

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

MYOCARDIOLOGY

Preventive Myocardiology. Fundamentals and targets. By W. Raab, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C., F.C.C.P., F.A.C.S.M. Pp. xviii + 227. Illustrated. \$13.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

It is proposed that the traditional term 'coronary heart disease' is misleading and that, because of the proved toxicity of adrenergic catecholamine and adrenocortical overaction on heart muscle, mainly by derangement of myocardial electrolytes, it should be discarded in favour of 'cardiac hypoxic dysfunction'.

Extensive clinical and experimental evidence are quoted to explain the pluricausal pathogenesis of so-called coronary heart disease on the basis of myocardial ionic imbalance, resulting not only from a vascular mechanical factor (athero-sclerosis), but also from neurogenic metabolic factors.

A very interesting book.

G.P.H.

PACEMAKERS

The Artificial Cardiac Pacemaker. By H. J. T. Thalen, M.D., J. W. van den Berg, D.Sc., J. N. H. van der Heide, M.D. and J. Nieveen, M.D. Pp. 359. Illustrated. £6.6.0. London: William Heinemann. 1970.

Artificial cardiac pacing is now an established and essential technique of any cardiac department. This book provides much of the specialized knowledge regarding technique and instrumentation, relying extensively on the experience of the authors in the development of a pacemaker and allied instrumentation of their own design. It is weakest in its introductory chapters on the patho-physiology of heart-block. Wide readership appeal cannot be expected for a book of such specialized subject matter, but for persons involved in the care of patients with pacemakers, this book is worth purchasing.

B.M.K.

PAEDIATRICS

Modern Trends in Paediatrics—3. Ed. by J. Apley, C.B.E., M.D., B.S., F.R.C.P., J.P. Pp. x + 347. Illustrated. R8.40. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1970.

Paediatric interests now extend from genetics through the perinatal period to adolescence and beyond. Its scope has become so wide that it is impossible for paediatricians and medical practitioners generally to keep abreast of advances and trends. Under the leadership of Dr John Apley eminent authorities have collaborated in producing this stimulating book. The chapters, written with perspective and clarity, cover a wide range of topics such as epidemiology of congenital malformations; prevention of rhesus haemolytic disease; oxygen-conserving adaptation of the foetal circulation; neonatal surgery; screening methods relating to inborn errors of metabolism; special care units for seriously ill children; chemotherapy of malignant disease in children; child health and nutrition; malabsorption in childhood; nephrology; the care of handicapped children; biological approach to autistic and hyperkinetic syndromes and paediatric education in Britain. I especially enjoyed the chap-

ter by Dr Ronald Finn on 'Prevention of rhesus haemolytic disease'. This book is a 'must' for paediatricians and medical practitioners interested in paediatrics and child health.

H. de V.H.

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS

Fatal Civil Aircraft Accidents. Their medical and pathological investigation. By P. J. Stevens, O.B.E., M.D. (B'ham), M.R.C.Path., D.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. (Eng.). Pp. xii + 206. Illustrated. £5.0.0. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1970.

In the investigation of fatal aircraft accidents efficient medical and pathological investigation is playing an ever-increasing role in determining the exact cause of the accident. This is most important in the efforts being made to provide measures to improve flight safety.

The book deals with the study of the medical and pathological aspects of fatal flying accidents, is well illustrated and contains much information essential to the district surgeon and pathologist concerned with these investigations.

J.G.

HEMOPOËTIESE AKTIWITEIT

Hemopoietic Cellular Proliferation. Symposium held in Boston, Massachusetts, in November 1969. Gered. deur F. Stohlman jnr. M.D. Pp. xii + 333. Geïllustreer. \$19.75. New York en Londen: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

Hierdie bydraes oor hemopoëtiese aktiwiteit is 'n uitstekende samevatting van die afgelope dekade se eksperimentele werk en vooruitgang van kennis oor die stimulasie, beheer en gedrag van die drie hemopoëtiese komponente. Die invloed van verskeie soorte beskadiging, die aard en reaksie van stamselle asook die invloed van eritropoëtië kom veral ter sprake. Die bestaan van humorale faktore vir die beheer van trombositose en leukositose induksie word ook nou duidelik aanvaar.

C.S.K.

