterior neck fusion is a formidable procedure, but on the whole the book is excellent and well written. It is very detailed and complete for a text of only 190 pages and well illustrated. Of special merit is the bibliography, which is the most complete and up to date on the subject that I have encountered.

I.H.