

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

AANSTEEKLIKE SIEKTES

Communicable Diseases. An epidemiological approach. By W. H. Parry, M.D., F.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. Pp. xi + 194. Illustrated. Boards edition: £2,85; Unibook edition: £1,45. London: The English Universities Press. 1974.

Hoewel hierdie boekie primêr vir paramediese personeel bedoel is, kan ek dit sterk aanbeveel vir algemene praktisyns en almal wat met openbare gesondheid te doen het.

Die boek sluit al die nuutste kennis oor aansteeklike siektes by wyse van oorsig in. Dog dit dien by uitstek om die kennis wat geneeshere reeds oor hierdie siektes sal hê, met dit wat nuut is aan te vul. Dit kos min, lees lekker, het 'n redelik goeie indeks en is gerieflik in goedgemerkte afdelings en paragrawe ingedeel.

Dit is net jammer dat uit die aard van die saak alle verwysings na wetlike vereistes betrekking moet hê op Britse gesondheidswetgewing. Miskien sal iemand eendag die boek wil aanpas by die plaaslike omstandighede en daardeur 'n groot diens aan die algemene praktyk bewys.

A.M.C.

PAEDIATRIC RADIOLOGY

Radiology of the Newborn and Young Infant. By L. E. Swischuk, M.D. Pp. xvi + 602. Illustrated. \$36,50. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams & Wilkins. 1973.

Excellent composition and superb balance characterise the 602 pages of the text. Common conditions and those where astute radiological diagnosis is essential in critical management have been stressed, only brief reference being made to unimportant curiosities.

A noteworthy feature of the book is that references are most discriminately selected and ideally placed, immediately following each condition. The photographic reproductions adequately illustrate the points made by the author. However, especially in the case of chest radiographs, many of the prints are dull and lack contrast and resolution.

The chief merit of this book is that it provides within one volume an extremely balanced coverage of paediatric radiology, and it is recommended as an essential acquisition by radiological teaching and reference libraries.

H.E.E.

PULMONOLOGIE

The Lung. Radiologic-pathologic correlations. By E. Robert Heitzman, M.D. Pp. xi + 381. Illustrated. \$34,15. Toronto: C. V. Mosby, 1973.

Patologie vorm steeds die basis van goeie medisyne. Wanneer die radioloog dus na 'skaduwees, infiltrasie of versluierings' verwys op 'n X-straal foto, is dit alleenlik sinvol wanneer hy 'n patoloog se bril gebruik. Dr. Heitzman verdien alle krediet vir die wyse waarop hy die samesprekings tussen radioloë, patoloë en klinici oor 'n lang tydperk versamel het in 'n waardevolle, baie ryklik-geïllustreerde uitgawe.

Interne longkondisies word breedvoerig bespreek op 'n hoogs gespesialiseerde vlak, en die normale struktuur en funksie word telkens voorgehou om die afwykings des te duideliker te beklemtoon. Uit die aard van die werk ontstaan 'n leemte waar so min verwys word na snykundige of troumatiese toestande.

Vir die ernstige of gevorderde student, die radioloog en ook die klinikus wat spesiaal belangstel in pulmonologie, bied hierdie werk baie nuttige inligting en leersame wenke.

G.S.M.B.

ESTETIESE CHIRURGIE

Symposium on Aesthetic Surgery of the Nose, Ears, and Chin. Vol. 6. Gered. deur F. W. Masters, M.D. en J. R. Lewis jnr, M.D. Pp. xii + 207. Geïllustreer. \$39,40. Toronto: C. V. Mosby, 1973.

Hierdie simposium op estetiese chirurgie van die neus, ore en ken is werklik van uitstaande gehalte. Elke onderafdeling is behartig deur vooraanstaande plastiese chirurgie in hul veld, en elkeen het nie slegs die teoretiese deel na vore gebring nie, maar ook hul persoonlike praktiese ondervindinge.

Hierdie boek kan ten sterkste aangeraai word vir persone wat nog in opleiding is en dus graag kennis wil maak met die probleme verbonde aan die chirurgie van die neus, ore en ken, asook vir die praktiserende plastiese chirurg wat weer 'n goeie oorsig van die veld kan kry deur die boek te lees. Daar is ook 'n hoofstuk wat handel oor akute trauma van die neus wat ook besonder goed geskryf is, en aangesien dit 'n onderwerp is wat dikwels in boeke swak behandel word was dit aangenaam om te sien dat dit in hierdie simposium ten volle uiteengesit is.

