

Book Reviews : Boekbesprekings

HYPOTHALAMIC HORMONES

Hypothalamic Hypophysiotropic Hormones. Physiological and clinical studies. Proceedings of the Conference held at Acapulco, Mexico, June 29 - July 1 1972. Ed. by C. Gual, M.D. and E. Rosemberg, M.D. Pp. xi + 428. Illustrated. Dfl. 118,00. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1973.

This book, the Proceedings of the Sero Research Foundation Conference at Acapulco, contains 2 main sections — physiological/biochemical studies of, and clinical experience with, hypothalamic hormones. Of note in the first section is the continuing controversy about the number of gonadotrophin-releasing hormones, development of radio-immunoassays for hypothalamic hormones and consideration of pituitary receptor sites for hypothalamic hormones and the associated intracellular mechanisms.

Clinical information incorporates results from use of synthetic and natural hypothalamic hormones in diagnosis and treatment of infertility and metabolic disturbances.

The book is recommended for researchers in this field and for clinical infertility specialists.

R.B.S.

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Ed. by G. H. Bourne. Vol. 17—Pp. xii + 324. SFr. 144.-; Vol. 18—Pp. xii + 334. SFr. 165.-. Basel and London: S. Karger. 1973.

Volume 17 is composed of a series of 9 articles spanning a wide range of subjects covering the importance of magnesium in cardiovascular and gastro-intestinal disorders; presence of water-borne goitrogens and their role in the aetiology of endemic goitre; or the importance of molasses as an energy source for cattle; and general discussions on nutrition education research and the field evaluation of nutrition programmes.

Volume 18 contains papers originally published between 1959 and 1963 which were of considerable topical interest and are now out of print. These articles have been brought up to date. They deal with the biological synthesis of ascorbic acid; the role of citrus fruits in human nutrition; the digestion of proteins; the effect of extreme environment on energy requirement; the nutritional needs of the embryo; the role of nutrition in public health; and the nutritional situation in Yugoslavia.

Volume 17 provides an up-to-date analysis of the subjects covered and volume 18 is of historical and topical interest to the nutritionist.

W.M.P.

SPECIALISED RADIOLOGY

Radiology in Obstetrics and Antenatal Paediatrics. By J. G. B. Russell, M.B., F.F.R., D.C.H., D.Obst. R.C.O.G. Pp x + 234. Illustrated. R9,90. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1973.

One of the outstanding features of this book is the quality of the reproductions. The publishers have on this occasion solved the problems of too many black overtones. It contains much useful information on the supposed hazards of radiation, technique of pelvimetry and mechanics of labour and the diagnosis of foetal death. An excellent chapter on foetal maturity shows the uses of ultrasound and notes that at the critical time of viability, epiphyseal maturity is still the most accurate measurement. The specialist radiologist might quibble with some of the statements on foetal abnormalities.

The book is not expected to go into details on these aspects but it would be more accurate to refer to meconium peritonitis rather than meconium ileus, to achondrogenesis rather than a lethal variant of osteogenesis imperfecta. The statements on the lumbar spine of Thanatophoric dwarfs are also not acceptable. These are small points but they do have importance when genetic counselling is required. These criticisms should not detract from the value of the book which is an excellent one for all obstetricians and radiologists interested in this often neglected subject. It is recommended.

B.J.C.

URETRALE AANTASTING

Urethritis non gonorrhoeica des Mannes. Diagnose und Therapie. Deur J. Söltz-Szöts. Pp. ix + 83. Geillustreer. DM 19,80. Berlin en New York: Springer. 1973.

Hierdie boekie is in Duits geskrywe en sal derhalwe redelik beperkte toegang hê onder ons Engelssprekende en nie-Duits-sprekende kollegas.

Vir dié wat egter daarin belangstel om 'n breë oorsig te hê oor die verskillende vorms van uretrale aantasting, hetsy psigogenies of organies, sal 'n baie nuttere kliniese benadering kry tot hierdie toestand wat dikwels vir beide die uroloog sowel as die algemene praktisyn baie probleme kan verskaf.

Wat wel besonders belangrik is, is sy beklemtoning van die feit dat daar heelwat uretrale afskeidings kan voorkom waarin 'n Neisseria-vormige organisme mag voorkom, maar wat strenggesproke nie 'n gonokokkus is nie. Die pasiënt kan dus dikwels verkeerdelik gediagnoseer word as 'n gonorrhoea met die bykomstige implikasies daartoe.

Wat wel deeglik uit die boek te voorskyn kom is dat alle vorms van uretrale afskeiding strenggesproke veneries in oorsprong is en behandeling daarvan altyd op 'n biseksuele lees geskoei moet word.

J.N. d. K.

CONQUEST OF CANCER

The Conquest of Cancer. By J. Wilkinson. Pp. 216. R7,80. London: Granada. 1973. Available from Granada Publishing, Dinwiddie, Tvl.

This book is a front-line account of the continuing war on cancer. It is seldom that a book can be so highly recommended both for doctors and the intelligent lay reader. James Wilkinson presents an up-to-date, lucid and comprehensive guide to every aspect of cancer research. He has written clear chapters on the causes of cancer, the nature of cancer and various sections concerning treatment of cancer. Not only should this book give hope to cancer patients and those who care for them, but it should be read by all doctors, because the sections on treatment may deliver the message to those doctors 'who are not aware of the benefit of treatment that are available and as a result mistreat patients even though their original early diagnosis was correct'. Furthermore this book serves to remind doctors that 'treating cancer with drugs is a complicated process requiring experience' and that cancer can best be treated in special oncological centres.

This book cannot be too highly recommended as it should dispel a lot of ignorance.

G.F.

PHYSICIAN'S CREED

The Physician's Creed by M. B. Etziony, M.A., M.D. Pp. xi + 162. \$7,50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

This is an anthology of medical prayers, oaths, pledges and ethical codes in the compilation of which the writer has sought primarily to satisfy his own spiritual aspirations and to illustrate and document his philosophy of the practice of medicine. He employs examples from ancient mediaeval and modern sources and includes some interesting illustrations. The work also contains a small section of oaths and pledges relating to the professions ancillary to medicine (e.g. pharmacy, dentistry, nursing) and there is a useful list of 194 references.

This compilation which depicts the evolution of medical ethics through the oaths and prayers of doctors of different ages is likely, however, to appeal only to our historically-minded colleagues.

E.M.S.

LEUKAEMIA

Leukaemia in Childhood. By A. D. Lascari, M.D. Pp. xiii + 486. Illustrated. \$16,75. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1973.

Dr Lascari gives a very balanced and in-depth presentation of his subject devoting separate chapters to particular types and aspects of this disease.

Intended as a practical guide for haematologists and paediatricians, it certainly succeeds in its aim. 'A book is of little use if it has no pictures', thought Alice. This book has many.

Of particular interest is the last chapter in which various approaches to emotional problems are discussed, for it is in this field that the doctor often experiences difficulty and the help offered here is most valuable.

C.v.d.E.