

DISEASES OF THE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear. A Handbook for Students and Practitioners. Sixth Edition. By I. Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E. Pp. xii + 463, with 8 coloured plates. 20s. net + 1s. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Introduction—Examination equipment. Methods of use of instruments. Section I—The Nose. I. Anatomy and Physiology of the Nose. II. Examination of the Nose. III. Diseases of the Nose:—Symptoms, Deformities, Injury, Diseases of the Vestibule. IV. Diseases of the Septum:—Abscess, Deviation, Treatment of Deviation, Perforation. V. Diseases of the Nasal Cavity:—Rhinitis—Acute, Chronic, Atrophic, Syphilitic. VI. Diseases of the Nasal Cavity (contd.):—Vasomotor Rhinorrhoea, Nasal Polyp. VII. Diseases of the Nasal Cavity (contd.):—Foreign bodies, Haemorrhage, Atresia, New growths, Syphilis, Tuberculosis, Diptheria. Section II—Nasal Accessory Sinuses. VIII. Anatomy. IX. Acute Sinusitis:—Symptoms, Signs, Diagnosis. X. Treatment of Sinusitis: Complications of Sinusitis, Sinusitis in Children. XI. Operation on the Air Sinuses. XII. Miscellaneous Diseases affecting the Sinuses:—Mucocoele, Tumours of the Sinuses, Injuries of the Sinuses, Neuralgias, Orbital Abscess, Aero-sinusitis. Section III—The Pharynx. XIII. Anatomy. XIV. Adenoids and Tonsils. XV. Acute Diseases of the Pharynx:—Naso-pharyngitis, Ludwig's Angina, Diptheria, Vincent's Angina, Herpes, Erysipelas, Agranulocytosis, Abscesses. XVI. Chronic Diseases of the Pharynx:—Chronic Pharyngitis, Atrophic Pharyngitis, Keratosis, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Pemphigus. XVII. Tumours of the Pharynx:—Innocent and Malignant, Treatment. Foreign Bodies, Neuroses—sensory and motor. Section IV—The Larynx. XVIII. Anatomy. XIX. Methods of Examination:—Normal Movements. XX. Acute Diseases of the Larynx:—Acute Laryngitis, Laryngo-tracheo-bronchitis, Laryngeal Diptheria, Acute Oedema of the Larynx, Laryngotomy, Tracheotomy. XXI. Chronic Diseases of the Larynx:—Chronic Laryngitis, Laryngitis Sicca, Vocal Nodules, Keratosis, Pachydermia, Tuberculosis, Syphilis. XXII. Tumours of the Larynx:—Innocent Tumours, Malignant Tumours, Treatment. XXIII. Neuroses of the Larynx:—Sensory Neuroses, Spasmodic Neuroses, Paralysis of the Larynx, Congenital Laryngeal Stridor, Injuries, Perichondritis. Section V.—Endoscopy XXIV. Instruments, Technique, Examination. XXV. Diseases of the Lung and Oesophagus:—Foreign Bodies, Injury. Section VI.—The Ear. XXVI. Anatomy:—External Ear, Middle Ear, Internal Ear, Examination of the Ear and Eustachian Tube. XXVII. Physiology of the Labyrinth:—Examination of Hearing and Tests for Vestibular Function, Artificial Aids to Hearing. XXVIII. Diseases of the External Ear:—Malformations, Injuries, Affections of the Auricle and External Meatus, Wax, Foreign Bodies, Exostosis. XXIX. The Tympanic Membrane and the Eustachian Tube. XXX. Acute Otitis Media:—Etiology, Diagnosis, Treatment, Otitis Media in Children, Myringotomy. XXXI. Chronic Otitis Media:—Symptoms, Investigation, Treatment, Special Types of Suppuration. XXXII. Complications of Otitis Media:—Mastoiditis. XXXIII. Complications of Otitis Media (contd.):—Perisinus Abscess, Lateral Sinus Thrombosis, Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis, Labyrinthitis. XXXIV. Complications of the Otitis Media (contd.):—Otogenous Disease of the Brain, Extra-dural Abscess, Brain Abscess, Meningitis, Preotitis. XXXV. Non-Suppurative Diseases of the Ear:—Progressive Middle Ear Catarrh, Otosclerosis, Menière's Disease, Eighth Nerve Tumour, Injuries, Herpes Zoster Oticus, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Deaf Mutism, Nerve Deafness, Tinnitus. XXXVI. Operations on the Mastoid:—Schwartz's Operation, Radical Operations, Operations on the Sinus and Labyrinth. XXXVII. Chemotherapy:—Sulphonamides in Nose, Throat and Ear Diseases. Antibiotics. Appendix:—Preparation of Patients for Operation. Formulae. Index.

