

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

THYROID CANCER

The Histogenesis of Thyroid Cancer. By N. Simionescu. Pp. i + 173. Illustrated. £9.0.0. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1970.

An authoritative book from the Institute of Endocrinology, Iasi, Rumania, fills a gap in the complex and controversial subject of endocrine pathology.

The subject matter describes the experience of the author with 368 cases of thyroid cancer which were examined by every modern method including autoradiography, historadiology, electron contrast microscopy and electron-microscopy. A new logical interpretation of malignant transformation is suggested and the author advances a stage evolution concept and classification corresponding to the criteria of the World Health Organization.

The author is a devoted research worker and is distinguished by his passion for scientific truth. The book will undoubtedly be compulsory reading for everyone interested in thyroid carcinogenesis.

A.E.M.

EXPERIMENTAL HYPERTENSION

The Hypertensive Vascular Crisis. An experimental study by F. B. Byrom, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.A.C.P. Pp. xii + 131. Illustrated. £1.10.0. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1969.

This monograph portrays the credo of a dedicated research worker in the hypertension field who, over 30 years ago,

initiated the induction of experimental hypertension in the rat by the constriction of one renal artery.

The book is divided into three parts: human hypertensive encephalopathy—the author prefers the term ‘vascular crisis’; the development of an experimental model in the rat, and a hypothesis; and the testing of this hypothesis in the light of modern knowledge. However, there is no mention of the juxtaglomerular apparatus or of the macula densa. The philosophical concepts of Pickering and Page are briefly discussed. The most valuable section of this book is the appendix on techniques applicable to experimental hypertension in the rat.

This book will appeal to academic researchers in the field of experimental hypertension and as such should be available particularly to physiology students.

L.E.

DRUGS AND POISONS

The Problems of Species Difference and Statistics in Toxicology. Vol. XI. Proceedings of the European Society for the Study of Drug Toxicity. Ed. by S. B. de C. Baker, J. Tripod and J. Jacob. Pp. 275. Illustrated. £7.7.0. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1970.

A wide variety of subjects of great value to pharmacologists, toxicologists and cancerologists is discussed, including valuable contributions made to existing knowledge of species difference in drug metabolism and the toxicological implications of the factors concerned. Of particular interest is the article by Remmer on drugs, pesticides and carcinogens which enhance the

metabolism of foreign compounds by inducing several drug metabolism enzymes in rats, rabbits and mice. Various aspects of teratogenic drugs also receive attention and the symposium on toxicometrics supplies very useful information to those engaged in research on the toxicity of drugs and poisons.

The great service rendered in the past by Excerpta Medica Foundation in, among other things, keeping medical science abreast of the serious problem of drug-induced iatrogenic diseases, is emphasized by this publication. It should occupy a prominent place in the libraries of all concerned with research on drugs and poisons.

D.G.S.

LONGSIEKTES

Respiratory Diseases. Deur J. Crofton, M.A., (Cantab), F.R.C.P. (Edin. & Lond.) en A. Douglas, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Edin.). Pp. xiv + 719. £7.15.0. Oxford en Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1969.

Soos by ander sisteme het 'n beter verstandhouding van longfunksie en veral longfunksies soos verwant aan struktuur, baie daartoe bygedra om die benadering tot respiratoriese siektes te verander. Dit is dus baie bemoedigend dat 'n boek soos hierdie oor longsiektes verskyn het. Alhoewel die boek sekerlik bedoel was om as 'n kliniese handleiding te dien is die basiese longfisiologie en anatomie van belang baie goed bespreek. Die hele benadering is ook om klem te lê op die etiologiese faktore en om soveel moontlik die meganisme van die verskillende patologiese toestande te verstaan. Die basiese beginsels van etiologie en epidemiologiese studies word ook voldoende in hierdie boek bespreek.

Die boek is oor die algemeen baie volledig geskryf en leemmaklik, en die nuwere konsepte van immunologie asook ander toestande veral tuberkulose word voldoende bespreek. Dit sal 'n goeie dien as 'n algemene naslaanwerk vir algemene praktisyne en interniste, maar is volledig genoeg om as handleiding te dien vir persone wat spesifiek in longtoestande geïnteresseerd is.

M.A.d.K.

PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS

Psychedelic Drugs. Proceedings of a Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital Symposium sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry. Ed. by R. E. Hicks, M.D. and P. J. Fink, M.D. Pp. xiii + 249. \$16.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1969.

The wide field encompassed is indicated by the contents, including an initial enlightening description of the phenomenology of psychedelic experience followed by an appraisal of research into pharmacology and therapy. Several chapters present differing viewpoints and, although inconclusive on major aspects, provide a framework for further research, and review other current literature on the known or suspected hazards from non-medical use, e.g. genetic disturbances associated with LSD or personality variations. Legal issues described point to the current medical and judicial differences in opinion, whereas the socio-cultural considerations reflected wide but opposing attitudes in this multidisciplinary symposium. Clinical use of psychedelic drugs relates mainly to analytical psychotherapy, treatment of alcoholism or as therapeutic agents *per se*. A controversial volume of value to the clinical psychiatrist, psychologist and research worker.

R.W.S.C.