

# Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

## DIE BEENMURG-STAMSEL

**Bone Marrow in Hypoxia and Rebound.** Deur J. M. Yoffey, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Hon. LL.D. (Manchester). Pp. x + 276. Geïllustreer. \$12,50. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1974.

Vir baie jare was professor Yoffey 'n stem roepende-in-die-woestyn toe sy kwantitatiewe studies die onhoudbaarheid van die hipotese dat limfosiete nie in die beenmurg gevorm sou word nie, aangetoon het.

Hierdie monografie behels twee groot afdelings, naamlik die kwantitatiewe studies (wat bygebring is sedert sy 1960-monografie oor *Quantitative Cellular Haematology*), en ultramikroskopiese studies op die beenmurg. 'n Goeie subhoof vir die monografie sou 'die beenmurg-stamsel' wees, en in dié verband word geen geheim verklap nie as dit verklaar word dat retikulumselle ongetwyfeld min met stamselle te doen het.

'n Goeie kritiese beskouing oor oorgangsselle, dié wat byna ononderskeibaar van limfosiete is, maak hierdie boek onmisbaar vir die hematoloog en die immunoloog.

'n Historiese oorsig, oriënteer diegene wat in limfosiete belangstel, maar wat, weens hul klinies-hematologiese opleiding, nog nie die stamselprobleem ten regte waardeer nie. (Die titel is misleidend as mens nie besef dat dit om die eksperimentele model gaan waarin stamselle en oorgangsselle bestudeer word nie.)

H.P.W.

## ALLERGY IN CHILDREN

**Parents' Guide to Allergy in Children.** By C. A. Frazier, M.D. Pp. xii + 338. \$7,95. New York: Doubleday. 1973.

Parents play a vital role in the treatment of the allergic child, and it is essential that they be fully informed about their child's illness. It is virtually impossible for any busy doctor to answer all the questions which may arise about the causes and management of allergic disorders.

Dr Frazier has written a succinct, accurate, up-to-date, easy-to-understand book, describing in some depth the types of allergic manifestations in children, explaining the principles of diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Parents will be able to study for themselves a book with fairly complete details in order to review, and more fully to understand, their child's problem.

The only drawback to this book for readers in South Africa is the fact that many of the allergens described in this book, especially Ragweed, do not occur in this country. Also, the chapter devoted to ideal places to live in the USA if one has an allergic child will be of little value to parents here. Nevertheless, this is a book which can be highly recommended to parents of allergic children, since there is much they will find which is of value.

E.G.W.

### PROBLEMS OF AGING

**Ouder Worden.** Morgen zal het anders zijn. Deur G. Sieber. Pp. 142. R4.93. Nijkerk: G.F. Callenbach. 1973. Verkrygbaar van Die Verenigde Protestantse Uitgewers, Kaapstad.

The problem of aging, and the group called 'aged' (20% of the population), is well reviewed. The criteria for classification into this group are debatable. Achievements for the aged in other countries make the reader aware of a new world; competitive swimming and athletics in Germany and Austria are everyday events for the over 60s. A plea for medical training to incorporate dealing with geriatrics is made, for the problems of retirement and of dealing with the dying must be taught. By 1977 every two workers will support one pensioner.

P.T.

### THE SMALL INTESTINE

**The Small Intestine.** Tutorials in Postgraduate Medicine, Vol. 4. Ed. by Brian Creamer, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. ix + 310. Illustrated £4.50. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1974.

Certain sections of this small book excite, but others disappoint. The longest, and one of the best chapters, is written by two Australian paediatricians, and deals with the small intestinal diseases of children, and should be read by all. There is an up-to-date account of cholera by Love, and authoritative reviews of tropical sprue by Baker, and of coeliac disease by the editor.

The earlier chapters, however, which deal with the structure and function of the small intestine, leave one with the feeling that they were written in a hurry.

O.A.A.B.

### MANAGEMENT OF OBESITY

**Treatment and Management of Obesity.** Ed. by G. A. Bray, M.D. and J. E. Bethune, M.D. Pp. x + 149. Illustrated. \$5.95. Hagerstown, Maryland: Harper & Row. 1974.

