

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Modern Trends in Diagnostic Radiology—4. Ed. by J. W. McLaren, M.A., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.F.R., D.M.R.E. Pp. xi + 273. Illustrated. R11.50. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1970.

The 'Modern Trends' series need no introduction to practising radiologists and radiological students. These works which are now in the fourth series have made a significant contribution to radiology. However, it is a little disappointing in a modern trends series of 1970 to see the new diagnostic media such as nuclear medicine and ultrasound being completely omitted. Some of the chapters are reviews of much that has been published in the not so recent past, but the chapters on paediatric radiology, coronary arteriography, thermography and lung vessels are admirable summaries of the recent work done. X-ray department planning was a little disappointing in that several modern concepts are ignored, and no practical information is given.

The over-all standard of the reproductions and printing is outstanding, and I have no hesitation in recommending that this volume be placed in every radiologists' book-shelf. This book is of great value also to radiological students and is a must for every medical school library.

P.S.

CLINICAL TRIALS

The Principles and Practice of Clinical Trials. Based on a symposium organized by the Association of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Ed. by E. L. Harris, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P. (Edin.) and J. D. Fitzgerald, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. (Edin.). Pp. xiii + 254. Illustrated. £31.6. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

This interesting book is based on a symposium organized by the Association of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry (Great Britain) in February 1969. The work is interesting on 2 counts. Firstly it is a clear exposition of the criteria to be adopted in subjecting a new drug to clinical trial. Attention is given to the development of the drug itself, its clinical pharmacology, the design of an ideal trial and the statistical interpretation of results. Ethical and legal aspects of clinical trials are also discussed. Of particular interest is an excellent article on 'Statistical considerations' by C. Maxwell which is a very good introduction to medical statistics. Practical application of clinical trials is discussed, paying particular attention to the assessment of antihypertensive, anti-anginal and lipid-lowering agents and psychotropic and chemotherapeutic drugs. In these aspects the book acquires the status of a reference work for any practitioner about to embark on the clinical evaluation of a pharmaceutical product.

Secondly, the well-presented book serves a totally different purpose; that of emphasizing the care and attention which is given by investigations of the pharmaceutical industry and other workers to the testing and assessment of new drugs. This recognition is enhanced by the support accorded the work by the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Lord Rosenheim, who provides the foreword.

B.K.

ETIESE VRAE OOR DIE DOOD

Matters of Life and Death. Gered. deur E. Shotter. Pp. 60. 15s 0d. Londen: Darton Longman & Todd. 1970.

Die 'London Medical Group' se besprekings, sedert 1963, het in hierdie interessante werkie beslag gekry. Die titel is beskrywend genoeg en beklemtoon die baie vrae wat eties en moreel rondom verlenging van lewe of uitstel van die dood in ons era ontstaan het.

Baie van die bespreking se stof is sekerlik nie oorspronklik en vars nie; tog word baie tergende vrae deur 'n aantal deskundiges met groot verantwoordelikheid hanteer. Dit word veral vir die huisarts se boekery aanbeveel.

H.P.B.

RENAL PHYSIOLOGY

Urea and the Kidney. Proceedings of an International Colloquy held at Sarasota, Florida, September 1968. Ed. by B. Schmidt-Nielsen and D. W. S. Kerr. Pp. xiv + 495. Dfl. 108.00. Illustrated. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1970.

Although this collection of papers by over 50 international authorities includes a small and excellent clinical section, its content is overwhelmingly directed at the professional biologist. Those actively engaged in research into the mechanisms of movement of solutes across biological membranes, and renal physiologists in particular, will find this book a source of delight. The content ranges from studies in the comparative physiology of the biosynthesis and excretion of urea, through the mode of passage of this molecule across biological membranes in general and mammalian renal tubules in particular, to clinical aspects of urea metabolism and excretion. Highly recommended.

L.C.I.

INHALATION CARCINOGENESIS

Inhalation Carcinogenesis. Ed. by M. G. Hanna, jnr, P. Nettesheim and J. R. Gilbert. Pp. xii + 524. Illustrated. \$3.00. Oak Ridge, Tenn.: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. 1970. Available from Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Virginia.

The growing interest in environment hazards is reflected in the proceedings of this conference. The participants, representative of a variety of disciplines, met to study inhalant carcinogenesis due to physical inhalants. These research workers had recognized the need for relevant models for testing carcinogens. At the conference they examined some of these models as well as the feasibility of using various inhalation techniques in research.

The 25 papers read are lucidly recorded, supported by data, illustrations and references. In addition, the practical outcomes of the conference are also outlined. This report will be of particular interest to respiratory physicians and biophysicists involved in research in this field.

E.N.

MIGRAINE

Background to Migraine. Third Migraine Symposium, April 1969. Ed. by A. L. Cochrane, C.B.E., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.P. Pp. vi + 186. Illustrated. £215.0. London: William Heinemann. 1970.

This publication would be of prime interest to the physiologist, pharmacologist and neurologist with stimulating articles on clinical diagnosis, epidemiology, pathogenesis and experimental models. Presentations on the possible role of tyramine, oral contraceptives and psychological factors could also be of interest to physicians and family practitioners and especially those who are called upon to treat difficult or unusual cases of migraine.

This concise publication is well indexed and the discussions that follow many of the articles are very practical.

H.D.J.

BLOOD AND MARROW

Morphology of the Blood and Marrow in Clinical Practice. By R. T. Silver, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xxx + 125. Illustrated. \$17.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

This little book consists of short descriptions of the blood and bone marrow in disease, illustrated by 249 photomicrographs, 80 of which are in colour. The text is adequate and reasonably well written. The standard of the coloured plates is varied, for some are out of focus and in others the lighting is indifferent. The black and white photomicrographs are technically good, but are of limited use in this day of coloured photomicrography. The book can be recommended as an aid to the clinician who would like to examine blood and marrow films as a hobby. Considering the high price, the book is relatively poor value.

J.M.