Simpson Hall's very popular handbook, 'Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear' has this year reached its 6th edition. Although incorporating certain modern trends, it remains the same size as in previous editions.

The subject-matter is clearly presented in very readable form. The illustrations are clear and good. Stress is laid upon the minor technical procedures. The sections of anatomy and physiology, and the methods of examination preceding each chapter are of outstanding value.

In the section on therapy no mention is made of erythromycin, tetracylin or the adrenocortical steroids, but there is rather excessive emphasis on the sulphonamides. The value of nasal zinc ionization for non-specific vasomotor rhinitis is noted as one of

the most valuable forms of local treatment for this difficult condition.

The conciseness, large print, good diagrams and very reasonable price make it especially useful to practitioners and students.

That this handbook has remained in the forefront of Ear, Nose and Throat texts over a period of 20 years is verified by its general popularity and the number of teaching hospitals in which it is the recommended text-book.

B.G.

SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE

Lectures on the Scientific Basis of Medicine. Volume IV. 1954-55. Pp. ix + 397. 37s. 6d. net. London: University of London, The Athlone Press. 1956.

Contents: I. Why Biophysics?—A. V. Hill, C.H., Sc.D., F.R.S. II. The New Look in Virus Research.—C. H. Andrews, M.D., F.R.C.P. III. Nucleoproteins in Cell Structure.—J. N. Davidson, M.D., D.Sc. IV. Some Chemical Aspects of Abnormal Growth.—F. Bergel, D.Sc., F.R.I.C. V. The Chemistry of the Porphyrins.—C. H. Gray, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.S. VI. The Chemical Basis of Blood Group Specificity in Man.—W. J. T. Morgan, D.Sc., F.R.S. VII. The Plasma Proteins.—R. A. Kekwick, D.Sc. VIII. Laboratory and Clinical Findings in Hypersensitivity.—John R. Squire, M.D., F.R.C.P. IX. Protein Malnutrition.—B. S. Platt.—C. M. G., M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D. X. Shock from Burns.—J. P. Bull, M.D. XI. The Electrolyte and Metabolic Response to Trauma.—G. M. Wilson, M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed. XII. Radiation Injury to Bone.—Janet Vaughan, O.B.E., D.M., F.R.C.P. XIII. Reaction to Enzymes to Injury.—J. D. Judah, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P. XIV. The Effects of Alcohol.—J. H. Gaddum, Sc.D., F.R.S. XV. Cooling of the Whole Organism.—D. G. Melrose, B.M., B.Ch. XVI. Substances that increase Tissue Permeability and their Relation to Infection and Fertilization.—Douglas McClean, M.B., B.S. XVII. Release and Activity of Posterior Pituitary Hormones.—L. Mary Pickford, D.Sc. XVIII. The Effects of Distension of Viscera.—D. Whitteridge, D.M., F.R.S. XIX. Fat Metabolism.—A. C. Frazer, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. XX. The Comparative Anatomy of the Larynx with particular reference to the Functions of the Organ in Man.—Sir Victor Negus, D.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S. XXI. Histochemistry and its Application to the Basic Sciences.—A. G. Everson Pearse, M.D., D.C.P. Complete List of Lectures.

