

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS

Antimicrobial Agents in Medicine. By B. M. Barker, B.Sc., M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and F. Prescott, Ph.D., M.Sc., M.R.C.P., F.R.I.C. Pp. xi + 296. £4.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1973.

This book is a valuable contribution to the literature dealing with antimicrobial agents. It deals with the principles of therapy, followed by an alphabetically arranged summary of the properties, toxicity, actions and uses of antimicrobial agents. In addition the applications of antimicrobial agents (*i*) after clinical diagnosis and (*ii*) after bacteriological diagnosis are discussed. Tables of blood parameters, excretion characteristics and time levels and distribution are also given.

The book can be recommended as a readily accessible source of information on antimicrobial agents and, as such, should find a ready place on the shelf of the microbiologist, the clinical pathologist and the physician. It is suggested that future editions might be published in loose-leaf form in view of the rapid changes which occur in this field.

M.H.F.

SKELETAL RADIOLOGY

Roentgen Diagnosis of Diseases of Bone. 2nd ed. Vols. 1 and 2. By J. Edeiken, M.D. and P. J. Hodes, M.D. Pp. xi + 661; xi + 495. Illustrated. \$65.00. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams & Wilkins, 1973.

The new edition of this well-known textbook on skeletal radiology has been eagerly awaited by the reviewer because of the excellence of its predecessor. The first pleasant surprise is the appearance of the book in two-volume form. As before, the text is lavishly illustrated; the radiographs are of magnificent quality and rather shame the book's British rival. However, this book costs a good deal more than the latter volume. The present edition is up to date, comprehensive and lucid, and the section on metabolic bone disease is outstanding. Much new material has been added. There is a comprehensive, although not concise, section on the dysplasias which would be of more interest to the specialist in this field than to a prospective examination candidate. A few sections are inappropriately brief, e.g. the section on acromegaly. These are but quibbles — the book is enthusiastically recommended as the finest available on the subject.

G.v.B.A.-S.

TUMOURS OF CHILDHOOD

Tumours of Childhood. By I. G. Williams, M.B. B.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., F.F.R., D.M.R.E. Pp. xii + 169. Illustrated. £3.25. London: William Heinemann Medical Books, 1972.

This book depicts what the author intended to convey, namely a clinical treatise.

It is intended for the paediatricians and paediatric surgeons who are engaged in the handling of these children. The management of most of the tumours in this age group are discussed, with special emphasis on the diagnosis, pathology and prognosis, and with a concise and practical description of the place of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

The value of a team consisting of the paediatric surgeon, radiotherapist, oncologist, radiologist and social worker is stressed.

The reviewers have found this book to be a very useful guide in their Tumour Clinic and can recommend it to anyone who has any contact with or interest in such patients.

M.D. and L.S.

ABORTION

The Abortion Experience. Psychological and medical impact. By H. J. and J. D. Osofsky. Pp. xvii + 668. Illustrated. \$25.00. Hagerstown, Maryland: Harper & Row, 1973.

The present-day question of the control of human population growth is receiving universal attention. Abortion is one method of implementing this control. This book covers a broad spectrum of contemporary opinion on this delicate subject. Although the information contained is extensive, it lacks completeness due to the geographically restricted contributions. Limited international data are entwined mainly for comparative purposes.

Reading it is a valuable experience, and it is strongly recommended to anyone interested in the wellbeing of mankind.

B.S.d.W.

VASCULAR SURGERY

Complications in Vascular Surgery. Ed. by H. G. Beebe, M.D. Pp. 402. Illustrated. £14.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1973.

This volume is far more comprehensive than its title suggests. Although the complications of different vascular procedures are thoroughly dealt with, there is also a wide variety of information in regard to pre-operative preparation and operative techniques.

The authors are all established vascular surgeons, and, although personal approaches may differ, this remains a very valuable contribution for those surgeons who undertake vascular surgery.

W.E.B.

HEARING CONSERVATION

Hearing Conservation. By J. Sataloff, M.D., D.Sc. and P. Michael, Ph.D. Pp. v + 365. Illustrated. \$14.95. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

This book covers concisely and clearly the basics of the ear, sound, hearing, deafness and audiometry. The authors discuss scientifically, and in detail, the problems of environmental and especially industrial noise, its control, its effects on the ear, the avoidance of these, and the means by which the individual can be protected from it. Of wide interest, this book is relevant to otology, audiology, community and industrial medicine, and public health. Each chapter has a comprehensive bibliography.

S.L.S.

NEOPLASTIC SYSTEMS

Neoplasia and Cell Differentiation. Ed. by G. V. Sherbet. Pp. xiv + 411. Illustrated. SFr.140.-. Basel and London: S. Karger, 1974.

Due to an increasing awareness that epigenetic mechanisms might operate in neoplastic systems, this book, compiled from contributions by many authors, is devoted, in the words of the editor, to a discussion of some epigenetic processes most relevant to the study of neoplasia. Thus the first seven chapters deal with the problems of nuclear differentiation in normal development and neoplasia, the molecular basis of the operation of epigenetic mechanisms, and the roles played by cell surfaces in embryogenesis and in neoplastic dissemination. The remaining chapters deal with differentiation and organisation of the tumour *in vitro*, the differentiation and organisation of teratomas, and embryonic and tumour cell interactions.

The book, which is a valuable contribution, is primarily intended for workers engaged in cancer and embryological research.

C.J.U.