

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

LABORATORY RATS AND MICE

Pathology of Laboratory Rats and Mice. Ed. by E. Cotchin, D.Sc., F.R.C.V.S., F.C. Path., and F. J. C. Roe, D.M. (Oxon), D.Sc., F. C. Path. Pp. xxiii + 848. Illustrated. £7.15.0. Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1967.

The Nuffield Foundation's Food Safety Advisory Committee is interested in the toxic effects of foodstuffs and their constituents. Experimental animals are used in toxicity tests and the Committee realized that there was a lack of pathologists with special knowledge of the spontaneous lesions in these animals which can modify or confuse the results of the tests. Much of the literature on the lesions is in obscure or inaccessible journals, and so the Committee decided to invite some 50 experts including research scientists from the great pharmaceutical houses and eminent cancer research workers to a 3-day conference in London in 1966 in order, as the editors say, to 'illuminate the pathological background to experimentation by providing an up-to-date account of the pathology of certain important disease conditions occurring spontaneously in laboratory rats and mice'. This book is the outcome of the invitations and contains the edited versions of the papers which, however, are more in the nature of readable essays than conference proceedings.

In 24 chapters spontaneous lesions of all systems of rats

and mice are discussed. These include ophthalmic pathology of rats and mice, murine neuropathology (rats have very few neurological diseases), the haematology of rats and mice, cardiovascular disease in rats, amyloidosis in mice, helminths, ectoparasites and protozoa of rats and mice, and fungal diseases of rats and mice (unique in being the first review of the subject). At the end there are 2 fascinating chapters on longevity studies in rats (if their food is restricted, 25% of male rats and 39% of female rats kept in a 'rat palace' under otherwise optimal conditions survive longer than their well-fed controls), and a valuable index of the references in the text to specific strains of rats and a similar index for mice. The chapters are mostly 30-40 pages in length, including a generous number of references at the end and a page or two of well-edited discussion and they do not seem long because the text is everywhere broken up by sub-headings in bold type. In spite of its 848 pages the book is moderately small and light and is well produced. It is a long awaited and indispensable book for workers in all scientific disciplines using laboratory rats and mice, especially experimental pathologists, veterinary pathologists, virologists and bacteriologists, experimental surgeons and radiotherapists, pharmacologists and physiologists. The editors, publishers and last but not least the Nuffield Foundation deserve our congratulations and heartfelt thanks for this important contribution to the literature of pathology.

J.C.E.K.

D.E. HUISARTS

The Work of a Family Doctor. Deur R. M. McGregor, O.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B. Pp. ix + 266. £2.6.10. Edinburgh en Londen: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

In hierdie boek word verslag gelewer van 'n aaneenlopende morbiditeitsstudie wat strek oor 'n tydperk van 11½ jaar. Vir die klassifikasie van siektetoestande is gebruik gemaak van 'n kombinasie van die Internasionale Klassifikasie van Siektes (I.C.D.) en die hersiene kode soos saamgestel deur die Royal College of General Practitioners.

Die leser wat verwag dat 'n boek van hierdie aard 'n eentonige opeenvolging van statistieke en syfers is, is egter baie ver verkeerd. Die outeur slaag daarin om sy feite op 'n baie prikkelende wyse aan te bied, en deurvleg dit met talle kliniese voorbeelde en toepaslike herinneringe van werklike gevalle in sy praktyk.

Hierdie boek is 'n baie nuttige toevoeging tot die boekrak van elke algemene praktisyn, en mag dien as broodnodige prikkel tot soortgelyke navorsing in ons eie land.

G.J.P.

ALIMENTARY TRACT SURGERY

Garlock's Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. By J. H. Garlock, M.D. Pp. xi + 494. Illustrated. \$19.50. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1967.

In this single-author work on the surgery of the alimentary tract, John Garlock, late Professor of Surgery at Columbia University, New York, draws on his own considerable experience in this field. Always dogmatic, frequently controversial, the American (and sometimes the author's own) approach to surgical problems is forcefully presented. Few, if any, references are cited and the author's results are only hinted at in the broadest of terms and yet the book is clearly the work of a master surgeon and meticulous craftsman. The technical procedures are lucidly described. A book of interest to the specialist in this field.

J.H.L.

KARDIO-VASKULÊRE FISIOLIE

Cardiovascular Disorders. Ed. by A. N. Brest, M.D. and J. H. Moyer, M.D. Pp. xxi + 1104. Illustrated. £11.4.0. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1968.

