

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

MYOCARDIAL DISEASES

Myocardial Diseases. Ed. by N. O. Fowler, M.D. Pp. xiii + 379. Illustrated. \$18,50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1973.

In this slim volume dealing with the cardiomyopathies, the editor goes to some lengths to bring about semantic clarity and allows no less than 4 almost identical aetiopathological classifications to appear in different chapters. Endomyocardial fibrosis is not dealt with, despite its commonness in Africa, and South African idiopathic mural endomyocardial pathology is referred to once during a consideration of haemodynamics and metabolic studies.

The contributors are all authoritative North Americans. Their combined views may be a little provincial, but they are always eminently readable.

I.F.A.

HYPERTENSION

Hypertension: Mechanisms and Management. The Twenty-sixth Hahnemann Symposium. Ed. by G. Onesti, M.D., K. E. Kim, M.D. and J. H. Moyer, M.D. Pp. xxv + 902. Illustrated. \$39,00. New York: Grune & Stratton. 1973.

A galaxy of internationally known authorities on hypertensive disease contribute to this Hahnemann symposium and succeed in producing what must surely be one of the most comprehensive modern documents on the subject. Not only are the mechanisms of hypertension reviewed in systematic fashion, but opposing views are allowed in full in order to allow the reader to reach his own conclusions on the available evidence. The chapters on the pharmacology of antihypertension agents and complications and special considerations in the treatment of hypertension contain a wealth of practical knowledge.

Credit must go to the editors for providing a comprehensive, palatably written document which is likely to contribute significantly to the continuing education of both specialist and general practitioner.

W.F.L.

ENDOCRINE FACTORS IN LABOUR

Endocrine Factors in Labour. Memoirs of the Society for Endocrinology No. 20. Proceedings of a Symposium held at the University of Aberdeen, July 1972. Ed. by A. Klopper and J. Gardner. Pp. xi + 193. £5,00. London: Cambridge University Press. 1973.

This publication contains the proceedings of a symposium held on the subject in Aberdeen in July 1972. In his preface Arnold Klopper wittily mentions the advantages of an intimate symposium over those of a monster conference. The individual roles of progesterone (L. P. Bengtsson), oestrogen (A. Klopper), oxytocin and vasopressin (T. Chard) and prostaglandins (A. Gillespie) are dealt with separately by authorities in these fields. Comparative aspects of factors involved in the onset of labour in goats and sheep (W. Currie *et al.*), sheep and humans (Anderson and Turnbull) and rabbits and rats (A. Fuchs) are well presented; but the highlight of the book is the chapter by Liggins on hormonal interactions in the mechanism of parturition. The tremendous integrative capacity of this investigator has enabled him to encompass this complicated subject and to postulate pathways by which the fetal endocrine system influences myometrial contractility at the initiation of parturition in sheep.

This book provides an understanding of the background work which has led up to current concepts in endocrine factors involved in labour. It is highly recommended for those interested in obstetric endocrinology who wish to catch up with the 'current state of the art'.

M.K.

PERIFERIESE VASKULÈRE CHIRURGIE

Peripheral Vascular Surgery. Tutorials in postgraduate medicine, Vol. 3. Ed. by M. Birnstingl, M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. xi + 447. Illustrated. £5,50. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1973.

Hierdie volume is saamgestel deur 'n span outoriteite op hul bepaalde gebiede. Die gewone probleme waarmee 'n vaskulêre chirurg te kampe het soos bv. arteriële embolisme, chroniese arteriële afsluiting, aneurisma, ens. word deeglik gedek.

Die hoofstukke wat handel oor die fisiologie van bloedvloei, bloedingsneigings en veral die gedeelte wat handel oor die verband tussen lipoproteïemie en vaskulêre siektes is besonder goed geskryf en is van belang vir alle dissiplines van geneeskunde. Daar is ook 'n interessante hoofstuk oor vaskulêre siektes in die trope—'n onderwerp wat nie in gewone teksboeke gedek word nie.

Hierdie boek is dus veral van belang vir nagraadse chirurgie maar is ook nuttig as 'n verwysingsbron vir interniste en ortopede.

F.A.K.v.W.

SOCIAL COMPETENCE AND MENTAL HANDICAP

Social Competence and Mental Handicap. An introduction to social education. 2nd ed. Ed. by H. C. Gunzburg, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.Ps.S. Pp. xii + 232. Illustrated. R6,70. London: Baillière Tindall. 1973. Available through Collier-MacMillan SA (Pty) Ltd, Kempton Park, Tvl.

This work concerns the directed social education of the mentally handicapped and his rehabilitation against the background of the society into which he is to be adjusted. Valuable methods of assessment in the form of the Progress Assessment Chart and Progress Evaluation Index are described, up-to-date teaching methods and aids are delineated in a practical fashion, and the legislative changes of 1971 in the UK are summarised. The new orientation of directed social education has done much to transcend the old division into the educable and trainable mentally defective. The detailed programme and recommendations rest on a firm basis of investigation.

L.A.H.

HEATH CLARK LECTURE

One World. University of London Heath Clark Lectures 1970 delivered at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. By B. Maegraith, C.M.G., M.A., M.D., D.Sc., D.Phil., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 246. £4,00. London: The Athlone Press. 1973.

Dr Maegraith's idealised interpretation of the title of his Heath Clark Lectures is in the frontispiece—an impressive colour picture of the earth taken from the moon. He starts with the complaint that the comprehensive and authoritative Pearson Report on International Development commissioned by the World Bank has (1) neglected to discuss medical aid adequately and (2) uncritically overestimated the favourable effects already achieved by the application of medical science through international agencies like WHO, FAO and Unesco. His plea is that medical aid is an integral part of aid in general to developing countries. If we compare his title and frontispiece with the divided and controversial world we know and which he describes, *One World* appears to represent a cry from the heart rather than a record of achievement.

Few people are better prepared by background than he is—an impressive career in tropical medicine and two medical deanships—to make his plea. He reviews authoritatively the small achievements and the great yawning gaps.

J.F.B.