

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

POSTGRADUATE OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Postgraduate Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Second Edition. By F. J. Browne, M.D. (Aberd.), D.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.O.G. and J. C. McClure Browne, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. 683 + viii with 141 illustrations. 78s. 9d. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers), Ltd., South African Office—Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Limited, Durban. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Supports of the Female Pelvic Organs. 2. The Uterus, Cervix, Vagina and Bladder. 3. The Ovary. 4. The Changes in the Genital Tract in the Menstrual Cycle. 5. The Development of the Placenta and Membranes. 6. Development and Abnormalities of the Female Genital Organs. 7. Infections and Inflammations of the Genital Tract. 8. Tuberculosis of the Genital Tract. 9. Gonorrhoea. 10. Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Sepsis. 11. Thrombosis in Veins. 12. Physiology and Pathology of Lactation. 13. Stillbirth and Neonatal Death. 14. Third Stage of Labour and Post-Partum Haemorrhage. 15. Acquired Afibrinogenaemia in Pregnancy. 16. Shock in Obstetrics. 17. Simmonds's Disease. 18. Relief of Pain in Childbirth. 19. Aetiology of Toxaemias of Late Pregnancy. 20. Chronic Hypertension in Pregnancy. 21. Amenorrhoea. 22. Menorrhagia and Metrorrhagia. 23. Dysmenorrhoea. 24. Tumours of the Vulva and Vagina. 25. Benign Tumours of the Uterus. 26. Malignant Tumours of the Uterus. 27. Tumours of the Fallopian Tube. 28. Ovarian Cysts and Tumours. 29. Intersexuality. 30. Congenital Malformations. 31. Changes in the Circulatory System in Normal Pregnancy. 32. Heart Disease in Pregnancy. 33. Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Pregnancy. 34. Stress Incontinence. 35. Oliguria and Anuria. 36. Intestinal Obstruction in Pregnancy. 37. Abnormal Uterine Action. 38. Rupture of the Uterus. 39. Action of Drugs on the Uterus. 40. Sterility and Impaired Fertility. 41. Pain in Gynaecology. 42. The Ureter in Gynaecological Conditions. 43. Pre-Operative and Post-Operative Care. 44. Post-Operative Complications in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 45. Blood Transfusion. Index.

This book consists of lectures given by that eminent teacher Professor F. J. Browne to doctors who intended to specialize in obstetrics and gynaecology. As such it should be an absolute boon to M.R.C.O.G. candidates, for whole examination questions seem to be 'worked out' for them.

This second edition has been completely revised and now appears under the joint authorship of F. J. Browne and his son, J. C. McClure Browne. Four new chapters have been added, including one on acquired afibrinogenaemia. It covers a great deal of gynaecology and obstetrics in a clear and lucid manner—an attribute which will be of great benefit to any student who finds difficulty in getting an answer to a thorny problem.

Chronic metritis (fibrosis uteri) and chronic subinvolution still find their place amongst the infections and inflammations of the genital tract. The authors have long been known for their views on the aetiology of the toxaemias of late pregnancy. In this edition they mention the possible role of the adrenal cortex in the condition—a view that is gaining popularity. It will be of great interest to see how the newly isolated adrenocortical steroid, androsterone, fits into this concept. Thyroid extract is recommended for the cure of the so-called Stein Leventhal syndrome. This seems an empirical form of therapy (as is wedge resection of the ovaries), for in the majority of cases there is no evidence of hypothyroidism. The authors' practice to remove the ovaries as a routine measure at the time of hysterectomy in women over the age of 43 will not find favour with all. The chapter on carcinoma of the uterus is well handled. They seem to prefer radiotherapy for cervical cancer, and radical hysterectomy with pelvic lymphadenectomy, followed or preceded by deep X-ray therapy, for cancer of the corpus uteri. Full recognition of the work of Roberts on stress incontinence is given, as well as a good summary of the numerous operations designed for its cure. The authors' comment that 2 or 3 new operations are probably reported every year is not an understatement and no doubt shows that the complete answer to the problem still evades solution. There is a useful chapter on the actions of drugs on the uterus. The authors pose the question whether it would be safe to leave a

placenta accreta (in the absence of haemorrhage) to be absorbed. This practice has been reported on a number of occasions with safe and satisfactory results.

This book, although primarily written for the candidate for higher examination, will be found useful for all interested in the subjects.

W.H.M.

