

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

CYTOLOGY TERMS

Cytology of the Female Genital Tract. International Histological Classification of Tumours No. 8. By G. Riotton and W. M. Christopherson. Pp. 41. Illustrated. Book which includes an accompanying set of 152 colour transparencies, £19.00. Book only, £6.50. Geneva: WHO, 1973. Available through Van Schaik's Bookstore, Pretoria.

During 1965 the International Academy of Cytology asked the World Health Organisation to help with the development of a standardised nomenclature for cytology that could be used internationally. This book is the result of the efforts of a committee convened by the WHO under the chairmanship of Professor Riotton.

The definitions of various cytological terms are given and in addition 195 excellent colour photomicrographs are reproduced. The committee should be congratulated on their efforts. This book is an essential item for anybody interested in the subject of cytology of the female genital tract.

W.A.v.N.

A.I.D. AND EMBRYO TRANSFER

Law and Ethics of A.I.D. and Embryo Transfer. Ed. by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and D. W. Fitzsimons. Ciba Foundation Symposium 17. Pp. viii + 110. Dfl. 15.00. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1973.

This book contains the full text of papers read and views expressed at a symposium on legal and other aspects of artificial insemination and embryo transfer, in which a number of experts from various disciplines participated. The general tenor of the discussions are well summed up by the chairman, Lord Kilbrandon, in his concluding words: A.I.D. is here to stay. This symposium has been about what the law should do about it. The conclusion seems to be that the law has got to consider A.I.D. not in a prohibitory way and perhaps only in a regulatory way so far as is required to make the technique acceptable to society.

S.A.S.

FACIAL DISFIGUREMENT

Rehabilitation of the Facially Disfigured. Prevention of irreversible psychic trauma by early reconstruction. By J. J. Longacre, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. xiii + 124. Illustrated. \$14.75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

Dr Longacre is now nearing the end of a rather distinguished career in plastic and reconstructive surgery. Over the last few years he has taken to collating all his experiences and writing books on various subjects. This book represents a distillation and condensation of many years of work in the field of the facially disfigured. It discusses the psychosocio-economic effects of facial disfigurement and the impact that mutilation has on the body image. The whole message of this book is that reconstructive work, if done timeously, will prevent any psychic trauma apart from minimising the disfigurement. It shows in no uncertain manner how important early treatment is. The book discusses not only severe injury to the face but also aspects of cancer surgery and also of various congenital anomalies.

There are also some first-rate contributions by Dr Thelma E. Brown on the ego in distress, and by Dr Michel J. Seghers on the golden proportions in beauty and dynamic symmetry, which are applicable in the reconstruction of the deformed face. The accompanying photographs, of which there are many, illustrate the points made very well but they also tend to show how difficult and prolonged such surgery to the face may be. All in all, it is a book worth reading by everyone in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

C.B.

SENSORY PHYSIOLOGY

Handbook of Sensory Physiology. Vol. II. Somatosensory System. Ed. by A. Iggo. Pp. xi + 851. Illustrated. DM 262,-. Berlin: Springer, 1973.

This latest part of the encyclopaedic *Handbook of Sensory Physiology* to be published deals with cutaneous and muscle-joint sensibility. Peripheral and central mechanisms are described but not perception, which is to be the subject of another volume. As in the previously published volumes of the series, each chapter is written by an author or authors actively engaged in research in the particular field. Research findings are described in detail and, in most chapters, effectively summarised. The clarity of presentation varies with the authors. The book is well illustrated with graphs, diagrams, and photomicrographs by light microscopy and electron microscopy, and the lists of references are comprehensive and up-to-date. It should be in every medical library but, unfortunately, its price will usually preclude private purchase.

A.W.S.

MOLECULAR PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY

A Guide to Molecular Pharmacology-Toxicology. (In two parts). Part I. Ed. by R. M. Featherstone. Pp. xiv + 425. Illustrated. \$29.50. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1973.

This book aims to elucidate to some extent how pharmacology and toxicology operate between the molecular level and the membrane level. It begins with an account of the arguments for considering the plasma membrane of cells to be the site where many drugs induce change. There follows more detail on membrane transport receptors and on the contributions of electron microscopy to molecular pharmacology, when combined with biochemical and pharmacological investigations. There are chapters dealing with the characterisation of receptors and on structure-activity relationships. This is obviously an important book for research workers in pharmacology, toxicology, physiology and cognate sciences.

N.S.

CARE OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Advances in the Care of the Mentally Handicapped. Ed. by H. C. Gunzburg, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.P.S. Pp. ix + 234. R10.10. London: Baillière Tindall, 1973. Available from Collier-MacMillan, Kempton Park, Tvl.

This volume consists of papers which have been published in the *British Journal of Subnormality* down the years, and which the authors have brought up-to-date for this publication.