This collection of lectures is the fourth annual volume to present the orations given by eminent medical scientists in winter courses arranged by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation for young research workers and future specialists.

This reviewer seems fated to be confronted by books which are virtually unreviewable. In this volume, for instance, there are 21 different lectures by 21 different lecturers on 21 widely differing topics. They do have something in common, however. All are of a high standard, are quite short, and are readable. Complex mathematics and imponderable physical and organic chemistry have been eschewed. The properties of the cell—its structure and functions—have recently come to be regarded as an important part of basic medical science, and this trend is to be seen throughout the book—in particular the chapters on viruses and on the nucleoproteins.

The volume is of a convenient size and its general production and illustrations are excellent. In conclusion, one may quote the *British Medical Journal* in saying that it is the treatment of medicine as a science 'which distinguishes the series from other annual volumes on medicine and makes the lectures so stimulating to the researcher, the teacher or the amateur of science.

W.P.U.J.

YEAR BOOK OF PATHOLOGY

Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology—1955-1956 Series. Edited by William B. Wartman, B.Sc., M.D. Pp. 480. Figures 161. \$6.50 post paid. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1956.

Contents: Pathology. Introduction. C.P. Ceamanship, by J. Willis Hurst. General Pathology: Infectious Diseases, Repair, Hypersensitivity, Cellular Pathology of Inflammation, Molecular Pathology of Inflammation, Neoplasia, Radiation Effects, Miscellaneous Topics. Syndromes. Cardiovascular System. Hemopoietic System. Respiratory System: Pulmonary Collateral Circulation: Functional Implications and Some Therapeutic Applications, by Averill A. Liebow. Alimentary System. The Liver. The Pancreas. Urinary and Male Genital Systems. Female Genital System and Breast. Endocrine Glands. Musculoskeletal System and Skin. The Nervous System. *Clinical Pathology.* Hematology: The Estimation of Haemoglobin, by George F. Stevenson, The Blood Cells, The Anemias, Coagulation Defects, Immunohematology. Clinical Chemistry: Measurement of Plasma Volume, Blood Lipids, Proteins of Blood and Urine, Liver Function, Fluid and Electrolyte Balance, Methods. Clinical Microbiology: Viruses and Rickettsias, Bacteria, Treponema, Fungi. Urine and Cerebrospinal Fluid.

Once again the Year Book series, in their familiar binding, have provided another volume, which measures well up to the standard one has come to expect from them.

The continual cry of the modern doctor is for more time for reading of the medical literature. Here is part of the answer to his prayer, for in this volume are contained just short of 300 abstracts, many with apt editorial comments, which reflects the perusal of about 5,000 articles in the field of Pathology and Clinical Pathology. Editor Wartman and his associates have selected these articles well from the world literature, but show a decided, although hardly unexpected, American bias. In addition a couple of original articles have been included—themselves in the nature of summaries.

The editor sets out to have 'something for everyone in place of everything for someone'. And, indeed, here is a good cross-section of the subject as covered in the 1955 literature. One can find anything from comedy to drama—from an excellent skit on Stephen Potter's books in an opening article entitled 'C.P. Ceamanship' to the most dramatic advances in pathology. Full, clear references are given, so that where the appetite is whetted, the full article can readily be consumed.

The high standard of extracts contained in this 1955-56 Year-book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology should force the book onto the shelves of many pathologists and clinicians.

I.D.H.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISORDERS

Peripheral Vascular Disorders. Edited by Peter Martin, V.R.D., M.Chir., F.R.C.S.Ed., R. Beverley Lynn, M.D., F.R.C.S., J. Henry Dible, M.B., LL.D., F.R.C.P. and Ian Aird, Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 847. 568 Illustrations, 35 in full colour. £5 10s. 0d. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1956.