BACTERIOLOGY

Die Bakterienzelle. Ein Ueberblick über den gegenwertigen Stand unseres Wissens. Von Annelise Winkler, Professor für Hygiene und Bakteriologie an der Universität Göttingen. Pp. 124, with 10 tables of pictures. Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1956.

Contents: 1. Die Zellwand der Bakterien. 2. Die Kapseln der Bakterien. 3. Die Geißeln. 4. Die bakteriellen Zellkernäquivalente. 5. Das Cytoplasma und die cytoplasmatischen Einschlüsse. 6. Die Spore. 7. Abwegige Bakterienformen und die L Phase. 8. Untersuchungsmethoden.

Bacteriology in the past few years has, like so many of the natural sciences, made such enormous strides that it is hardly possible for the average bacteriologist to keep himself informed of what is known. This is where Professor Winkler's book fills a definite need. As her title says, it gives the present position, it reviews recent discoveries. It is the ideal book for quick orientation. It is written in a slightly critical spirit, but it refers to all kinds of modern work, undertaken in various countries. A couple of 'Stichproben' convinced me that nothing of importance has been left out. It uses information from the electron microscope but does not pretend that our salvation lies with that instrument. Particularly good chapters are those on cytoplasmic granules and the L phase. Recent heresies about flagella are treated fairly. The pictures are selected very carefully and are an education by themselves in modern bacteriology. It is miraculous how much information Prof. Winkler has condensed in her 124 pages, and we feel assured that every reader will be grateful that she undertook this task.

A.P.

INFANT CARE

The Care of Young Babies. Fourth Edition. By John Gibbens, M.B. (Cambridge), M.R.C.P. (London). Pp. 212 + v, with illustrations. 6s. 0d. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. Preparing for the Baby. 2. For Husbands and Fathers. 3. Clothes, Cot and Pram. 4. Growth and Development. 5. Breast-feeding. 6. Difficulties in Breast-feeding. 7. Artificial Feeding. 8. Early Mixed Feeding. 9. Feeding from Six to Twelve Months. 10. The Underweight Baby. 11. The Overweight Baby. 12. Nursery Routine. 13. The Care of the Skin and Hair. 14. Good Muscles and Sound Limbs. 15. The Care of Twins and Premature Babies. 16. The Sick Baby. 17. Miscellaneous. Appendix. Index.

Here is a book which practitioners would be well advised to recommend to young mothers. It is written in simple language, easily understood by any mother, and the author obviously knows just what they need to help them. He devotes much space to the very important question of feeding, stating that he believes 'most babies are born perfect, and when they fall ill during the first year it is often because of mistakes made in feeding'.

Nurses will find it a useful book to study and so will many young practitioners, but mothers will find it a boon and should be encouraged to read it. So popular is this book that the 1st edition, which appeared in 1940, was reprinted annually until the 2nd edition appeared in 1946. The 2nd and 3rd editions have also been reprinted and it is now in its 4th edition.

A.H.T.

AN ELEMENTARY BOOK FOR NURSE AIDS AND ORDERLIES

Mitchell's Anatomy and Physiology, and Causes of Disease. By H. C. Trowell, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Third Edition. Pp. 244 + xvi, with 87 illustrations. 7s. 6d. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1955.

Contents: Part I: Anatomy and physiology. 1. Introductory. 2. The Nervous System. 3. The Skeleton. 4. Connective Tissue and the Muscular System. 5. The Circulation of the Blood. 6. Blood and Lymph. 7. Respiration. 8. Food: Diges-

tion, Absorption, Metabolism. 9. Excretion of Waste Products. 10. Body Temperature and Fever. 11. The Reproductive System. *Part II: Causes of Disease.* 12. Introductory. 13. Protozoa. 14. Animal Parasites. 15. Undernutrition and Malnutrition and Other Causes of Disease. Index.

This little book is written in a simple and straightforward manner, being designed as an elementary introduction to its subject. It is one of a series that was originally known as 'Medical Manuals for Africans'. As such, while technical terms are used where necessary, the book is written in an English which is devoid of idiomatic expressions as far as possible.

This third edition has been revised extensively and it will be found to be very useful to those who are concerned with the teaching of African nurse aids and orderlies.

A.H.T.

ARTHROPLASTY

Arthroplasty. By St. J. D. Buxton, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. 126, with illustrations. 30s. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd.

