

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

MOLECULAR PHARMACOLOGY

A Guide to Molecular Pharmacology-Toxicology. Part II. Ed. by R. M. Featherstone. Pp. xv + 385. Illustrated. \$27.75. New York: Marcel Dekker, 1973.

Part I of this volume deals with the plasma membrane of cells, transport receptors and the contributions of electron microscopy to molecular pharmacology.

In this book, part II, many authors discuss how newer physical chemical models, induction of specific proteins and bacterial genetics can be used in the study of problems of molecular pharmacology and toxicology. Also considered is the role of nuclear magnetic resonance, electron spin resonance, optical activity, molecular orbital theory and thermodynamics in elucidating drug-protein interactions.

This is a work of utmost interest and importance to those doing advanced research in pharmacology, biochemistry and biophysics.

N.S.

GROUP PRACTICE

Building a Group Practice. By F. W. Wasserman, M.P.H., M.B.A. and M. C. Miller, M.P.H. Pp. viii + 178. \$7.95 cloth; \$5.50 paper. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

The authors of this book set out to supply a guide in depth for the student, business adviser, or physician forming a group practice for the provision of medical care. Although the book is written for American practitioners and is not entirely applicable to the South African scene, there is enough of relevance to be of considerable value to anyone already part of a large group practice or contemplating the formation of one.

They discuss the various types of groups, the fee-for-service group and the prepaid medical care group, and set out the advantages and disadvantages of group practice from both a doctor-satisfaction and patient-satisfaction point of view. They stress that, in a group, the physician is able to concentrate on the primary job—the provision of medical services. Business details can be left to professional managers. In a group of 10 doctors, they envisage a non-medical staff of 40-60 people.

S.D.

STALLARD'S EYE SURGERY

Eye Surgery. By H. B. Stallard, *M.B.E., T.D., M.A., M.D., M.Chir., F.R.C.S. Eng., Hon. LL.D. St And.* Pp. xiv + 946. £13.25. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, 1973.

Most South African ophthalmologists have been weaned, nurtured and succoured on the thoughts and sayings of Henry B. Stallard. This doyen of British ophthalmic surgery died soon after being honoured by his election as President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom in 1973. The 5th edition will be the last under his editorship.

His well-balanced book deals with all aspects of ophthalmic surgery and hopefully allows 'the entire field of eye surgery . . . to be within the competence of a well-trained experienced surgeon'.

Most of the basic ocular, extra-ocular and orbital surgical procedures are dealt with in detail, and the newer controversial operations such as keratotomy, phaco-emulsification and anterior chamber implants are considered in perspective.

Ophthalmic surgeons have now entered the era of surgery through the microscope, and the value and importance of microsurgery are emphasised and the different operating microscopes evaluated.

The strength of this book lies in the selected and proved operations described and executed by the author, the line drawings by him and the meticulous and systematic presentation so characteristic of the indomitable Henry Stallard.

D.S.

NEUROSURGERY

The Surgery of the Central Nervous System. A textbook for postgraduate students. By D. W. C. Northfield, M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi + 884. Illustrated. £22.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1973.

This first major comprehensive textbook of neurosurgery originating from the UK, written by a prominent member of the second generation of British neurosurgeons, fills a long-felt need. As a single-author book, it has the advantage of a central philosophy running through its pages, and the clear mode of expression is a constant pleasure. Although it is based on the experience and knowledge of one man, it is a remarkably comprehensive book with no major gaps in the text, and the views expressed are at all times balanced. Many criticisms are levelled at single-author books because of the high degree of subspecialisation and the inability of any single man to remain abreast of all advances. The illustrations are excellent and well selected. An intentional omission is that of operative technical detail which, the author indicates, can be obtained adequately elsewhere. The references to the literature are comprehensive, but there may be a slight paucity of references to the more recent literature. All in all, this book can be strongly recommended to every trainee in neurosurgery and every practising neurosurgeon.

J.C.d.V.

NEURO-ENDOCRINE REGULATION

Drug Effects on Neuroendocrine Regulation. Progress in brain research. Vol. 39. Ed. by E. Zimmermann, W. H. Gispen, B. H. Marks and D. de Wied. Pp. xii + 502. \$67.30. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1973.

This text covers the proceedings of the International Symposium on Drug Effects on Neuro-endocrine Regulation held in July 1972 at Aspen, Colorado. Some 40 papers by internationally respected research workers in the field of neuro-endocrine regulation provide an excellent review of the wide spectrum of anatomical, pharmacological and neurochemical research which is currently under way in the area of neuro-endocrine regulation. The topics range from neuro-anatomical and chemical aspects of neurosecretion to steroid effects on neuro-endocrine system performance; from biogenic amine effects on the neuro-endocrine system to the influence of drug abuse on neuro-endocrine behaviour. A separate section deals with the pituitary-adrenal effects on learning and behaviour.

Important interactions between the endocrine and nervous systems are demonstrated, and new theories emerge relating to the influence of pituitary and adrenal hormones in behavioural adaptation.

The book is highly specialised. Written by and intended for experts, it will not have a wide appeal to the general reader. It is a well-edited volume, which lives up to the standards of the series to which it belongs.

B.H.E.

BIOMECHANICS

Orthopaedic Biomechanics. Orthopaedic lectures. Vol. V. By H. M. Frost, M.D. Pp. viii + 652. Illustrated. \$29.75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1973.

As outlined in the preface, this book introduces 'Biomechanics', a relatively new field in medicine but one which is becoming increasingly important in orthopaedics. It is consequently a welcome addition to the orthopaedic library.

The first section of the book gives a very concise and lucid synopsis of the pertinent mechanical facts, and the second part deals with the relevant biological aspects of the musculoskeletal system. The third and final section provides a brief refresher course in basic mathematics.

The literature on this subject is still sparse and the publication of this book is timely.

G.D.