Contents: I. The Innervation of Peripheral Blood Vessels. II. Synopsis of Anatomy of Peripheral Arteries. III. The Physiology of Blood Flow in the Limbs. IV. Clinical Examination in Peripheral Vascular Disease. V. Methods of Investigation of the Peripheral Circulation. VI. The Radiology of Peripheral Vascular Disease. VII. The Pathological Physiology of Peripheral Arterial Obstruction. VIII. The Pathology of Atherosclerosis. IX. The Surgery of Atherosclerosis. X. The Pathology of Buerger's Disease or Thromboangiitis Obliterans. XI. The Surgery of Buerger's Disease or Thromboangiitis Obliterans. XII. Embolism of Peripheral Vessels. XIII. Arteritis. XIV. Raynaud's Phenomenon. XV. Arterial Trauma. XVI. Vasospastic Responses to Environmental Cold. XVII. Vasomotor and Sudomotor Disorders. XVIII. The Vascular Effects of Superior Thoracic Outlet Syndromes. XIX. The Coagulation of the Blood. XX. Venous Thrombosis and Embolism. XXI. Miscellaneous Diseases of Veins. XXII. Varicose Veins. XXIII. Chronic Oedema. Lymphoedema. XXIV. Ulcerations of the Limbs of Circulatory Origin. XXV. Aneurysm. XXVI. Arterio-venous Fistulae. XXVII. Tumours of Blood Vessels. XXVIII. Gangrene. XXIX. The Operative Surgery of the Peripheral Vessels. Index.

When the reviewer became interested in peripheral vascular diseases some 25 years ago, this was a relatively small and neglected field and one had to apologize for working on so remote and unpromising a subject. Patients afflicted with peripheral vascular disease were considered victims of a hopeless and incurable malady and few diagnostic and therapeutic measures were at our disposal. How all this has changed!

First there was the development of more accurate and qualitative methods of diagnosis. Then came better methods of treatment, and now there looms on the horizon the possibility of preventing at least some types of these disorders. This develop-

ment has been reflected in the increasing number of periodicals dealing with this subject and the increasing number of text-books which have appeared within recent years.

The present book is the first comprehensive work by British writers. There are 9 authors, indicating clearly that the field has now become so big and has such extensive ramifications that it can hardly be dealt with by one expert.

The book starts with 2 chapters by Prof. G. A. G. Mitchell of Manchester, on the anatomy and innervation of the peripheral blood-vessels, which are of a particularly high standard, and a welcome synopsis of his book on this subject reviewed earlier this year. In the chapter on physiology, written by Prof. Henry Barcroft, there is perhaps too much emphasis on the blood flow through the muscle, particularly if we remember that the danger to the limb comes from the diminution of blood flow to the skin rather than intermittent claudication. The pathological aspects are ably dealt with by Prof. J. H. Dible.

The great strides which have been made in the surgical treatment of the peripheral vascular diseases are not really apparent from the chapters dealing with operative treatment, and a more detailed description would have been justified of many procedures for those not constantly practising in this particular field. The experiences gained in the Korean War in the treatment of arterial injuries have been incorporated.

This book can be recommended for the physician and surgeon alike, because the pertinent aspects are dealt with from a practical angle and reflect present-day teaching.

R.H.G.

SICK CHILDREN

Sick Children—Diagnosis and Treatment. 7th Edition. By Donald Paterson. 7th Edition revised by Reginald Lightwood and F. S. W. Brimblecombe. Pp. x + 593. 42s. London: Cassell and Company Ltd. 1956.

Contents: 1. History Taking and Clinical Examination. 2. Heredity and Development. 3. Breast-feeding. 4. Artificial Feeding. 5. Feeding of Children in Health. 6. The Care of the Premature Infant. 7. Neonatal Paediatrics. 8. Vitamin Deficiencies and Nutritional Disorders. 9. Endocrine Diseases. 10. Diseases of the Alimentary Tract. 11. Diseases of the Respiratory System. 12. Cardiac and Circulatory Disorders. 13. Juvenile Rheumatism, Chorea and Carditis. 14. Blood Diseases. 15. Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System. 16. The Nervous Child. 17. Disorders of the Nervous System. 18. Mental Defect. 19. Disease of the Bones and Joints. 20. Diseases of the Skin. 21. Diseases of the Eye. 22. Infectious Diseases. 23. Tuberculosis. 24. Congenital Syphilis. 25. Diseases of Children in the Tropics. 26. Intestinal Parasites. Appendixes: 1. Sulphonamides and Antibiotic Preparations and Dosages of other Drugs. 2. Vitamin Preparations in Common Use. 3. Electrolytes of Body Fluids. 4. Ossification Data. Index.

