

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

## DISORDERS OF THE SPINE

*Cervical Spondylosis and Other Disorders of the Cervical Spine.* Ed. by Lord Brain, D.M., LL.D., D.C.L., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., F.R.S., F.F.R. and M. Wilkinson, D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. ix + 232. Illustrated. R5.50. London: William Heinemann. 1967.

Broadly defined, cervical spondylosis is a progressive degenerative change in the cervical spine involving the intervertebral discs and surrounding structures. The condition was hardly recognized 20 years ago and it is only within the last 2 decades that it has become to be realized that the pathological changes occurring in cervical spondylosis may cause radicular symptoms and signs, myelopathy and vertebrobasilar insufficiency.

In this book, under the editorship of the late Lord Brain and Marcia Wilkinson, a number of leading authorities have contributed chapters dealing with every facet of the disease—indeed it is the first comprehensive study covering all aspects of a disorder which afflicts a large proportion of the older age-group.

Well produced and modestly priced, this book is highly recommended to all concerned in the diagnosis and management of cervical spondylosis.

D.V.M.

## HANDBOOK OF PHARMACOLOGY

*Handbook of Pharmacology.* 3rd ed. The actions and uses of drugs. By W. C. Cutting, M.D. Pp. xii + 649. Illustrated. \$6.50. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1967.

This handbook is written in summary form and particular attention is paid to the mechanism of action of drugs and to new drugs and new members of the older series of drugs. The arrangement is helpful since the historically older drugs are listed first, followed by the newer drugs in each section.

What is particularly striking is the complete supply of structural formulae for drugs so that the reader can place a new drug in a familiar group at once. With such a commendable chemical approach it is a pity that little attention is paid to the metabolic pathways of drugs.

This is by no means a completely descriptive handbook and is not claimed to be one. Its use is rather to serve as a supplement to large texts. Nevertheless, it will be very useful to students and practising physicians for correct orientation and as a quick summary for consultation. The complete and accurate alphabetical index of approximately 400 drugs and phrases facilitates its purpose. Selected references to reviews at the end of each chapter are of particular use to postgraduate students. The classification of contents is new and to be recommended.

A.V.