Dié boek is 'n poging tot 'n ensiklopedie van informasie oor die normale en abnormale hart en bloedvate. Nie minder nie as 116 erkende vakmanne het bydraes gelewer oor onderwerpe waarvoor hulle gesaghebbend kan skryf. Van besondere waarde is die afdelings oor kardiiovaskulêre fisiologie en farmakologie. Die kliniese farmakologie van alle middels wat gebruik word, word op uitmuntende wyse beskryf. Die hoofstukke oor primêre en sekondêre hipertensie is ewe-eens van hoë gehalte.

Dié boek bevat 'n massa inligting. Ongelukkig stel dit as handboek teleur omdat die indruk bly dat dit 'n sameflansing van 'n aantal oorsigartikels is. Vir die student in kardiologie is daar beter boeke beskikbaar.

G. P. H.

GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY

Lecture Notes on Gastro-enterology. By R. D. Tonkin, M.D., F.R.C.P. and J. A. Parish, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. vi + 215. £1.2.6. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1968.

This latest addition to the 'Lecture Note' series of books does no more than it is intended for, i.e. to provide the undergraduate student with a simple, classified framework of gastrointestinal disorders. A tabulated, concise and didactic résumé of gastro-intestinal disorders, including hepatic, pancreatic and biliary disease, is given and a limited account of gastro-intestinal investigations and dietary regimens is included as separate chapters. A selection of examination questions concludes the book.

The various chapters would certainly have to be supplemented by further reading, even for medical students, and the omission of physiological mechanisms, diagrams and bibliography—although deliberate—detracts from the value of the book.

S.B.

HOOGTESIEKTE

High-Altitude Diseases. Mechanism and management. By C. Monge, snr, M.D., Sc.D. Chicago (Hon.) and C. Monge, jnr, M.D. Pp. xiv + 97. Illustrated. \$5.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1966.

Die boekie onder bespreking is een van 'n reeks getiteld *Living Chemistry*.

Die senior skrywer, C. Monge, het in 1928 die eerste duidelike beskrywing gegee van dié siekte wat nuwe aankomelinge in hooggeleë gebiede aantast en wat dramaties verbeter met terugkeer na laer dele en wat met tyd en aanpassing oorkom kan word.

Die fisiologiese aanpassings, wat dit vir die inwoners moontlik maak om daar te bestaan en intendeel baie aktiewe lewens te lei, word beskryf. Die beeld van chroniese hoogtesiekte wat volg op 'n afbraak van hierdie aanpassing deur siektes en veral miokardiale en pulmonale degenerasie word in besonderheid beskryf en 'n hele aantal gevalle word aangehaal waarin ook die behandeling uiteengesit word.

Die spesiale probleme wat ondervind word met die toediening van narkose vir die uitvoer van operasies op groot hoogtes word bespreek met die gevolgtrekking dat, met versigtige keuse van middels, die resultate niks verskil van vergelekbare ondernemings op gewone hoogtes nie.

Dit blyk ook dat die Inkas duidelik besef het dat dit skadelik is vir mense wat aan een hoogte gewoon is om na ander hoogtes oorgeplaas te word.

J. W. van Z.

INTRATHORACIC CRISES

Intrathoracic Crises. By A. L. d'Abreu, C.B.E., Ch.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., A. B. Taylor, M.D., F.R.C.P. and D. B. Clarke, M.B., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 344. Illustrated. R8.50. London and Durban: Butterworths, 1968.

This excellent book serves as a companion volume to *Intra-Abdominal Crises* published in 1961. The volume has been divided into 4 sub-sections dealing with symptoms, clinical features, cardiovascular crises and practical procedures. Each of the sub-sections is well paragraphed and succinct. The authors, all attached to the staff of the University of Birmingham, are to be congratulated on presenting an eminently readable and concise book on such a large subject. My only criticism, with regard to the publication, is that negative-reversal was not used and thus many of the roentgenograms lack clarity.

This book should be available in every ward, theatre and casualty station. It should also find itself on the bookshelf of every medical practitioner and medical student, not only for referral but also for complete perusal.

C.M.P.

TROPICAL DISEASES

The Treatment of Tropical Diseases. 2nd. ed. By W. H. Jopling, F.R.C.P. (Edin), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. (Eng.). Pp. viii + 166. £1.16.4. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, 1968.

This is a most helpful volume written clearly with the correct emphasis on the different diseases one is likely to meet in tropical countries. The arrangement is excellent and the author has included not only the so-called tropical disorders, but also many of the general diseases liable to be encountered, such as tuberculosis. He has managed to include the latest treatments especially in the helminthic section. Lucanthone, however, deserves a mention in the treatment of bilharziasis. The treatment of leprosy is particularly well done and the same can be said of that of tuberculosis which, incidentally, was contributed by Dr Beth Granger of Rhodesia.

A doctor, especially in Africa, will find this book of inestimable value. The author has served a number of years in Rhodesia and has handled most of the diseases mentioned, and so he writes with authority.

M.G.