The last edition of this remarkable book was published by the original author, Dr. Donald Paterson, in 1947, and the following year he returned to Canada, having played a prominent role in British paediatrics. The present 7th edition has been revised and brought up to date by another well-known paediatric physician, familiar to many paediatricians in this country, with the assistance of colleagues distinguished in their own special fields.

'Sick Children' has been completely revised and the bulk of it entirely rewritten, many changes having been made necessary by recent advances in paediatrics, and this present edition is virtually a new book. Dr. Paterson's plan has been retained and, as in previous editions, the main emphasis is on the diagnosis and treatment of the commoner conditions.

Special contributions are included from Dr. Cecily Williams, whose very wide experience enables her to write with authority on Diseases of Children in the Tropics, and from Dr. J. P. M. Tizard, who writes on Disorders of the Nervous System and on Mental Defect. The chapters on History Taking and Clinical Examinations, the Care of the Premature Infant, Cardiac and Circulatory Disorders, and Rheumatism, Chorea and Carditis, are also entirely new; the other chapters have been heavily revised and much new material have been incorporated in all of them. The material on nutrition and feeding has been shortened and simplified and newer diseases such as kwashiorkor, idiopathic hypercalcaemia, retrolental fibroplasia and cystinosis are discussed.

Statistical and other important data have been gathered together into 4 appendices (see Contents above). Normal data for blood composition, cerebrospinal fluid, faeces and urine, are given on the end papers for easy and rapid reference. New illustrations appear throughout the book.

Dr. Lightwood and Dr. Brimblecombe are to be congratulated

on maintaining the high standard of this most excellent book, the usefulness and popularity of which will be further enhanced.

This book certainly merits a place on the book-shelves of paediatricians. Its price, comprehensiveness and brevity will deservedly attract undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as paediatric registrars, and for general practitioners requiring a concise, comprehensive reliable reference book at hand, as well as for doctors engaged in child health and welfare work, the book is strongly recommended.

R.F.M.

GYNAECOLOGY FOR NURSES

Modern Gynaecology with Obstetrics for Nurses. 1st Edition. W. E. Hector and John Howkins, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. 215. 17s. 6d. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1956.

Contents: Introduction to Gynaecological Nursing. 1. Physiology of the Female Reproductive System. 2. Examination of the Patient. 3. Pre-operative Treatment. 4. Post-operative Care. 5. Diseases of the Ovary. 6. Disorders of the Fallopian Tubes. 7. Diseases of the Uterus. 8. Diseases of the Vagina and Vulva. 9. Venereal Disease. 10. Infertility. 11. Gynaecological Operations. 12. Pregnancy. 13. Abortion. 14. Labour, Delivery and the Puerperium. Index.

This text-book has been written with a view to providing the nurse with the knowledge required for managing cases in the gynaecological ward, and the subject-matter provided is that which is not usually found in the standard text-books of nursing.

It is written in a simple and clear manner, and should prove of value to the nurse who wants to know more about the gynaecological patient. The work is well set out on a practical teaching basis, and the chapters are divided and sub-divided into headings and explanatory paragraphs. Each organ is treated as an entity, with a brief description of the anatomy, physiology and pathological condition which may be encountered. At the same time the interrelationship of the whole female reproductive system is well demonstrated.

The technique of gynaecological operations is clearly described in a manner which is both practical and modern.

