

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

BIOFEEDBACK

Biofeedback Behavioral Medicine. Gered. deur Lee Birk, M.D. Pp. viii + 209. Geillustreer. £5,30. Londen en New York: Grune & Stratton. 1974.

Hoewel dit inspanning en konsentrasie verg om die boek te lees, is hierdie verhandeling baie interessant en stimulerend.

'Biofeedback' word beskryf as 'n toevoeging tot die vier ou bekende terapeutiese meganismes in medisyne en psigiatrie naamlik: verhoging van die liggaamlike weerstand (of ego reserwes); chemoterapie; chirurgie; en die invloed van die terapeut op die pasiënt. Die doel van 'biofeedback' terapie, soos beskryf in die boek is om die onwillekeurige funksies van die liggaam onder willekeurige beheer te kry, sodat die pasiënt 'n meer aktiewe en positiewe rol kan speel om as't ware te leer om nie siek te word of sekere simptome te ontwikkel nie.

'n Wye verskeidenheid van toestande, hipertensie, spanningshoofpyne, migraine, hartaritmie en selfs epilepsie word deur bekende navorsers behandel.

Hoewel die prinsiepe reeds wel bekend is, mag die ontwikkeling van suksesvolle toepassing daarvan opwindende resultate lewer.

E.v.W.

HAEMOPHILIA

Hemophilia. A manual of outpatient management. Ed. by D. Green, M.D. Pp. xiv + 117. Illustrated. \$8,50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

Ten leading American contributors outline their experience in outpatient and home management of haemophilia, which has replaced the prolonged periods of hospitalisation that formerly clouded the life of the haemophiliac.

The availability, usage, complications and costs of available therapeutic materials are discussed, as well as genetic counselling, home transfusions, dental care and conservative orthopaedic management.

A chapter on future research and therapeutic prospects concludes an excellent book on current optimum therapy of haemophilia.

A.L.

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CARCINOID TUMOURS

Carcinoids of the Gastrointestinal Tract. By R. J. Sanders, M.D. Pp. xii + 133. Illustrated. \$13,75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

This monograph represents a review of the medical literature on carcinoid tumours gleaned from 300 publications. The anatomical distribution and histological features in the various organs are described in detail; the appendix, small bowel and rectum being the commonest sites of occurrence. Silver staining is usual in the fore- and midgut but rare in the hindgut. The carcinoid syndrome is rare, occurring in only 1,6% of tumours and metastases are related to tumour size. The 5-year survival with inoperable disease is 38%. Most interest will perhaps be found in the section on the biochemistry of serotonin and kinins, their relative roles in the type of cutaneous and cardiac manifestations of the syndrome, and the site of action of therapeutic agents in interrupting the biochemical cycle from tryptophan to 5-HIAA.

Although there is little new in the monograph that cannot be obtained from selected publications, it does serve to consolidate the subject into a useful reference for physicians and surgeons and comprehensive reading for medical students.

S.B.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Progress in Nuclear Medicine, Vol. 3. Regional Pulmonary Function in Health and Disease. Ed. by B. L. Holman and J. F. Lindeman. Pp. xii + 203. Illustrated. £10,15. Basel and London: S. Karger, 1973.

This multi-author volume represents the third in the series, the first two volumes dealing respectively with neuro-nuclear medicine and the evaluation of renal function and disease. Topics in the book dealing with basics such as applied anatomy and physiology (especially regional pulmonary function) and radioactive gases and radiopharmaceuticals are followed by more clinically oriented chapters on pulmonary embolism, pulmonary oedema and regional lung function in cancer. Finally, radiospinometry is discussed and the book closes with a refreshing chapter on small on-line computer applications to ventilation perfusion studies.

While the importance of the use of the perfusion scan in the diagnosis of pulmonary embolus (which is very well presented and deserves considerable commendation) is emphasised, it is also interesting to note the considerable extent to which the scan can be of use in assessing the progress of pulmonary oedema, as changes are often reflected on the perfusion scan before they are present on chest radiographs. The recent ideas on the use of the estimate of 'closing volume' as an indicator of small airway function employing xenon-133 obviously came too late to be included in the volume, as was also the case with the recently revealed dangers of iron hydroxide precipitates as a vehicle for pulmonary perfusion scanning.

B.J.S.

GAS TRANSFER IN THE LUNG

Gas Transfer in the Lung. By B. A. Hills. Pp. xiv + 176. £4,90. London: Cambridge University Press, 1974.

This delightful volume provides an in-depth analysis of alveolar gas transfer. Physiological concepts are visualised as mathematical models. Although equations at times become formidable, this in no way detracts from the essential readability of this monograph. An intimate acquaintance with basic pulmonary physiology is implied. The book should make commendable reading for the research worker or pulmonary physiologist active in this field.

G.B.I.

TROPICAL PATHOLOGY

Tropical Pathology. By H. Spencer. Pp. xiv + 765. Illustrated. DM230,00. Berlin and New York: Springer, 1973. This volume, well written and illustrated, is made up of contributions from various authors, each one an authority in his own sphere. It is under the editorship of Professor H. Spencer of St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London, who has also written many of the chapters.

The pathology of a wide range of disorders encountered in the tropics is presented in detail, and many recent references are also supplied. The value of the book is enhanced, in that, in addition to the customary infective diseases, there are chapters on relevant cardiovascular, blood and liver diseases, malnutrition and malabsorption, and neoplastic diseases, that may be encountered in tropical countries. However, many of the conditions dealt with are common in South Africa and the pathology of these is often quite inadequately described in standard reference works.

Pathologists and, indeed, many practitioners in other spheres of practice in this country, should find this a valuable source of reference on many of our local disease problems.

C.J.U.

SURGICAL PRACTICE IN EUROPE

International College of Surgeons. Proceedings of the 18th World Congress, Rome, May 1972. Ed. by P. Stefanini and V. Speranza. Pp. xvii + 778. Illustrated. Dfl180,00. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica, 1973.

These proceedings comprise over 200 papers embracing most branches of surgery, including orthopaedic, plastic, urological, ophthalmic and neurological surgery, anaesthetics, traumatology, gastro-enterology and organ transplantation. With very few exceptions the papers emanate from Europe. The standard is uneven, many are fairly superficial reviews and the literary presentation clearly suffers from being in a language foreign to the authors. Notable exceptions include a paper by Conn on primary aldosteronism, and an invitation lecture by Hamburger on the future of transplantation, written in his customary inimitable style. Nearly 2 years have elapsed since this congress was held, highlighting the problems of publishing proceedings of a large international congress in such a formal way.

The volume gives insight into current surgical thinking and practice in Europe, but its broad scope and formidable price make it more suitable for a reference than a personal library.

J.A.M.

WATERVERVOER IN SELLE EN WEEFSELS

Water Transport in Cells and Tissues. Deur C. R. House, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D. Pp. vi + 562. R20,00. Londen: Edward Arnold, 1974. Verkrygbaar van Book Promotion, Wynberg, Kaap.

Bespreking van hierdie boek in 'n tydskrif vir geneeskunde kan nie reg aan die diepte en deeglikheid daarvan laat geskied nie.

Die onderwerp is van groot belang in geneeskunde en lyk onskuldig genoeg, maar in werklikheid is hierdie boek seker bedoel vir die gevorderde student en navorser op dié gebied. Die werk begin met 'n baie ingewikkelde teoretiese ontleding van die bou (struktuur) van water, oplossings en verbinding, asook die beweging daarvan deur membrane, en vorder dan ten slotte tot fisiologiese modelle en waarnemings. Dit bevat 'n baie uitgebreide lys van verwysings aan die einde.

L.F.M.