

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

HAEMATOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

Technical Haematology. By A. Simmons, L.C.S.L.T. (Canada). Pp. xii + 316. £7.0.0. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1968.

This is a comprehensive collection of basic haematological techniques. Divided into 8 chapters; each section deals with one aspect of haematology and the laboratory techniques applying to it, with, in many places, more than one method for a particular procedure. Each chapter is reviewed by a series of questions aimed at helping the student to understand fully the preceding text. The book is well arranged and the techniques are easily followed. However, the price of the volume is likely to exclude it from the hands of the learner technologist for whom it was obviously intended. J.A.P.

ABNORMAL OFFENDERS

The Mentally Abnormal Offender. A Ciba Foundation Symposium. Ed. by A. V. S. de Reuck and R. Porter. Pp. xii + 260. £3.0.0. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1968.

This newcomer to the forensic psychiatric literature is a worthy addition to an already imposing array of masterpieces on this subject. It is curious that Dr Stirup in his first article raises the same question which led in this country to the enquiry conducted by Mr Justice Rumpf on the subject of 'Will this man be dangerous'.

His warning that the answer could only be obtained through long-term socio-psychiatric studies concerning the offenders is a sobering thought for those who have been inclined to make too dogmatic a statement on this question.

A revelation by Professor Kloek that the forensic importance of schizophrenia is rather limited is interesting, as this could be challenged by colleagues in this country with experience among non-White patients. The warning by Schipkowensky that the endogenous depressive could create mass murder in his family can never be heard too often. Of particular interest for those who are planning new hospitals is the article by Rollin who expresses himself very clearly on the impossibility of keeping dangerous criminals in ordinary mental hospitals, with a final warning that security hospitals should be purpose-built and that a compromise of security units in existing hospitals should be avoided at all costs.

C.G.A.S.

MICROPUNCTURE TECHNIQUES

Micropuncture Techniques and Nephron Function. By E. E. Windhager, M.D. Pp. xi + 249. Illustrated. R5.50. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1968.

In this pocket-sized volume Dr Windhager has very clearly and succinctly described the application of the micropuncture technique to single nephrons and adds greatly to our understanding of renal physiology.

The techniques are described in detail and subjects covered include water and electrolyte handling by the kidneys as well as acid-base balance, and the final chapter on ion transport across tubular cell boundaries is excellent.

This, the most comprehensive available account of single nephron physiology, is supported by a bibliography of no less than 406 items. It is essential reading for nephrologists and physiologists and other students of renal function. L.E.

ACID-BASE BALANCE

Acid-Base Physiology in Medicine. By R. W. Winters, M.D., K. Engel, Mag. Sc., and R. B. Dell, M.D. Pp. viii + 290. Illustrated. R3.50. Copenhagen: Radiometer A/S. 1967. Obtainable from Medical Distributors, Cape Town.

There are many features of this excellent book that recommend it as the best currently available text on the subject of the clinical physiology of acid-base balance. The book is superbly produced with lucid text and diagrams, and the content is comprehensive and accurate. The most laudable feature, though, is the way in which the technique of 'programmed self-instruction' has been used to convey the information to the reader. Conceptual and factual knowledge is presented in a logical, sequential manner that invites interested, active participation in the process of learning about this very important subject. E.B.D.

THORACIC SURGERY

Surgery for Thoracic Disease. An outline. By R. R. Shaw, M.D. Pp. 141. \$7.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

This is the briefest possible summary of non-cardiac thoracic surgery, presented in note form with subdivision on the

'3b(5)(b)(1)' basis (to quote an extreme example). This system, although it is a very effective means of sorting facts, does make the grasping of underlying principles difficult at times.

One might not agree with certain minor statements made, but there are excellent sections on mycotic disease, congenital anomalies and tumours of the lung. Carcinoma of the oesophagus is inadequately covered, and the principles of management of empyema could be more broadly stated.

