

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

HEPATIC FAILURE

Hepatic Failure. By H. Brown, A.B., M.D. Pp. xi + 137. Illustrated. \$10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This concise monograph sets out to elucidate hepatic failure in the light of modern biochemical knowledge. Fat, carbohydrate, protein and urea metabolism in the liver are discussed with commendable clarity. The writer includes his own studies on protein synthesis.

Finally the sum total of phenomena are combined to formulate a guide for the treatment, both medical and surgical, of hepatic failure, ascites and coma. A chapter on liver transplantation is added.

A.B.

THE MUSCOLOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Introduction to the Musculoskeletal System. Ed. by C. Rosse, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. and D. K. Clawson, M.D. Pp. xiii + 191. Illustrated. \$10.75. New York: Harper & Row. 1970.

The authors have largely succeeded in their aims of providing a volume of basic information, an over-all view of the entire field including basic, well-established facts and the as yet unexplored possibilities, and also a stimulating text.

This book, designed for an integrated curriculum, could be read with advantage by 2nd-year medical students and re-read with amplification by clinical students studying orthopaedics, in traditional medical schools.

The layout, tables and illustrations (many from Hollinshead) are simple and explicit. The text—in most respects excellent—errs gravely in omitting any mention of the muscle spindles.

Likewise, although including the statement that 'the innervation of a joint represents its major source of self-defense against mechanical insult', no attempt is made to explain the sensory receptors in muscles, tendons and joints. The assumption that an understanding of tendon reflexes will follow a reading of chapter 5 on segmental innervation is quite unfounded. In this chapter cord segments governing joint movements are derived entirely from Last's work and no reference is made of Sherrard which is based on a vast clinical experience of cord lesions.

The applied sections and clinical aspects are extremely clear and give an interesting and, at times, dramatic account of the pathogenesis of various disease processes.

P.M.W.

SENUWEEVOORSIENING VAN DIE HART

The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart. Geredigeer deur E. F. Hirsch, M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D. (Hon.). Pp. xiv + 210. Geïllustreer. \$16.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

In hierdie werk word die senuweevoorsiening van die hart by sekere soorte vis, amfibieë, voëls, katte, honde en by die mens in afsonderlike hoofstukke beskryf. Die metode wat aangewend is in die verskillende ondersoeke word redelik volledig opgesom, en die waarnemings waarop die gevolgtrekkinge gebaseer is, word deur middel van nie minder nie as 195 foto's van histologiese preparate geïllustreer. Die fotografie is inderdaad indrukwekkend. Die werk is goed voorsien van literatuurverwysings. As geheel beskou, is dit 'n deeglike stuk werk, waarby hoofsaaklik die navorser sal baat.

B.J.M.