Contents: Preface. Chapter 1. Historical. 2. General Principles. 3. Indication for Operation. 4. Analysis of the Problem. 5. Principle of the Arthroplasty Operation. 6. Complications and Difficulties of the Judet Arthroplasty. 7. Radiographic Bone Changes at the Hip. 8. Principles of Post-operative Treatment. 9. Rehabilitation following Arthroplasty. 10. Achievements. 11. The future. Appendix-Record Charts. Bibliography. Index.

In this monograph an attempt is made to analyse the problem of the painful and disabled joint. The indication for operation and the principles of operation and post-operative treatment are fully discussed—not only as applied to the hip, but to practically all joints of the body.

The author reviews the lessons of the last 50 years, and flavours these with a taste of his own experience covering many years and many arthroplasties on all joints. The section on the hip is based on the experience of 100 'Judet' and 50 mould arthroplasties. No new operations are described, because he favours the 'Judet' procedure albeit with certain modifications, e.g. the preference for the Kocher's incision and an unplastized perspex containing radio-opaque wire or markers. One is struck by the comparatively few complications of this operation, but this may be just an impression, for only 48 of the 100 patients are followed up in detail.

There is an excellent chapter on rehabilitation after arthroplasty written by Diana B. Kidd, F.C.S.P., physiotherapist.

While the illustrations are scanty, the bibliography is extensive and the progress charts at the end of the book are most useful.

For the practising orthopaedic surgeon and the postgraduate student of surgery the book will be of value.

P.H.

EXPERIMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY

Experimental Physiology for Medical Students. Sixth Edition. By D. T. Harris, M.D., D.Sc., F. Inst. P., H. P. Gilding, M.A., M.D., and W. A. M. Smart, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. Pp. viii + 289 + 252 Illustrations and Plate in Colour. 30/- net. J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Introduction. Instructions to Students. I. Excitation of Tissues. II. Physiological Dissection. The Preparation of Animals for Experiments. III—VI. The Circulation: III. The Physical Properties of Blood. IV. The Heart. V. The Blood Vessels. VI. The Circulation in Man. VII. Pulmonary Ventilation. VIII. Analysis of the Respiratory Gases and Energy Expenditure. IX. Body Temperature. Regulation of (i) Heat Production; (ii) Heat Loss. Statistical Method. X. The Gases of the Blood and Tissue Respiration. XI. The Reaction of the Blood. XII. The Digestive Organs. XIII. Urine Formation. XIV. The Contractile Tissues. XV. Electrochemical Behaviour of Excitable Tissues; Physiology of Peripheric Nerve. XVI. The Central Nervous System. XVII. The Physiology of the Sense Organs. XVIII. Exercises in Experimental Pharmacology. Index.

The 6th edition of this well-known practical text-book differs only in detail from its immediate predecessor. Some of the more elaborate electronic circuits shown in the 5th edition have been omitted, and the 6th edition is a few pages shorter.

The course described demands a high standard of teaching and equipment from the medical school and a high standard of ability and application from the student. The authors believe that: 'Difficulty is no obstacle to the average student today since the excellence of the scientific training in our schools enables all the experiments in this book to be classed as students' exercises'.

A sound knowledge of the principles of electronics is assumed; apropos of the cathode-ray oscilloscope, 'a suitable instrument can fairly easily be constructed if the student has time and inclination for the exercise'.

Modern techniques are described in sufficient detail and the classical experiments of physiology are not ignored. Adequate descriptions are given of the operative procedures required in the experiments. The field is wide, including experiments on cellular oxidation and on electrophoresis, which one might expect to find in a text-book of practical biochemistry. A useful section deals with experimental pharmacology and there is a short but clear introduction to statistical method.

The book arouses envy of the physiological laboratory which can offer such a course and sets such a standard, which in many cases must be ideal rather than practical. While its value to the junior student may be limited, it is a mine of useful information on the techniques of experimental physiology for the more advanced worker in this field.

A.W.S.