It is characteristic for most of the articles that they are concerned with doing something concrete for the mentally retarded; that they regard these people as generally under-functioning, and that it is possible to lead them to better levels of functioning by a carefully worked out programme; that assessment must initiate remedial action and not become a labelling process; that the environment can be manipulated to assist in therapeutic processes; that a flexible interdisciplinary approach alone can offer any hope for tackling a problem of multidisciplinary interest such as this; and that we are expecting too little from them and thus encouraging them insufficiently to develop higher proficiency.

We have been moving away from the policy of custodial care in this country, away from the policy of 'out of sight, out of mind', but this process is about 20 years old in Britain. The major steps on this road are to be found in this book, so that I can strongly recommend it to all those who work with the mentally handicapped.

A.B.D.

BLOOD GROUPING

The Principles and Practice of Blood Grouping. By A. G. Erskine, D.Sc., Litt.D.(Hon.) in consultation with Alexander S. Wiener, M.D. Pp. xii + 356. Illustrated. \$19.45. Toronto, Ontario: C. V. Mosby, 1973.

Dr Erskine is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gradwohl School of Laboratory Technique and an eminent teacher of immunohaematology. It is no derogation of the author of this excellent work to say that while the hand is the hand of Erskine, the voice is the voice of Wiener. Wiener's classic book *Blood Groups and Transfusion* was published in 1943 and there have been no revisions. For the past 25 years, the bible of many blood group workers has been Race and Sanzer's *Blood Groups in Man* which reached its 5th edition in 1968. Now, at last, the principles of blood grouping serology and genetics as propounded by Wiener in numerous articles and in several monographs have been collated and presented as an up-to-date and eminently practical general textbook. In view of the conflicting genetic theories, nomenclatures and serological concepts of the Fisher-Race school on the one hand and of the Wiener school on the other, no serious blood group worker can claim to be adequately knowledgeable in the subject unless he is fully conversant with both.

Erskine's work is written with remarkable lucidity. In the important chapter on the Rh blood groups, the author exposes the fallacy that Wiener's Rh-Hr notations are more difficult to teach than the C D E notations of Fisher and Race. Not only are Wiener's genetic and serological concepts and notations shown to be scientifically unassailable, but also that they are easy to comprehend. The author is at pains to emphasise that the alphabetic simplicity of the C D E nomenclature and genetic theory do not compensate for the fallacies and paradoxes which they engender. This book should and undoubtedly will be read and studied by every serious worker in the field of blood grouping and transfusion, be he teacher or technologist.

M.S.

THE PAP SMEAR

The Pap Smear. Life of George N. Papanicolaou. By D. Erskine Carmichael, M.D. Pp. xvii + 122. \$8.00 Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

While this publication is surely not intended to be a definitive biography of George Nicholas Papanicolaou, it nevertheless needed to be written as a welcome account of a man whose career spanned 158 publications, 37 honours and awards, and whose name is embodied more than most in the language of medicine. *The Pap Smear* is a publication notable for the abundance of interesting personal photographs. The pre-USA life of Dr Papanicolaou on the Greek island of Kyni, in Athens and other European centres is told with homely

intimacy. He was well-born, ambitious and dedicated. The USA years are written in a skimpy and non-technical style—leaving scope for another biography.

R.S.

UVEITIS

Uveitis: Immunologic and Allergic Phenomena. By B. Golden, B.A., M.S., M.D., M.S. (Ophthal.) and M. M. Givoiset, Lic (France), M.A., Ph.D. Pp. xvi + 818. \$39.50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

This is an excellent book for all those interested in immunology and ophthalmology. It is one of the annual reports of the French Ophthalmological Society and has been translated, revised and condensed by the above authors.

It is divided into 5 parts dealing with immunopathology of the uvea; clinical and anatomopathological studies of uveitis; elements of aetiological diagnosis and aetiology of uveitis, which discusses the specific causes of uveitis. Each section has a conclusion which summarises the relevant features. Part 5 deals with therapeutic problems and is an up-to-date presentation of what is available.

This book is highly recommended.

P.S.

THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Assessment for Learning in the Mentally Handicapped. Ed. by P. Mittler, Ph.D. Pp. x + 313. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1973.

This book is one of a very interesting series presenting the findings of various study groups of the Institute for Research into Mental Retardation. These study groups have attempted to cover important and topical aspects in the field of retardation such as autism, brain functioning, behaviour, learning, language, cognition and rehabilitation. This book attempts to describe a modern approach to the diagnosis, assessment and understanding of the retarded patient. The tendency is to concentrate on techniques of systematic observation, functional analyses and strategies of behaviour modification which may be used to bypass the use of standardised tests. Treatment programmes for retarded patients tend to be based upon the knowledge of normal child development. This knowledge is indispensable in the design of treatment. Chapters in the book cover aspects of the principles of general assessment, language assessment and personality assessment. From this basis treatment programmes for pre-school, school-age children, and work skills for adults are developed.

It is a highly readable book designed for the expert in this field, and will thus not have much appeal for the lay-reader.

N.S.E.