The chapter on post-operative care, which details the complications which may follow surgery, is particularly good and worth every nurse's attention. Obstetrics of necessity occupies only a small place in this little volume; but a brief chapter gives the nurse an insight into those obstetrical problems which may be encountered in the gynaecological wards.

In the reviewer's opinion this is a really good handbook and should prove very popular with nurses both student and trained.

T. St. V.B.

CHEST RADIODIAGNOSIS

Principles of Chest X-ray Diagnosis. By George Simon, M.D., F.F.R. Pp. x + 174 + 9. 162 Figures. 57s. 6d. + 1s. 9d. delivery charges. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd., P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1956.

Contents: List of Illustrations. Acknowledgements. Introduction and Definition of Terms. 1. Anatomical Landmarks and Variations. 2. Homogeneous Shadows, Grouped According to Shape, Size, or Distribution. 3. Linear Shadows (Line, Band-Like, Tubular and Ring Shadows). 4. High-Density Shadows and Hypertranslucencies. 5. Cardio-Vascular Abnormalities. 6. The Mediastinal and Diaphragm Shadows. 7. Bones of the Thorax, Soft Tissue Covering and Remote Bone Lesions in Chest Diseases. 8. Combinations of Different Shadows. 9. Bronchography. 10. Tomography. 11. The Time Factor in X-ray Diagnosis and Comparison of Radiographs of Different Dates. Appendix: Some Hints on X-ray Technique. References. Index.

Dr. George Simon's new book is beautifully produced, with high-quality printing and paper, and adequately illustrated by clear, annotated radiographs in negative form. The work is presented in a novel manner somewhat reminiscent of the American style. A radiograph is a photographic record of the shadows produced when X-rays pass through a part of the body. These shadows will vary in density according to the physical properties of the different tissues traversed, or to changes which may have occurred within them. Dr. Simon has adopted a practical and logical, if unconventional, approach in arranging his subjects in chapters according to these shadows.

In his introductory chapter he defines clearly the meaning of the terminology employed, and so avoids the confusion often resulting from vague, and even misleading, expressions used by

radiologists: for example, 'Atelectasis' refers only to absorption atelectasis, i.e. when air has been absorbed from the alveoli, while passive collapse, associated with pneumothorax, is referred to as relaxation of the lung. Congenital atelectasis, where the affected alveoli has never contained air, is described simply as 'failure to aerate'.

A chapter is devoted to the description of normal appearances, artefacts, and certain anatomical anomalies. It is in the discussion of the interpretation of abnormal shadows that Dr. Simon manifests his great experience and skill. He appends a rather formidable differential diagnosis, arranged in grouped lists, but shows how correlation of the radiographic appearances with the history, clinical picture and laboratory findings soon eliminates most of the groups. The chapter on cardiovascular disease, and the lung changes in cardiac diseases, is rather short; on the other hand, the indications for bronchography and the technique and interpretation of the bronchogram, is particularly well done.

Dr. Simon emphasizes the value of tomography in certain cases, and describes a method of simultaneous multisection radiography which is time-saving for the operator, and reduces the amount of radiation delivered to the patient, a not unimportant consideration in special cases or when dealing with children.

A useful innovation has been the remarks dealing with the 'time-factor in X-ray diagnosis', i.e. the optimum time for serial examinations in certain chest diseases, and after some thoracic surgical procedures.

Finally, there are a few useful hints on dark-room technic. Dr. Simon deserves credit for the painstaking work he has put into this up-to-date volume of high standard. The novel presentation and schemata employed contribute considerably towards its merit.

A.M.

THIOPIENTONE

Thiopentone and Other Thiobarbiturates. By John W. Dundee, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Pp. viii + 312. 22s. 6d. net + 11d. Postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1956.

