

MALNOURISHED CHILDREN IN THE TROPICS

*Tropical Nutritional Disorders of Infants and Children.* By C. C. de Silva, M.D., F.R.C.P. and N. G. Baptist, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. Pp. xiii + 226. \$11.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

The undergraduate and the paediatric registrar may find this book useful. The advanced student of human nutrition and the research worker will be disappointed, though the extensive list of references at the end of each chapter has value. The authors concentrate on the biochemistry of the malnourished child and offer an uncritical review of research work reported from many centres. Incorrect information is given about growth hormone and glucocorticoid levels in protein-calorie malnutrition, and the functions ascribed to vitamin D are not those recorded in standard texts. The book is greatly overpriced.

P.M.L.

FEMALE PELVIC ANATOMY

*Gynaecological and Obstetrical Anatomy.* (Descriptive and applied.) 4th ed. By C. F. V. Smout, M.D., M.R.C.S., F. Jacoby, M.D., Ph.D. and E. W. Lillie, M.D., M.A.O., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. viii + 422. Illustrated. £4.10.0. London: H. K. Lewis. 1969.

With the latest revision of this book a clinician has joined the original pair of anatomical authors, to emphasize the applied aspects of female pelvic anatomy.

In addition to the more conventional anatomy (which includes histology) there are chapters on ovarian function, implantation of the embryo and development of the placenta, foetal anatomy in relation to childbirth, the female breast and the abdominal wall. The justification for the inclusion of detailed descriptions of the operations of symphyseotomy and vacuum extraction is rather doubtful. (Why then omit, for example, forceps application, caesarean section or abdominal hysterectomy?)

One feels that more might have been said about the clinical application of vaginal and cervical cytology. Suppression of ovulation is only fleetingly referred to, while—although preg-

nancy tests are discussed in fair detail—the immunological tests are not even mentioned.

Striking in certain instances is the paucity of more recent bibliographical references—for instance, out of 65 appended to the chapter on the histology of the uterus and vagina there are only 2 later than 1950; and of 116 following the chapter on ovarian endocrine function, only 12 (of which 7 are to the same textbook) extend beyond 1950.

One's final impression of this book as a treatise on clinically applied anatomy is not an entirely happy one.

E.M.S.

INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM

*Some Inherited Disorders of Brain and Muscle.* Proceedings of 5th Symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism. Ed. by J. D. Allan and D. N. Raine. Pp. viii + 154. Illustrated. £2.1.5. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1969.

This little book records the proceedings of the 5th Symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism which was held in Newcastle in 1967. Thirteen papers dealing with aspects of muscular dystrophy and the sphingolipidoses are concisely and lucidly presented in 150 brief pages. The bibliography of each paper is copious. This volume will delight anyone interested in neurology or genetics.

C.F.

ANATOMIESE ONDERSOEKE VAN DIE LONG

*The Anatomy of the Developing Lung.* Red. deur J. Emery, M.D., D.C.M., F.C. Path. Pp. 223. Geïllustreer. £2.15.0. Londen: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1969.

Anatomiese ondersoek van die long is besonder moeilik. Daar is leemtes veral wat betref die ontwikkelende long in die mens. Terdeë moet daarmee rekening gehou word dat meeste dierlike longe merkbaar anatomies verskil van dié van mense. Bydraes word gelewer deur verskillende outoriteite wat onderwerpe deskundig bespreek en die literatuur uitkristalliseer. Hierdie monografie behoort gelees te word deur

almal wat belangstel in die long aangesien dit gedeeltelik 'n teenbeeld gee van die fisiologiese benadering, maar gelyktydig aanvullend is.

T.M.

### ADVANCES IN TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

*Essays on Tropical Dermatology.* Ed. by R. D. G. P. Simons and J. Marshall. Pp. viii + 283. Illustrated. £8.7.0./Dfl. 72,00. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1969.

This book is produced in order to bring up to date the well-known *Handbook of Tropical Dermatology and Mycology* by Simons. It could thus almost be called 'Recent Advances in Tropical Dermatology'. In the main the work is well done and the reader is kept up to date on cutaneous problems which are the subject of modern research. In some cases complete clarity is not achieved; thus Gasparini writes of onchocerciasis and sowda and states that the latter exhibits some of the characteristics of the former. Nowhere, however, does he mention that the larvae have been detected by the very simple method originally described by Blacklock and Southwell. We are left to assume that sowda is onchocerciasis occurring in the Yemen. There are useful articles on schistosomal granuloma of the skin and cutaneous amoebiasis, as well as post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis, among many other useful

papers. The majority of the contributions are extremely useful and, in fact, essential for the practitioner in the tropics. A few are less valuable, e.g. there is a short paper on tropical phagedenic ulcer which contributes nothing new and quotes 10 references; 6 years ago a complete review of the subject with 150 references was published in an easily available monograph in the USA. Despite the careful editing a few examples of bad English have slipped through, among which 'psychiatric function of melanin'.

The format and illustrations are of the highest order and in every case the latter demonstrate a point which required illustration.

L.J.A.L.

### AFKOELING EN VERDRINKING

*Survival in Cold Water.* The physiology and treatment of immersion hypothermia and of drowning. Deur W. R. Keatinge, Ph.D., B.Chir., M.B. Pp. x + 131. £1.10.0. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1969.

'n Handige boek vir dokters en fisioloë en persone wat watersport beoefen. Die fisiologie van afkoeling en verdrinking, in vars- en seewater, word bespreek. In die laaste en meer praktiese deel van die boek, gee die skrywer raad aan die man, en die dokter, wat hom letterlik of figuurlik in diepwater mag bevind met byna-verdrinking.

D.P.