

Book Reviews/Boekbesprekings

Current therapy

Current Therapy: International Edition 1982-83. Ed. by H. F. Conn. Pp. xlii + 1016. Illustrated. £14,75. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1982.

Howard F. Conn continues to produce a valuable desk companion to therapy, which is big enough to avoid the cookbook approach and to discuss intelligently the *pros* and *cons* of various approaches. As usual many new authors appear and some chapters have been totally rewritten. All articles have been written by doctors who are actively engaged in treating the disease they write about and in evaluating the agents and methods described. Only the bare minimum of diagnostic material is included. There is the usual huge team of contributors, and not only the usual subjects of internal medicine are included but also diseases of the skin, common problems in obstetrics and gynaecology, those problems in psychiatry with which the generalist may be confronted and a few oddments such as burns, poisonings and scorpion stings. It is again interesting to note that the USA now lags behind in drug therapy, thanks to the policy of the FDA, so that for example the calcium antagonists are hardly discussed because they were not on the market when the relevant chapter was written.

Die menslike hand

De Hand: Reparatiewe en Reconstructiewe Chirurgie. Red. deur A. J. C. Huffstadt en W. H. Eisma. Bl. 310. Geïllustreer. f81,-. Brussel: Stafleu's. 1982.

Die menslike hand is 'n onontbeerlike orgaan met sensoriese sowel as motoriese funksies. Hierdie monografie oor die hand en sy wantoestand het vir die eerste keer in 1969 verskyn en dit verskyn

nou weer, herskryf met die hulp van agt spesialiste wat die twee redakteure bystaan. Die doel van die boek is om dokters en paramedici op hoogte te bring op die gebied van handchirurgie. Die bedoeling is nie om omvattend te wees nie, maar die boek dien as 'n handleiding op die gebied van handletsels soos beserings, kongenitale misvorming, en siektes soos die rumatiesse wantoestande. Daar is hoofstukke oor behandeling en rehabilitasie.

Hierdie boek sal in die besonder van waarde wees vir diegene wat met wantoestande van die hand te doen kry, maar wat nie eintlik op hierdie gebied spesialiseer nie.

The human brain and spinal cord

An Atlas of the Human Brain and Spinal Cord. By E. G. M. Bertram and K. L. Moore. Pp. xii + 263. Illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1982.

Several good atlases of the human central nervous system are available, but the present authors have concentrated on developing a three-dimensional image of the complex neuro-anatomical relationships of structures in the brain and spinal cord. There are altogether over 250 photographs of specimens in which all the important structures have been labelled and clearly illustrated. Opposite each photograph is a legend which gives the identity of the numbered structures with a short note on important information about it.

This is not, of course, a substitute for a textbook but a supplement, with the advantage of being the real thing rather than a stylized version of it. The book will be valuable to anyone studying human anatomy.