An additional 100 pages and a few simple illustrations would greatly improve this little book, but it may nevertheless be recommended to undergraduates and flustered interns requiring a quick survey.

F.A.M.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS

Epidemiology of Chronic Non-Specific Lung Disease (Chronic Bronchitis). A critical analysis of three field surveys of CNSLD carried out in the Netherlands. Part I—text; part II—tables. By R. van der Lende. Pp. xix + 165 + 100. fl. 28.00. The Netherlands: Royal Vangorcum, 1969.

The task of compiling the data which are the basis of this thesis points out the dedicated zeal of the author. It is a detailed, statistical, epidemiological analysis of chronic non-specific lung disease (CNSLD), a condition essentially not easily definable. The multitudinous factors involved in this well-planned and -organized study are set out in the 120 tables of part II. Surveys of the literature, the choice and standardization of methods, the objectives with discussion of the reliability of approach take up about half of part I. The publication is intended for zealous and dedicated workers in this field.

T.J.

INFLAMMATION

Chemical Biology of Inflammation. Proceedings of a Conference held at Brook Lodge, August, Michigan, USA on 31 May - 2 June 1967, under the sponsorship of the Upjohn Company. Ed. by B. K. Forscher. Pp. xii + 337. Illustrated. £6.6.0. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1968.

The proceedings of this conference is a multidisciplinary approach to the subject of inflammation and contains a wealth of stimulating information. Specially noteworthy are studies of mast-cell proteases, basophil contributions to delayed sensitivity reactions, systemic response to inflammation, etc. The book suffers from a lack of verbatim (edited) reporting of comments and discussions of the papers. This is regrettable since the discussions are presented in the past tense and one often loses the point (and also valuable information). The proceedings are unlikely to have wide appeal.

O.L.M.

ANGIOGRAPHY

Angiography of Cerebral Circulation. By K. Decker and H. Backmund. Pp. v + 75. Illustrated. \$12.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1969.

This 75-page book of intracranial radiology is an outstanding atlas illustrated by subtraction radiograms. It is supplemented by pictures of colour subtraction and addition techniques still in the experimental stage.

The text suffers from circumlocution by our standards, yet the foreword by Ziedes des Plantes may explain this. He recommends the work to general practitioners. They apparently need to be informed of the possibilities of cerebral angiography. However, the real beneficiaries will be radiology students and their neurological and neurosurgical colleagues.

In conclusion, the quality of the production of the book is excellent so that the radiograms lose nothing in reproduction.

L.W.

ATLAS OF SKIN TUMOURS

Appendage Tumors of the Skin. By K. Hashimoto, M.D. and W. F. Lever, M.D. Pp. vii + 179. Illustrated. \$17.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1969.

This book is virtually an atlas, but serves as a useful general text on the tumours of epidermal derivatives. It caters for the histopathology of these growths onto which is tacked an extensive and often original accumulation of histochemical and electron-microscope findings. These features are introduced mainly for their taxonomic value. There is a short appendix which gives the electron-microscopist's picture of a number of controversial cytological features of the skin. In approach it lies midway between a routine manual and a research monograph.

G.H.F.

CYTOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

The Cytology of Effusions. Pleural, pericardial and peritoneal and of cerebrospinal fluid. 2nd ed. By A. I. Spriggs, D.M. (Oxon), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.C. Path. and M. M. Boddington, M.A., B.Sc. (Oxon), M.C. Path. Pp. 174. Illustrated. £6.0.0. London: William Heinemann Medical Books, 1969.

This book deals with the identification of cells found in serous effusions and in cerebrospinal fluid in acute and chronic infections and in malignancy. It is aimed essentially at those engaged in routine cytological diagnosis. The text is succinct and the numerous beautiful colour photographs are clearly and well annotated. The chapter on technical methods is of particular value and the bibliography is vast. This book is a 'must' for all laboratories engaged in cytological diagnosis.

J.M.