

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

CANCER IN MAN

Etiology and Prevention of Cancer in Man. By E. V. Cowdry. Pp. xxvi + 420. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1968.

This book covers the common neoplasms of the body divided into six divisions: buccal cavity and pharynx; digestive organs; respiratory system; breast and genito-urinary organs; other unspecified sites; and lymphatic and haemopoietic tissues. All the important features of aetiology and prevention are considered in a lucid and orderly manner.

A disconcerting fact remains that during the past half-century the death rate per 100,000 of the population has been consistently high. The sharp drop in the death rate of female patients with cancer of the cervix from 26.8/100,000 population in 1935 to 11.9/100,000 in 1965, is unquestionably more than coincidental, and is ascribed to the use of cervical smears and the Papanicolaou stain.

This is a most satisfying book and should be of value to all oncologists interested in the cause, prevention and control of cancer.

T.F.

PATHOLOGY

Modern Trends in Pathology, 2. Ed. by T. Crawford, B.Sc., M.D. (Glasg.), F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P. (Glasg.), F.C. Path. Pp. vii + 323. Illustrated. R8.50. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1967.

It is rarely that the views of so many distinguished scientists can be studied in so small a volume. Professor Crawford has gathered together the leaders in specific fields of general and special pathology to collaborate in a volume whose title speaks for itself.

Sections on the immune response to tissue transplants, and the thymus in relation to neoplasia reflect current interest in these absorbing topics. New concepts on inflammation and atherosclerosis are features, as well as a study on the electron-microscopy of human liver disease. This is an excellent collection of essays and should be of particular value to teachers and research workers in pathology.

J.G.

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION

Co-operative Study on Cardiac Catheterization. American Heart Association Monograph No. 20. Ed. by E. Braunwald, M.D. and H. J. C. Swan, M.B., Ph.D. Pp. 113. \$5.00. New York: American Heart Association. 1968.

This monograph covers the experience of 16 laboratories in the USA entirely engaged in cardiac catheterization and angiographic investigations, and is particularly concerned with the complications and fatalities. Considering the nature and natural history of the diseases demanding such procedures, the risks are fortunately comparatively small, particularly in view of the desperate condition of many of the patients, especially the very young infant.

One expects an elegant and lucid study of scientific value from Dr E. Braunwald and his colleagues, and they do not disappoint us. Of no real value to the general medical practitioner, this volume will be found on the shelf of almost every catheterization laboratory throughout the world.

V.S.

EFFECTS OF CATECHOLAMINES

Catecholamines in Cardiovascular Physiology and Disease. American Heart Association Monograph No. 17. Ed. by R. Reader, D.Phil. (Oxon), F.R.C.C.P., M.R.C.P. Pp. 247. Illustrated. \$5.00. New York: American Heart Association. 1968.

This monograph covers papers read mainly by Australian workers, at a conference on catecholamines in cardiovascular physiology held in Canberra in June 1967. Commencing with the discussion on the uptake, storage and release of transmitters by granules in the nerve endings and closing with the effects of catecholamines on the heart and peripheral vessels, the symposium includes papers on electrical and chemical transmission, distribution of enzymes, biosynthesis of these substances and receptor activity.

This book deals with basic physiology and will only interest workers in this highly specialized field. It is not of general interest.

V.S.

NUTRITION AND INFECTION

Interactions of Nutrition and Infection. By N. S. Schimshaw, Ph.D., M.D., M.P.H., C. E. Taylor, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. (C) and J. E. Gordon, Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. 329. £2.14.0. Geneva: World Health Organization. 1968. Available through Van Schaik's Bookstore, Pretoria.

This is a mine of information for those needing to consult the most reliable studies dealing with the effects of the nutritional state on the incidence of infection, or the effects of infection on the state of nutrition; for either animals or humans. Seven chapters examine each issue systematically and there are some 1,500 references. Forty pages consider the problem of weaning diarrhoea. Having consulted with 17 specialists, the authors state that 'the conclusion of greatest clinical and public health significance to be drawn from the material presented is that synergism of malnutrition and infection is particularly common in populations of less developed countries'.

As might be expected, the conclusions reached are often based mainly on the results of animal experiments. Thus, Table 2, on the effects of protein deficiency on infectious disease, summarizes the results of 89 studies, of which 6 were made on man.

F.W.F.

INFERTILITEIT

Management of the Infertile Couple. Deur M. Roland, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.O.G. Pp. v + 234. Geïllustreer. \$10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

In hierdie eeu van superspesialisasie is dit gewens dat boeke van hierdie aard verskyn wat volledig die probleem van infertilititeit behandel. Die diagnose, ondersoek, spesiale ondersoeke en behandeling van beide die man en die vrou word volledig en duidelik bespreek en geïllustreer. Die boek is heeltemal op datum ten opsigte van moderne konsepte en sal ook van waarde wees vir die algemene praktisyn wat te doen kry met die probleme van onvrugbaarheid.

J. N. de V.