

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

RENAL HISTOPATHOLOGY

Renal Histopathology. A light microscopy study of renal disease. By R. Meadows, M.D., F.R.C.P.A. Pp. xii + 363. Illustrated. R28.50. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1973.

As a result of the wider use of electron microscopy and immunofluorescence in repeated renal biopsies, notable advances have come about in our understanding of renal disease during the last decade. However, even when these more sophisticated tools of undoubted value are available, primary evaluation of the renal biopsy and the establishment of a diagnosis still rest solely on light microscopy. It is from this aspect that the author has presented his book to assist the nephrologist to understand and diagnose renal disease. The book is profusely illustrated with high-quality black and white photomicrographs. It provides a very readable account of recent concepts of renal disease, and in it the author has admirably achieved these objectives, thus providing another valuable addition to the textbooks on renal pathology.

C.J.U.

BRAIN UNIT ACTIVITY

Brain Unit Activity During Behavior. Ed. by M. Ian Phillips, Ph.D. Pp. xiv + 360. \$15.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

Electronic unit recording is a method by which bio-electric activity of a few or single brain cells can be recorded in animals without resorting to anaesthetics, brain surgery, paralytic drugs and other restricting techniques of the acute experimental procedure. Anyone interested in or intending to embark on this type of neurophysiological research should consult this book as a first step. It deals with different available techniques, the significance of single-cell recording, the relation of unit function with behavioural studies and practical applications of chronic unit recording. This is a book for the research worker and perhaps also for the teacher of neurophysiology. There is very little in it for the clinician in the neurological sciences, except as a means of acquainting them with a method of research which is rapidly gaining in popularity despite its limited application at present.

J.C.d.V.

PROBLEMS OF READING AND WRITING

On Writing, Reading, and Dyslexia. Semmelweis Lecture, sponsored by the American-Hungarian Medical Association, November 1968. By A. Linksz, M.D. Pp. viii + 256. \$9.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1973.

The author, of Hungarian descent, is a Professor of Ophthalmology who has become fascinated by the origins of writing and the meaning of words in different languages. His detail and references are very impressive; but his discourse on reading and writing difficulties in children learning one language is not very informative. However, he has some very pertinent remarks to make on the modern methods of teaching a child. The 'look and say' method is condemned outright. At the root of most reading troubles, he says, is poor teaching method. The statistics regarding lefthandedness, poor readers and racial tendencies in learning difficulties are fascinating.

This is a book largely about the comparative difficulties in reading and writing a language, and not really about the dyslexic child.

J.G.L.

TEACHING EPIDEMIOLOGY

Epidemiology. A guide to teaching methods. Ed. for the International Epidemiological Association by C. R. Lowe and J. Kostrzewski. Pp. xiv + 266. £3.00. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1973.

As the title indicates, this is not a textbook on epidemiology. Rather, it highlights the principles underlying the teaching of the subject to medical undergraduates and graduates and non-medical personnel in developed and developing communities. The International Epidemiological Association, which attaches great importance to the promotion of education in epidemiology throughout the world, has produced this teaching guide in collaboration with the World Health Organisation. Epidemiologists and other experts from many countries have contributed material. The book is clearly set out and easy to understand, and has short, concise paragraphs with many bold headings. It should prove valuable to teachers of the subject.

A.H.S.

ATLAS VAN LIMFANGIOGRAMME

Atlas of Lymphography. Deur dr. T. de Roo. Pp. 190. Geïllustreer. £4,50. Zürich: Sandoz. 1973.

Die doel van hierdie atlas is om 'n oorsig te gee van die limfangiografiese bevindings in sowat 1 500 pasiënte en om aandag te vestig op die indikasies, waarde en beperkinge van die ondersoek. Hierin slaag die atlas goed. Maar wat veral waardevol is, is die groot aantal baie goeie afdrucke van limfangiogramme in 'n groot verskeidenheid siektetoestande. Hierdie afdrucke kan dien as naslaanbron en maatstaf in die interpretasie van limfangiogramme. Almal wat limfangiogramme doen, of daarvoor aanvra, behoort hierdie atlas te hê.

J.A.B.

CERVICAL ABNORMALITIES

Epithelial Abnormalities of the Cervix Uteri. Recent results in cancer research, No. 40. By F. A. Langley and A. C. Crompton. Pp. viii + 203. Illustrated. £8,75. London: William Heinemann. 1973.

This is a useful book for the gynaecologist, pathologist and oncologist. It covers development of the normal cervix. Extensive chapters deal with bland epithelial abnormalities of the cervix (metaplasia, hyperplasia and erosion) as well as the malignant lesions of the cervix (carcinoma *in situ*, dysplasia and microcarcinoma). Interesting sections are those on the usefulness of exfoliative cytology and colposcopy; and the discussion on the pathogenesis and aetiology of cervix malignancy is of particular interest.

