

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY FOR RADIOGRAPHERS

Anatomy and Physiology for Radiographers. By C. K. Warwick, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.F.R., D.M.R. Pp. vi+265. Illustrated. R3.00. London: Edward Arnold Publishers Ltd. 1960.

This timely publication closely follows the anatomy and physiology syllabus for the examination for membership to the Society of Radiographers of Great Britain (M.S.R.). It will be equally welcome to those students of the South African Diploma in Radiography, which is reciprocal with that of Britain, especially in view of the fact that until very recently no textbook existed which dealt specifically with the needs of student radiographers in this field.

The text is clear and concise and generously interspersed with diagrams. Radiographs accompanied by explanatory line drawings are particularly welcome.

One small criticism may be offered: the student radiographer, who is destined for the radiotherapeutic field, will need a more detailed knowledge of cell structure and the biological effects of radiation than this book offers.

Apart from this minor consideration, the author has clearly presented the subject with its relevant details in under 300

pages, thus bringing the book within a very reasonable price range. E.M.P.

OXYTOCIN

Oxytocin. Ed. by R. Caldeyro-Barcia and H. Heller. Pp. xxiv & 443. Illustrated. R10.00 nett. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1961.

This book is a record of the Proceedings of an International Symposium held in 1959 in Montevideo, the home of the research unit under Professors Alvarez and Caldeyro-Barcia, where so much outstanding work on the physiology of the pregnant human uterus has been done.

At a time when the precise method of administration of oxytocin and the indications for its use, despite its very wide application, are subjects on which such widely divergent views are still held, this symposium is particularly valuable. Contributors include such well-known names as Caldeyro-Barcia, Csapo, Smyth, and Theobald, and many other research workers on the pharmacological, biochemical, physiological, endocrinological and clinical aspects of oxytocin, as well as oxytocinase and oxytocic substances other than oxytocin, found in the serum of humans and a number of experimental animals.

Despite the fact that much of the work on the pharmaco-

logical and biochemical aspects of oxytocin presented here is perhaps not of immediate value to the practising obstetrician, and also perhaps somewhat beyond his grasp, and despite its almost prohibitive price, it can be confidently predicted that all obstetricians will find this a fascinating book.

R.P.D.

LONG-TERM ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY

Long-term Anticoagulant Therapy in Angina Pectoris and Myocardial Infarction. A Clinical trial of intensive versus moderate treatment. By Christian Frederik Borchgrevink, M.D. Pp. 52. Illustrated. R2.55. Norway; Oslo University Press. Obtainable from P. B. Mayer, Box 713, Cape Town.

In this monograph the author compares the effects of intensive and moderate long-term anticoagulant therapy in 147 patients with angina pectoris and 56 with myocardial infarction, selected according to strict criteria, allocated at random to each of the two treatment groups and observed for 271 patient-years. Annual mortality and infarction rates were significantly lower with intensive (0.7% and 1.4%) than with moderate (6.2% and 10.6%) anticoagulation.

Using the PP method of Owren for control of dosage, the means of the tests recorded in each group were 19% and 58% respectively, a difference which I consider to be too wide for a proper evaluation of moderate anticoagulation, since the reduction of clotting activity obtained in this group was so slight as to be insignificant.

However, the author advocates long-term anticoagulant therapy, adequately carried out, for patients with coronary heart disease regardless of the severity of the symptoms.

M.M.S.

THE ISCHAEMIC LIMB

Some Aspects of Obliterative Vascular Disease of the Lower Limb. By J. A. Gillespie, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. and D. M. Douglas, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. vii + 136. Illustrated. R3.00 net. Postage — 16c. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961.

This is an eminently readable monograph. Pathology, clinical features and special investigations are dealt with in some detail.

The use of vasodilator drugs is discussed at length, and the

author (in keeping with others) concludes that they are valueless.

A chapter on the effects of chronic arterial obstruction on local blood flow and blood pressure adds to the understanding of the basic physiology.

The chief merit of this book is in the section on lumbar sympathectomy, in which surgical anatomy, choice of case for operation, technique and follow-up studies are dealt with most authoritatively. Finally, there is a résumé of the modern approach to the problem by direct arterial surgery — the treatment of choice where feasible.

All those interested in the problem of the ischaemic limb will read this book with benefit.

L.B.

ANATOMY OF THE EYE

Eugene Wolff's Anatomy of the Eye and Orbit. Including the central connections, development, and comparative anatomy of the visual apparatus. 5th edition. Revised by R. J. Last, M.B., B.S. (Adelaide), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. vii + 500. 438 illustrations. R8.40. London: H. K. Lewis and Co. 1961.

Eugene Wolff's *Anatomy of the Eye and Orbit* has now appeared in its fifth edition, edited by Prof. R. J. Last. Since its first publication in 1933 it has remained one of the finest texts on ophthalmic anatomy. Thanks to Professor Last, this can still be said in 1961.

While he has brought the book up-to-date, the literary style of Eugene Wolff has been scrupulously maintained so that the spirit of this great scholar lingers on.

The main additions are on the micro-anatomy of the anterior chamber and the retina, while the text is littered with the editor's own observations and beautiful coloured diagrams. However, it is disappointing that the revolutionary work of Warwick on the IIIrd nerve nucleus has not been included and that the section on slit-lamp microscopy still does not make mention of the use of the Hruby lens and the microbiology of the retina.

This book can, as it was in the past, be strongly recommended to anyone who desires knowledge of the anatomy of the eye.

M.H.L.