ZOOLOGY

Big Fleas have Little Fleas. Or Who's Who among the Protozoa. By R. Hegner. Pp. viii + 285. Illustrated. \$2.00. New York: Dover Publications. 1968.

This paperback volume is a reprint of a work first produced in 1938. The late author enjoyed a reputation as a zoologist, teacher and humorist, and this book is as much a pleasant reflection of the character of the author as it is a source of information of the life and times of the protozoa who form the scientific subject between the anecdotes, parables, metaphors and cartoons in which the author indulges. Both the cartoons—with which the book is liberally illustrated—and the style of writing must be attributed to the influence of James Grover Thurber, whose work was flourishing in the *New Yorker* of the 1930s. There is fun in the book for the scientific dilettante, but there is too much irrelevance between the facts to satisfy the student, hard pressed as he is to read what he has to read to cope with current curricula.

P.U.F.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

A Physiological Approach to Clinical Neurology. By J. W. Lance, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.A.C.P. Pp. xi + 246. Illustrated. R8.40. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1970.

Neurophysiology is one branch of medical science about which most South African doctors are lamentably ignorant. Hence this little book which spells out the general principles and application of neurophysiology to clinical neurology is most welcome. The text is eminently readable, the index is excellent and the illustrations are good. It should appeal to all medical students and medical practitioners because although it deals with a specialized subject it does so in a most lucid and beguiling way.

F.R.A.

HAEMATOLOGY

Hematologic Reviews. Vol. 2. Ed. by J. L. Ambrus. Pp. xii + 285. \$18.75. New York: Marcel Dekker. 1970.

During the past decades haematology has expanded at such a pace that even the specialist finds it difficult to keep abreast of developments in all its branches. The *Hematologic Review* series aims to encompass latest developments in all aspects of haematology.

Topics dealt with in this volume include haematological problems in kidney transplantation, erythropoietins, thrombolytic therapy, treatment of haemophilia with cryoprecipitates, inhibitors of platelet aggregation, chromosome abnormalities in haematological malignancies and others. As with all multi-author texts, the standard varies from chapter to chapter. None the less, the volume is of value and interest to both clinical and laboratory haematologists.

A.L.

ALLERGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Allergy of the Nervous System. Ed. by F. Speer, M.D. Pp. xvii + 259. Illustrated. \$13.25. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

The editor of this book is Chief of Paediatric Allergy, University of Kansas. This is super-specialization and the book is a super-specialized book. In it allergists make territorial claims in the provinces of almost every specialty in medicine. Few non-allergists would agree to these claims. There cannot be many psychiatrists who would agree to a 'neuro-allergic basis' to the following conditions—emotional immaturity reactions; antisocial behaviour; depressive symptoms, including semi-suicidal ideation, insomnia, worry, anxiety, organic brain syndrome reactions, schizophreniform reactions, and short-term reactions stimulating classic schizophrenia. There are few neurologists who would agree that neurological symptom complexes are common in cerebro-allergic individuals; or with the statement hemiplegia, migratory paralysis, fuzzy speech, stuttering paraplegia, fainting, loss of consciousness, headache, various speech disorders including stuttering. There is a chapter devoted to allergic epilepsy. I have never encountered such a case and regard the theories put forward as being absurd.

There is very little in this book to commend it.

A.V.B.

TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

Treatment for Children. The work of a child guidance clinic. By D. T. Maclay, M.D., D.P.M. Pp. 247. £3.0.0. London: George Allen & Unwin. 1970.

This is a book which will interest the therapist who is new in the field of child guidance work. It covers a wide range of problems from early childhood to later school years. Most difficulties are treated as unresolved sexual instincts or unresolved oedipus complexes.

The approach in the book is strictly psychoanalytic and the interpretations are highly symbolic and completely unconvincing to anyone but an orthodox Freudian.

The author deals sympathetically with handicapped and 'schizoid' children and the book includes an explanation of 'autism' giving Dr Mildred Creek's 9 diagnostic points. Some credit to behaviour therapy is given when dealing with this group of children.

The child guidance team are sincere and dedicated in their work and one wonders how much of their success is due to the tolerant and accepting attitudes common to all therapists no matter what their discipline. The author also fails to take into account the expected improvements with maturation.

This is not a reference book I would recommend to the experienced worker.

L.L.

PSYCHOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Psychology in Relation to Medicine. 3rd ed. by R. M. Mowbray, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.Ps., F.A.Ps.S. and T. F. Rodger, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.P. (Ed. and Glasg.), F.B.Ps., D.P.M. Pp. vii + 421. R3.60. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

In the new age of the multidisciplinary approach to current medical problems a steady spate of books is now appearing which purport to expand the vision of the average medical reader. Such a book indeed is the one by our authors who, by virtue of their long experience as teachers and clinicians, were eminently fitted for the none-too-easy task they had undertaken. The first edition of the book appeared in 1963, the second as recently as 1967, and the third in 1970; due to its rich fare and the conciseness of style with which it is presented, it will continue to make an impact on medical thought for some years to come.

The chapter on 'The organism', in which the authors stress the wholeness of the human personality, is not new in conception, but it nevertheless serves as a strong reminder that parts of the whole—embracing the dimensions of body and mind—are dialectically and inexorably related. The ensuing chapters pertaining to such phenomena as the higher mental processes, intelligence and personality, provide a fine introduction to the discipline of general psychology.

L.F.F.

GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

Gynecological Oncology. A comprehensive review and evaluation. Proceedings of the symposium held at the Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, May 1969. Ed. by H. R. K. Barber and E. A. Graber. Pp. xx + 385. Illustrated. £10.9.0. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1970.

This volume comprises the proceedings of a symposium held in New York in May 1969 and is dedicated to the eminent figure Dr Alexander Brunschwig who made a significant contribution to this work before his death in August 1969.

The book has as its main object the presentation of a comprehensive review and evaluation of all aspects of gynaecological cancer. Due recognition has been given to the most recent research and the various contributions by a number of different authors reflect the modern management of malignancy in the gynaecological patient. The scope embraces both the clinical and the sociological aspects of the theme. The editors recognize however that basically the present methods of diagnosis and treatment have achieved their maximum effect and are not likely to result in a further significant increase in cure-rate. Very aptly Dr L. Parsons, in his stimulating introductory essay, remarks that the future female oncologist 'will have to have at least a working knowledge of embryology, genetics, immunology, virology, epidemiology, radiology, surgery and chemotherapy'.

This work can be most warmly recommended to specialists and postgraduates in gynaecology.

E.M.S.

VLOEISTOFSINTILLASIE

The Current Status of Liquid Scintillation Counting. Gered. deur E. D. Bransome, jnr, M.D. Pp. xxi + 394. Geïllustreer. \$19.75. New York en Londen: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

Alhoewel die boek baseer is op referate gelewer tydens 'n simposium gedurende 1969, word alle aspekte van vloei-stof-sintillasie-telling volledig behandel. Die inhoud is prakties van aard en kan dus met voordeel in alle laboratoriums toegepas word.

Nuwe ontwikkelings wat ook aandag geniet het, is die bepaling van Cerenkof straling en chemiluminisenssie asook monster voorbereiding deur verbranding. Voorbeelde van data-verwerking met groot en klein rekenaars word gegee.

Die boek word sterk aanbeveel vir persone wat vloei-stof-sintillasie-tellers gebruik.

M.G.L.

ILEOSTOMY

The Ileostomy Patient. A descriptive study of 1 425 persons. By E. Lenneberg and J. L. Rowbotham, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xvii + 208. \$12.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

This is a statistical survey of every aspect in the life of an ileostomy patient. The incidence of all conceivable compli-

cations and related problems is reviewed. The importance of the psychological rehabilitation of the patient is stressed.

An impressive list of all the difficulties experienced by patients is reviewed, but unfortunately there is no chapter or detailed description of the various ileostomy appliances available, nor is there a detailed description of the exact mode of their usage.

J.L.-C.

SPACEMEN

Men in Space. The impact on science, technology and international co-operation. Ed. by E. Rabinowitch and R. S. Lewis. Pp. xiv + 204. £2.5.0. Aylesbury: Medical and Technical Publishing. 1970. Obtainable from Cotton & Hardie, Pinelands, Cape.

The book is poorly designed on poor paper and published at a pretty price. Sixteen eminent contributors write of facts better described in science fiction. Their technological qualifications outrun their imagination and the reader might become emotionally involved because all the contributions, excepting 3, are mixtures of political polemics and scientific sophistry which together divide the moon and other celestial spheres between the USA and the USSR, while the rest of the world looks on.

T.J.