convince himself continuously whether the two images of the coils of the pilot lamp are properly and sharply projected into the patient’s pupil. Since each lamp is provided with a precentred base, no further centring of the Xenon-flash lamp is necessary.

By actuating the contact, the pilot lamps are also switched off and will not light up again until the film has been moved on for a further exposure with the aid of a button at the left of the

surgeon. In this way it is possible automatically to prevent double exposures. The flash gun permits a sequence of flashes of less than 10 seconds; it is accommodated next to the instrument table.

All films, even fine-grained 10/10 DIN can be used including Agfa Isopan FF 10/10 DIN. For colour photographs Agfa colour reversal film ultra T 16/10 DIN is suitable, but Agfa colour negative film ultra T 17/10 DIN may also be used.

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

INTRACARDIAC PRESSURE CURVES


In the general part of this book a careful analysis has been made of pressure curves, registered with the aid of a capacitance manometer. The normal pressure values and curve patterns in the different parts of the heart and great vessels are very adequately described and illustrated. The atrial pressure curves are particularly well dealt with. It is fortunate that a whole section has been devoted to explaining and describing the artifacts and distortions in recordings, which so often result in misinterpretations.

In the second part abnormal curves are presented and described. Although the changes in contour due to arhythmias are of physiologic interest, they are not of the same clinical value as the characteristic pressure changes in valvular lesions, intracardiac shunts and constrictive pericarditis. One does not quite share with these authors the same confidence in the interpretation of pulmonary wedge pressures.

A large part of the Atlas has been set aside for illustrating tracings of diagnostic importance. Each figure is accompanied by a text giving a description of the important features of each curve and an interpretation of its diagnostic significance. The Atlas has been beautifully printed on paper of excellent quality and reproductions of tracings are superb.

Since cardiac catheterization is now a firmly established diagnostic procedure, a volume such as this will be of great practical value to the many clinicians where this investigation is now carried out as a routine.

A.J.B.

STUDENTS AID SERIES : MEDICAL TREATMENT


This, the fourth edition of this member of the Students Aid series, has been brought completely up to date and will continue its purpose in assisting students in current medical therapeutics. In order to reduce the tendency to increase in size, certain special sections like dermatology and dietetics have been omitted from this new edition.

A.H.T.

PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY


The first edition of this book appeared in 1930. Thus in 9 years 4 editions have appeared and the first 3 have had to be reprinted. From these facts alone one may judge the value of the book to medical students. The latest edition has been thoroughly revised and large sections of many chapters have been rewritten to include recent advances in physiology and biochemistry. The accounts of glycolysis and the citric-acid cycle, for example, now appear in a separate chapter. Other sections which have been revised include thyroid hormones, blood coagulation, oxidation of fatty acids, and the structure of skeletal muscle. In the chapter on 'some physicochemical considerations' it is suggested that the older and misleading definition of acids and bases should be discarded in favour of the more modern and correct definition according to the Bronsted-Lowry concept. This suggestion is welcome and long overdue.

A number of new illustrations appear, including some in colour. There are many diagrammatic representations and schematic summaries which present with exceptional clarity important aspects of the subject. The selected references at the end of chapters have been brought up to date and are a valuable feature of the book.

A few errors and omissions are noted. In the section on the methods for estimating energy output only a passing reference is made to the Max-Planck respirometer, and the integrating motor pneumotachograph (IMP) is not mentioned at all. The spelling of flavin and flavoprotein is not consistent either in the text or in the index. Amino acid should be spelled without the hyphen. The correct value for the energy of hydrolysis of the terminal phosphate band of ATP is 7·5 kcal., not 11,500 cal. An account is given of the biosynthesis of the thyroid hormones but not of the recent work on the biosynthesis of the steroid hormones or of the porphyrins. There is no justification for associating Hogben's name with what is correctly known as the Xenopus pregnancy test.

This new edition of BDS can be heartily recommended to medical and science students. It gives a good and particularly well-balanced introduction to the study of physiology and biochemistry.

H.Z.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE


This 'Pelican' book is a well written exposition of industrial hygiene and is not only a very useful handbook for medical practitioners working among industrial populations, but also provides interesting and valuable reading for industrial managers and workers. In 8 chapters the author, within the limits of the space available, gives an up-to-date exposition of the history and legislation of industrial medicine, and discusses the hazards of toxic substances used in industry, and also of dusts. There is a well selected glossary of technical terms at the end of the book. The legislation dealt with is that of Great Britain; but it would, of course, be quite impracticable to discuss the legislation of all other countries. The publication of this book in a form and at a price which would make it widely read is admirable and praiseworthy.