The book is well produced and illustrated.

G.F.

PRISONERS AND DETAINEES

Medical Care of Prisoners and Detainees. Ciba Foundation Symposium No. 16. Pp. viii + 238. Dfl.30,50. Amsterdam: Elsevier. 1973.

Papers and discussions cover the prisoner's rights to physical and psychiatric treatment; existing facilities in many countries compared with the United Nations' standard minimum rules; experiments on prisoners; sensory deprivation; assessment of dangerousness and control of violence; prisoner-victim interaction; designed habitat settings in rehabilitation; and group and self assessment in staff training.

Not only the medical team, but all concerned with the offender, his crime, his sentence and hopefully his rehabilitation, will be stimulated by this book.

F.D.P.

TO LIVE AND TO DIE

To Live and To Die: When, Why, and How. Ed. by R. H. Williams, M.D. Pp. xviii + 346. Illustrated. DM35,-. Berlin and New York: Springer. 1973.

The title of this work strikes one as being at least presumptuous. Anyone who reads it expecting to find a profound dissertation on this all-embracing title is in for a rude awakening. Perhaps the fact that it is a multi-author book makes it difficult to keep it on an even level. One suffers recurrent irritation due to triviality of expression and reiteration of trite phrases. Luckily, there are exceptions, such as the chapter by Kingley Davis on the climax of world population growth which is well worth reading and re-reading. The chapter entitled 'Life and death: Lessons from the dying' is one of the outstanding contributions.

There is a lot to wade through in this book; but on the whole it makes good bedtime reading, particularly for the specialist in medicine, since it makes him aware of many facets of the subject which he purports to practise and of the complexity of the world from which he has become isolated in his daily technical life.

J.C.d.V.

REAGIN-MEDIATED HYPERSENSITIVITY

Mechanisms in Allergy. Reagin-mediated hypersensitivity. Ed. by L. Goodfriend, A. H. Schon and R. P. Orange. Pp. xviii + 578. Illustrated. \$26,50. New York: Marcel Dekker. 1973.

This book contains the contributions to an International Symposium on Control Mechanisms in Reagin-mediated Hypersensitivity held in Montreal in 1972. Recent advances in and the current status of the immunological, genetic, biochemical and pharmacological aspects of reagin-mediated hypersensitivity are covered. Evidence for the role of cellular immune mechanisms and in particular of T-cell participation in the induction and termination of IgE antibody formation, and for the role of Ir genes, will be of interest to workers in other branches of immunology, as will papers on the C3 shunt participation in allergic tissue injury. This volume is not a fundamental text on reagin-mediated hypersensitivity, but will have great appeal for readers who have not only a sound general knowledge of, but familiarity with, the growing areas of modern immunology.

J.A.M.

ANAESTHESIA IN DENTISTRY

Anaesthesia and Analgesia in Dentistry. By R. A. Green and M. P. Coplans. Pp. 398. Illustrated. £7,00. London: H. K. Lewis. 1973.

There are anaesthetists who believe that in dental anaesthesia a double standard of patient-safety is applied, and that it is both unedifying and hair-raising to witness a three-cornered struggle for the patient's unprotected airway by anaesthetist, dentist and patient himself amid a flurry of packs, flying teeth, sprayed blood and other débris.

This book, based on the English school of dental general anaesthesia, is a well-balanced account of how the maximum patient-safety can be achieved without formal intubation. It is a practical work, well illustrated and well printed, with full details of apparatus and techniques. The hazards and dangers of general anaesthesia in the dental chair are discussed, in particular the dangers of fainting and respiratory depression. Cardiorespiratory resuscitative techniques are dealt with in two chapters, and the relevant pharmacology is also well covered.

The major criticism is the inadequate section on regional block techniques, which today must surely constitute the greater part of dental analgesia. In particular, a proper account of the neuro-anatomy, with art work diagrams instead of photographs, would raise the standard of the section considerably. The other inadequate section is on the practice of 'relative analgesia', which is not given the treatment commensurate with its widespread use, particularly in the USA.

However, this work remains a thorough and readable account of an important subject, aimed particularly at the undergraduate student, and can be regarded almost as a complete text on the subject.

P.A.F.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR SURGERY

Peripheral Vascular Surgery. Ed. by M. Birnstringl, M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. ix + 447. Illustrated. £5,50. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1973.

It is a pleasant task to review a volume whose uniform excellence is coupled with concise style and moderate cost. A distinguished panel of authors, reflecting British surgical thought, provide a thoroughly up-to-date and eminently readable review covering all aspects of peripheral vascular disease. The scientific basis of the subject receives well-deserved prominence in the first 4 chapters. The value of this volume is enhanced by excellent illustrations and a comprehensive bibliography.

While this book deserves careful study by all postgraduate surgical trainees, it also provides a reference source for a far wider range of medical readers. It is highly recommended.

E.J.I.