Divided into 3 equal sections, this valuable survey by outstanding authorities contains brief essays with relevant references on the following aspects of obesity: (a) Pathophysiology—control of fuel metabolism; cellularity of adipose tissue; starvation. (b) Clinical aspects—varieties of obesity; disorders of lipid metabolism; ills of the obese. (c) New approaches to treatment—diet and exercise; behaviour modification; pharmacological approach; jejunio-ileal bypass surgery.

Hence, it covers a much wider field than that suggested by the title.

F.W.F.

### PAEDIATRIC SURGERY

**Surgery in Infancy and Childhood.** 3rd ed. By W. M. Dennison, M.D. (Glasg.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.S. (Glasg.), Pp. xx + 618. Illustrated. £5.00. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1974.

The third edition of this well-known book has been almost entirely rewritten. It is easy to read, and contains the necessary basic clinical detail. Surgical treatment is not discussed in detail, but only the principles of management are mentioned. For those wishing for more detailed information, a bibliography is provided at the end of each chapter. Nineteen other consultants from the Glasgow Children's Hospital have contributed sections to this new edition. This book is strongly recommended for students, junior hospital staff paediatricians, general practitioners and nurses.

S.C.

### TROPICAL MEDICINE

**Medicine in the Tropics.** Ed. by A. W. Woodruff, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E., D.T.M. & H. Pp. xii + 623. Illustrated. £12.00. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1974.

This volume is a valuable addition to the medical literature of tropical medicine. The 36 contributors represent a wide cross-section of the leading workers in this field, and as a consequence the book is comprehensive and authoritative.

From the South African point of view the chapter on malaria and African human trypanosomiasis represents an up-to-date review of our knowledge of these diseases. Amoebiasis is also fully dealt with, as is schistosomiasis and hydatid disease. Occupational diseases of the tropics, the consequences of venomous bites and stings, and hazards from plants and aquatic organisms are all given attention, and this publication can certainly be recommended to undergraduate and postgraduate students alike. It will also be a useful book for reference purposes.

S.J.S.

### MUSCLE DISEASE

**Disorders of Voluntary Muscle.** 3rd ed. Ed. by J. N. Walton, T.D., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Pp. x + 1149. Illustrated. £15.00. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1974.

This is the third edition of John Walton's well-known book. It reflects the recent growing awareness of the dynamic unity of muscle and nerve. For this reason, unlike the last 1969 edition, new information relating to disorders of the neuromuscular apparatus is included. These sections on peripheral nerve, anterior horn cell, and spinal cord disorders greatly enhance the value of an already established authoritative book on muscle disease.

The text is uniformly clear, unambiguous and relevant—a remarkable achievement in a book compiled by 41 contributors. It denotes inspired authorship by Dr Walton.

The print and illustrations are good, and the references magnificently comprehensive. In short, it is virtually a faultless production, and an invaluable acquisition.

F.A.

### ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN HAND

**Color Anatomy and Kinesiology of the Hand.** By H. A. Motamed, M. D. Pp. 145. Illustrated. \$50.00. Chicago: H. A. Motamed. 1974.

This is a book which is written, illustrated, published and distributed by one man. It does not claim to make any new contribution to the over-all knowledge of anatomy of the human hand, but it is a unique book. Its illustrations are mainly brilliant colour photographs taken after painstaking dissection, much of the material being in its dissecting-room state. This factor has the advantage of a very natural presentation, though the presence of shreds of soft tissue on bone makes the comprehension and memorisation difficult in places.

Throughout the work, one is aware of painstaking attention to detail, and the most striking aspect is the zeal which the author has poured into this labour of love. Another noteworthy feature is the frequent emphasis on anatomical features which are of surgical importance. The surgical anatomy is not, however, discussed. The text, which is concise and lucid, confines itself to description of the science of pure anatomy. The work is likely to be a useful reference for practitioners and trainees in hand surgery.

A.W.B.H.