A.J.O.

LEPROSY


Cochrane has gathered together the selection of most able contributors and together they have turned out what undoubtedly will become the standard work on leprosy. The wide ramifications that have developed in the study of leprosy are shown by the wide selection of contributors, all of whom are outstanding workers in their particular fields. Cochrane's own contributions are authoritative, as well they might be since he has been a worker in this field for over 34 years. The chapter by L. F. Badger, of the U.S. Public Health Service, on epidemiology upsets some previously held opinions; in view of the rapid increase of the disease
in Hawaii he states that leprosy cannot be held to be 'feebly contagious'. In the chapter on therapy Ctochrane correctly states that 'an entirely new and hopeful outlook towards leprosy can be adopted'. This book should be in the hands of every leprologist.

A.R.D.

GYNAECOLOGICAL RADIOGRAPHY


This book is really an atlas of hysterosalpingography, accompanied by an introduction on radiography of the breast. It is made up of over 300 illustrations, mostly of excellent reproductions of radiographs. About half the reproductions are 'positives' and half 'negatives', which should partly satisfy all readers. The collection is imposing and has been amassed over many years and from many contributors. All the variants of the normal— the congenital anomalies and every type of pathology that can be demonstrated by this method—are to be found in this concise book.

In this country salpingography is used almost exclusively to ascertain the state of the tubes in cases of sterility. Not so by the French school; the examples they give here of carcinoma of the cervix and body, and fibroids and polyps, of synechiae, are to be found in this concise book.

The section in mammography, though very interesting and equally well illustrated, is little more than introductory. In this subject very few radiologists have any real experience. So long as surgeons remain satisfied that their sensitive palpation tells them all they need to know about the breast, or can hope to know short of surgery, both surgeons and radiologists will remain ignorant of the potentialities of this method of investigation.

This book should undoubtedly be read and kept for reference purposes by all gynaecologists and radiologists and all those aspiring to these specialities.

W.J.L.

MEDICAL TREATMENT


Dr. Hyman set himself a prodigious task in writing this book, which covers a very wide field. Notwithstanding the great amount of information included, economy of space is secured both by the use of tables and by considering infections under the heading of the causative organism without separate descriptions of disease entities. Pneumococcal, gonococcal and meningococcal infections comprise one chapter and on reading it one gains the impression that oral penicillin is recommended for the treatment of pneumococcal meningitis. Subacute bacterial endocarditis is dealt with in a very short paragraph. Amoebic liver abscess does not appear in the index and it would be difficult to treat this condition from the information provided in the 2 pages on amoebiasis. The widespread use of proprietary names seems unfortunate.

Although this volume contains much information it cannot be recommended as a standard source of reference in medical treatment.

A.J.W.

NOVOCAIN THERAPY IN OLD AGE


The contents of the 7 papers in this research bulletin suggest that an amazing discovery has been made. By the intramuscular injection of 'novocain' (5 ml. of a 2% solution at a pH between 3.5 and 4) regenerative and rejuvenating effects are claimed in old people. The injections are given 3 times a week in a series of 12 injections, with a 10-day interval between courses.

The whole body is alleged to be affected in an eutrophic way. Shortly after beginning treatment old people show an increased desire to live, there is increased brightness of the eyes, and improved hearing and vision. Arteriosclerosis is reduced through mobilization of cholesterol in the arterial walls. Hair growth is stimulated, even in alopecia, and hair colour preserved. The development of joint disorders may be retarded. It is also claimed that by administration in other ways 'novocain' prevents the aging process in various systems of the body.

Attempts to slow down the aging process have been recorded from time to time. Steinach ligated the vas deferens, and Voronoff implanted monkey testicular tissue. Bekaert and Benschmetz used his anti-reticulo-endothelial-cytotoxic serum. Niehans believes that foetal cells can help. Multivitamin therapy has been used, extracts of blood-forming tissues, royal bee jelly, and baths containing bichromate of soda. Claims are now made by these continental (especially Rumanian) workers for the rejuvenating effects of 'novocain'. Few scientists in Western medicine will hurriedly accept these claims, and still fewer will pay the high price asked for the 68 pages of this bulletin.

N.S.

POORT-HIPERTENSIE


Die skrywer gee 'n oorsig van die hele toestand van poort-hipertensie soos wat dit in die afgelope 20 jaar benader is.