Hierdie boek, alhoewel dit in 'n hoogs gespesialiseerde gebied val, kan dus ten sterkste aanbeveel word aan plastiese chirurgie.

J.A.E.

EXPERIENCE WITH ABORTION

Experience with Abortion. A case study of North-East Scotland. Ed. by G. Horobin. Pp. xiv + 379. £7,00. London: Cambridge University Press, 1973.

This work comprises the combined effort of a transdisciplinary team consisting of general practitioners, gynaecologists, sociologists, psychiatrists and psychologists. It is well worth reading, especially for those members of the medical profession who are caught up in the throes of an ethical crisis.

Part of the statistics make difficult reading for the ordinary GP, and it is a pity that the disciplinary status of some of the contributors cannot be gauged from the text.

G.H.R.

UROLOGY

Urology. A view through the retrospectroscope. By J. R. Herman, M.D. Pp. x + 182. Illustrated. \$7,95. Hagerstown, Maryland: Harper & Row, 1973.

This little book has to do with the historical background of urology, and it abounds in oddments about some lesser-known but mostly well-known facets of the methods, beliefs and armamentarium of the ancient and older practitioners who had to deal with problems in the genito-urinary tract.

P.J.M.R.

ADULT INTELLIGENCE SCALE

Clinical Interpretation of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale. By Irla Lee Zimmerman, Ph.D. and J. M. Woosam, Ph.D. Pp. 221. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, 1973.

Following their useful book concerning the clinical interpretation of the WISC, the authors of this new book have produced an equally useful guide for the users of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS).

Their approach is a sensible and helpful one, based on a 'thorough understanding of the strengths and weaknesses' of the scale, and, as such, can and should be of enormous help to clinicians who often simply blindly administer the same tests under all conditions and without due regard for their appropriateness. In this connexion, for example, they point out that the Scale should be used only cautiously to assess the intellectual level of both adult retardates and gifted individuals. It is an often neglected fact that the WAIS tends to overevaluate the intellectual level of the former and underestimate the level of the latter (p. 5).

There is a useful and salutary discussion of the meanings to be attached to verbal-performance differences, which may provide a much needed antidote to current wild speculation in this area. In addition, the authors give a detailed analysis of each of the subtests, their meaning, reliability and validity, and end with a most helpful section on 'Reporting Results', the general principles of which could be usefully read by most clinical psychologists.

A thoroughly recommended book for the clinical worker in the diagnostic field.

V.J.M.

PESTICIDE TOXICITY

Protein Deficiency and Pesticide Toxicity. By E. M. Boyd, M.D. Pp. x + 468. Illustrated. \$29,50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

This book is essentially a compilation of the author's extensive investigations of the acute and chronic toxicity of 16 different pesticides, herbicides and fungicides in weanling albino rats maintained on diets of differing protein content. The main experimental groups included a protein-free group, a low-protein group (3% casein) and a normal-protein group (9% casein), as well as a group on a normal laboratory chow diet. The toxicity of the various compounds, which were administered to the different experimental groups, was assessed by their own toxicometric methods, which consisted in essence of the recording of the clinical effects and the gross and microscopic autopsy findings. In the acute studies an LD₅₀ dose was used, i.e. the dose which killed 50% of the animals on a specified diet, while chronic toxicity was assessed at 100 days (LD₅₀ (100 days) and at both maximal and minimal

lethal dosages (LD₀ (100 days) and LD₁₀₀ (100 days)). Their findings indicated that protein deficiency exaggerated the acute toxic effects of most but not all of the agents. There was considerable variability in the susceptibilities of animals to acute exposure to these agents, but the differences in susceptibility observed in relation to the minimum lethal doses were particularly striking.

The author's manner of presentation of his findings, coupled with the large mass of factual data in the numerous tables, does not make for easy reading. Chapter II, however, contains a lucid and succinct account of kwashiorkor. The figures are informative, but several of the histological illustrations are of very indifferent quality and could well have been omitted. The text is virtually free of errors and there is a comprehensive bibliography.

This book will be of interest mainly to toxicologists and public health administrators. Its main merit is that it focuses attention on the possible deleterious effects from the injudicious use of dangerous pesticides in developing countries with large protein-deficient populations.

L.E.