PROGRESS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Progress in Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology. By T. L. T. Lewis, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), M.R.C.O.G. Pp. viii + 594 + 90 Illustrations. 55s. net. London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Part I. Obstetrics. 1. The Changing Practice of Obstetrics. 2. Toxaemia of Pregnancy. 3. Pregnancy and Heart Disease. 4. Pregnancy and Diabetes Mellitus. 5. Pregnancy and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 6. The Aetiology of Congenital Malformation with Special Reference to Rubella in Pregnancy. 7. The Rhesus Factor. 8. Placenta Praevia. 9. Postmaturity. 10. Breech Presentation. 11. Cephalopelvic Disproportion and Contracted Pelvis. 12. Prolonged Labour Due to Inefficient Uterine Action. 13. Asphyxia Neonatorum. 14. Postpartum Haemorrhage and the Management of the Third Stage of Labour. 15. Afibrinogenaemia: Amniotic Fluid Embolism. 16. Prematurity. 17. Breast Feeding. Part II. Gynaecology. 18. The Changing Practice of Gynaecology. 19. Genital Tuberculosis. 20. Stress Incontinence. 21. Venous Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism. 22. The Investigation and Treatment of Infertility. 23. Endocrinology in Gynaecological Investigation and Treatment. 24. Carcinoma of the Cervix. 25. Intraepithelial Carcinoma of the Cervix. 26. Cytology in the Diagnosis of Uterine Malignant Disease. 27. Pelvic Exenteration for Advanced Malignant Disease. 28. Carcinoma of the Body of the Uterus. 29. Carcinoma of the Ovary. 30. Carcinoma of the Vulva. 31. Chorionepithelioma. 32. Functioning of the Ovary. Index.

This is a new book on Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and has been written to present the recent developments which have taken place. It has been compiled for the benefit of the specialist who has not the facilities of keeping up with the literature, and for postgraduate students who are specializing in this subject.

Both the obstetrical and gynaecological sections have an introductory chapter on the recent changes which have taken place; and this presents an interesting review of the modern trend in these subjects. New subjects, such as the effects on the foetus of rubella in early pregnancy, afibrinogenaemia, amniotic embolism, pre-diabetes, have been adequately described, as have newer trends in the management of the new born.

In the section on gynaecology the author has discussed in detail the question of carcinoma of the pelvic organs and its management. As the author maintains, while gynaecologists are tending on the one hand to perform more extensive operations for malignant diseases, they are, on the other hand, stressing the importance of preserving function in benign conditions. Other subjects of

interest are stress incontinence, venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, and the investigation and treatment of fertility. One feels that the chapter on the functioning ovarian tumours could have been described in fuller detail, and a significant omission is a discussion on virilism in the female and the question of ovarian hyperthecosis. Interest in the latter syndrome has tended to increase since it was first described by Stein and Leventhal.

This book has proved to be of great interest to the reviewer, and justice cannot be done to it in a short review. One feels that the author has largely succeeded in what he has set himself to do, and future editions should firmly establish this book as a 'must' for those studying postgraduate obstetrics and gynaecology.

T.St.V.B.

UROLOGY

The Diagnosis and Management of Urological Cases. By Bruce W. T. Pender, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. and James O. Robinson, M.A. (Cantab.), M. Chir., F.R.C.S. Pp. 170 with illustrations. 21s. London: Baillière, Tindal and Cox. 1955.

Contents: Chapter 1. Introductory. 2. The Prostate. 3. The Urethra. 4. The Bladder. 5. The Kidney and Ureter. 6. The Penis and Scrotum. 7. Genito-Urinary Tuberculosis. Appendix. Index. Plates. I. The Lithotrite and Cystoscopes. II. Catheters and Bougies.

The medical student often gets singularly little instruction in urology—one of the oldest branches of surgery. General surgeons, admittedly the best teachers for the undergraduate, either avoid the subject or teach it without detailed knowledge and perception which spring from daily practice, and the student's contact with urological departments is limited.

It is therefore desirable to have a small handbook setting out the broad principles of urological diagnosis and treatment. Such a manual should contrive to convey the urologist's special problems and point of view, without burdening the student's mind with details which he cannot hope to remember. If, in addition, the manual provides knowledge useful to general practitioners and housemen, and helps to fill the gap between the learning required for examinations and that provided by specialist monographs, its usefulness is beyond question.

This little book fills this gap and does its task well. The arrangement, illustrations and selection of subjects are admirable, and it gives an excellent summary of current British urological teaching.

Here and there one must disagree with what is said. For example, early permanent suprapubic cystoscopy—a treatment now abandoned by all specialized centres—is advocated for the bladder of the paraplegic. Perineal prostatectomy, widely practised in America, is condemned in the sentence 'its indications are few'. Ruptures of the bladder and intrapelvic rupture of the urethra receive adequate attention, but it is a pity that ruptures of the bulb are not mentioned at all. In the treatment of hydronephrosis, undue emphasis is placed upon the value of lumbar sympathectomy and of renal denervation. These minor blemishes are few, and partly arise from the need for compression.

The authors are to be congratulated upon the production of an excellent volume which should be possessed and read by teachers or urology and recommended to their students.

J.A.C.