

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY

Cytotoxic Drugs in the Treatment of Cancer. By E. Boesen, M.B., B.S. (Lond.) and W. Davis, Ph.D. Pp. ix + 208. £3.0.0. London: Edward Arnold. 1969.

The authors discuss the chemical and biochemical background of the anticancer drugs in order to put the potential and limitations of each drug into perspective. The indications for the use of the various agents and their side-effects are described, and some detail is given of actual regimens of drug administration. The authors warn that 'the methods described are not the only ways of treating these patients *nor even necessarily the best*, but they are the ones which can be adapted for use in circumstances which are not ideal'. This is nevertheless the most acceptable survey of the current status of cancer chemotherapy to appear for some time. G.F.

CARDIAC DIAGNOSIS

A Primer of Cardiac Diagnosis. The physical and technical study of the cardiac patient. By A. A. Luisada, M.D. and G. S. Sainani, M.D. Pp. xviii + 243. Illustrated. \$10.50. St. Louis, Miss.: Warren H. Green. 1968.

An undergraduate student commencing his clinical year will find this small volume useful and instructive. It will introduce him to bedside cardiology and acquaint him with the various

technical procedures in use and the basic principles involved.

The diagrams are effective and simple. The views on heart sounds and murmurs are the author's and are as yet not generally accepted. Some of the signs described and all the eponyms are meaningless and should have been omitted. Ballistocardiography, roentgenkymography, electrocardiography and possibly apex cardiography, if mentioned at all, merit no more than a line or two. V.S.

HOSPITAL PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations for Hospitals. A practical handbook. By H. P. Kurtz, M.S. Pp. xiii + 150. \$8.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

Public Relations for Hospitals concentrates on the typical American institution of voluntary hospitals, running as self-contained units and controlled by boards of directors, and it bears very little relation to hospital services in South Africa.

The book analyses the basics of public relations, and how it could be applied to hospitals. Although there are, to my knowledge, no public relations officers for individual hospitals in South Africa, it may well profit the superintendents of our hospitals to spend an evening reading this book. Chapters relating to American hospital public relations and fund raising may be skipped if desired, but many useful hints on hospital control may be found on the remaining pages. J.E.