Die eerste paar hoofstukke handel oor die anatomie en die fisiologie van die poortstelsel, wat gevolg word deur 'n kliniese oorsig van die diët, die raad en die hulpmiddels. Die res van die boek is gewy aan die benadering van 'n geval met poort-hipertensie en die uiteindelike behandeling waaroor besluit moet word. Operasies soos porta cava anastomose en spleno-renale anastomose word breedvoerig bespreek en met moeilik afbeeldings gellustroer. Die indikasies en kontra-indikasies vir hierdie ingrepe word duidelik gestel.

Die spesialisering van die geval wat met ernstige esofageale bloeding voorloopt, word ook bespreek, en iedere ingreep is helder met tekeninge afgebeeld.

Die skrywer wy 'n hoofstuk toe aan poort-sistembloeding wat baie goed gestel is, asook 'n hoofstuk wat oor poort-hipertensiie by kinders handel.

Die finale hoofstuk handel oor die resultate van 111 gevalle van omsluiingseroses wat deur die skrywer toegespies is, terwyl die resultate van ander werkers in hierdie veld vergelyk word.

Oor die algemeen is dit 'n goeie monografie vir die nagraande student in die chirurgie, asook vir die chirurg wat graag hierdie gevalle chirurgies wil behandel.

J.J.D.J.

LAPAROSKOPIE EN KULDOSKOPIE


Hierdie is 'n waardevolle boekie vir diégene wat belangstel in laparoskopie (peritoneoskopie) en kuldoskopie. Hierdie onderzoekmodeties het ongetwyf 'n plek verower in die ginekologie en in sommige lande, veral op die Europese vasteeland, word hulle redelik algemeen gebruik. Die voordele en nadele van elk van die twee modeties is bespreek en dr. Frangenheim se ondervinding is gebaseer op 500 endoskopiese ondersoeksope wat hy persoonlik gedoen het. Sommige van die instrumente wat gebruik word, word bespreek en 'n goeie beskrywing word gegee van die verskillende tegnieke wat gebruik word.

Die kliniese indikasies en kontra-indikasies word nie oor­
tuigend gestel nie. Van die 500 endoskopiese was 190 vir sterileitiedesen, en 166 vir moontlike ekstra-uterine swangerskappe.

In 'n verdere 42 gevalle is die metode aangewend vir die differen­
tiews van moontlike overalthose oorvallende tumorsoor oor in die waterwaarde van hierdie onderzoekmodeties teen die potensiële gevaar van die metode sal opwek, moet nog bewys word. Daar bestaan geen twyfel dat kuldoskopie en peritoneoskopie alltyd 'n duidelike
beeld die bekkenoorgane kan lewer, soos getuig deur die ver­
tigtal uitstekende kleurfotos wat verskillende patologie toestande
in die bekken illustreer.

Dit is jammer dat die skrywer klein operatiewe ingrepe wat
deur middel van die endoskoop gedaan kan word, net noem en
nie verder bespreek nie.

F.G.G.

BIGGER’S BACTERIOLOGY

Bigger’s Handbook of Bacteriology, 7th edition. By F. S.
Stewart, M.D. (Dublin), F.R.C.P.I. Pp. ix + 611. 92 figures.
37s. 6d. London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1959.

It is 10 years since the publication of the last edition of this
popular text-book on bacteriology, and the present edition has
been almost completely recast. The result is a text considerably
longer than its predecessors mainly owing to the incorporation
of a large section on viruses, which gives a comprehensive account
of the more important of those of these agents which affect man.
There is a new section on antibiotic agents, which one feels could
have been expanded with advantage, particularly to include
a more detailed account of the side-effects other than the develop­
ment of resistance. The new edition is a great improvement on
earlier ones and can be recommended for students. K.C.W.

ANATOMY AND DISEASES OF THE HAND

The Hand: Its anatomy and diseases. By John J. Byrne, M.D.
Publications. 1959.

This book on the hand is an American contribution of a com­
prehensive nature, dealing with both anatomic and embryolo­
gical problems and the bacteriological and pathological con­
ditions which occur in the hand. Each section is well considered
from the bibliographic angle.

There are many aspects of interest, and a broad field is covered,
giving the historical basis and considering the hand from a general
point of view, apart from the question of rehabilitation, which
is scarcely touched upon. In a book of its scope it is disappointing
that no mention is made of fundamental principles of hand func­tion,
and no mention at all of fixed claw hand nor of Kanavel’s
contributions on the subject.

However, the book is of value as a general reference on the
problems of the hand, dealing with a wider field than most books
on this subject; as such it is a valuable adjunct to the library of
any surgeon interested in the hand. W.G.

OPERATIVE SURGERY

To the Editor: Thank you for the review appearing in the issue
of the Journal for 26 December 1959 of the remaining volumes
of Operative Surgery by Prof. Charles Rob and Mr. Rodney
Smith.

Your reviewer expressed his regret that separate volumes were
not available and we should like to advise you that this is not
now the case. The work has recently been split into specialities
and is now available as follows: General surgery (in 4 volumes):
orthopaedic and plastic surgery (in 2 volumes); gynaecology and
obstetrics; genito-urinary surgery; and eyes, ear, nose and throat,
and neurosurgery.

A pamphlet on Operative Surgery by Specialities has already
been circulated to the profession and detailed brochures are
available on application.

A. McAdam
Assistant Manager
Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd.
P.O. Box 792, Durban
31 December 1959

MEDICAL AID SCHEMES

To the Editor: In the issue of the Journal for 5 December a medical
practitioner signing himself Had it saw fit to attack the Civil
Service Medical Benefit Association for non-payment of accounts
which, presumably, he rendered to members of the Association.

I cannot allow the allegations of this doctor to go unchallenged
for he has only himself to blame if his accounts to a member of
the Association remain unpaid.

C.G.

TUBERCULOSIS

Recent Advances in Respiratory Tuberculosis. 5th edition.
By Frederick Heath, C.M.G., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. and N.
Lloyd Rusby, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. vii + 284. 6 plates,

In the preface to this fifth edition the authors state: ‘Such have
been the developments in almost every branch of the subject
that the book has, in fact, been completely rewritten’. This is
indeed the case, for the last edition was published 10 years ago.

Two most interesting chapters are devoted to tuberculin and
tuberculin testing and BCG vaccination, which summarize present
thought on the place of tuberculin and BCG in tuberculosis
control. The section on primary tuberculosis discusses possible
developments after initial invasion of the host and presents the
latest ideas on treatment of this important clinical entity.

Respiratory function studies have been given a section of their
own and are discussed with reference to their value in the differen­
tial diagnosis of pulmonary dysfunction and the objective evalua­
tion of treatment.

Rehabilitation has been dealt with at some length. It arouses
envy in the reader at the completeness of tuberculosis control
schemes overseas.

Throughout the book each chapter has extensive references
to original work and for those who are interested there is a final
chapter dealing with classifications and statistics.

J.B.P.

OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL PRACTICE

British Obstetric and Gynaecological Practice (Obstetrics).
2nd edition. Edited by Sir Eardley Holland, M.D. (Lond.),
F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. and Alec Bourne, M.A.,
Illustrations. 147s. net. London: William Heinemann Medical
Books Ltd. 1959.

The volume here reviewed is that on Obstetrics in the second
edition, the first having appeared some 5 years ago. An impres­
sive roll of contributors gives expression to the views and teaching
of the British school of obstetricians, and the final chapter de­
scribes the pattern of British obstetrical practice as it is found
today. As is usual in books of this nature, authors tend to overlap
in their contributions, but the extensive revision of most chapters
of the book has eliminated most of this. The work covers a very
wide field; it is thorough, detailed, well documented and well
illustrated.

A.H.T.

CORRESPONDENCE: BRIEWERUBRIEK

If he will take the trouble to acquaint himself with the rules of
procedure laid down in the agreement between the Medical As­
sociation of South Africa and approved medical aid societies,
he will read the following in Clause 2 of the general preamble
of the Tariff of Fees (I presume he has a copy in his possession):

‘If payment of an account is not received after two consecutive
monthly accounts have been rendered to the member the third
monthly account giving the full name and address (home and
business if possible) of the member shall be sent direct to the
Society concerned bearing the words written prominently in red:
‘Two months overdue, please investigate’

‘The medical aid societies have undertaken to expedite payment
in the cases.’

My Association is second to none in its organization and pays
accounts which are properly specified promptly on submission
by a member. The Association also investigates promptly com­
plaints which are brought to its notice by medical practitioners.

If the complainant had observed the rules which are laid down
for medical aid society and medical practitioner alike he would
have saved himself much trouble and have avoided the necessity
for rushing into print with allegations against my Association
which are quite unjustified.

H. C. Cawood
Chairman

Civil Service Medical Benefit Association
P.O. Box 176, Pretoria
22 December 1959