Contents: I. History. II. Physical Properties and Chemistry. III. Distribution and Fate in the Body. IV. The Effects of Thiobarbiturates on the Body. V. Variations in Response to Thiobarbiturates. VI. The Use of Thiopentone in Certain Pathological Conditions. VII. Hazards Associated with the Use of Thiopentone. VIII. The Therapeutic Uses of Thiopentone. IX. The Administration of Thiopentone. X. Some Newer Thiobarbiturates. XI. Analgesics and Other Stimulants. XII. In Retrospect. Appendix. 1. Apparatus. 2. Compatibility of Thiobarbiturates. 3. Methods of Detection and Estimation of Thiobarbiturates. 4. Case Reports of Resistance to Thiobarbiturates. 5. The Cleansing and Sterilisation of Syringes. Index.

Since thiopentone was introduced by Lundi in 1934 as a clinical intravenous 'anaesthetic' its use increased slowly until 1946 and thereafter so quickly that for instance in Great Britain today it is used in over 80% of all anaesthetics. The studies of its pharmacological action did not keep pace with the clinical studies; only since 1948 has a clearer understanding of the clinically short but pharmacologically long action of this drug been established.

The details of the distribution, the slow metabolism and the site of detoxication of thiopentone are fully discussed in this monograph. An interesting section deals with the characteristic changes in the Eeg pattern during thiopentone narcosis. The reduced cerebral metabolism and increased blood-flow and increased pressure of cerebrospinal fluid are attributed mainly to the degree of carbon-dioxide retention resulting from respiratory depression. Another suggestion made in this book is that the so-called convulsive properties of thiopentone are a manifestation of its lack of analgesic power. In a full description of the cardiovascular effects of the drug the need for more work is indicated to explain the appearance of ventricular arrhythmias and the exact mechanism of the peripheral vasodilatation. The lack of agreement about the hepatotoxic properties of thiopentone is a subject that is fully reviewed, the author himself concluding that liver dysfunction occurs in an appreciable number of patients when doses exceeding 750 mg. are administered; large doses depress liver function for at least 3 days after the administration. Evidence of haemolysis was detected in 20% of cases when thiopentone was used as the main anaesthetic. The variations in response to thiopentone in healthy subjects and pathological factors influencing the response are considered at length. The use of the drug in such pathological conditions as shock, cardio-

vascular disease, respiratory obstruction, uraemia (with its increased sensitivity to thiopentone), liver damage, raised intracranial pressure, asthma, porphyria (a condition regarded as prevalent in South Africa and an absolute contra-indication to thiopentone), and in numerous other disorders is considered in a valuable chapter. The technique of intravenous administration is described, and the minor hazards of intravenous anaesthesia, the sequelae of which are often forgotten. The many local and general, immediate and delayed, dangers from thiopentone are discussed, with suggestions for their prevention and treatment.

The slight hyperglycaemia produced by thiopentone is discussed but contradicted in the summary by the statement that the drug causes a mild hypoglycaemia. On pages 82 and 111 hypoxia is stated as affecting the carotid sinus (meaning the carotid body).

This volume on thiopentone will be welcomed by all who administer anaesthetics. It provides a full and critical account of the actions, uses and dangers of this extensively used agent. There are useful summaries and many references at the end of every chapter, and illustrations of apparatus for all manner of intravenous injections and infusions, as well as a list of drugs with which thiopentone may or may not be given in combination.

N.S.

MEDICAL HYPNOSIS

A Handbook of Medical Hypnosis. By Gordon Ambrose, L.M.S.S.A. and George Newbold, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A., D.R.G.O.G., D.C.H. Pp. xiv + 256. First Edition. 21s. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1956.

Contents: Foreword (i) Dr. William Moodie F.R.C.P. Foreword (ii) Prof. William S. Kroger M.D. (U.S.A.). Preface. 1. History of Medical Hypnotism. 2. The Medical Hypnotist and the Law. 3. The Hypnotic State and its Phenomena. 4. Hypnosis in General Medicine. 5. Hypnosis in the Neuroses. 6. Hypnosis in Surgery. 7. Hypnosis in Paediatrics. 8. Hypnosis in Gynaecology. 9. Hypnosis and Suggestion in Obstetrics—1. 10. Hypnosis and Suggestion in Obstetrics—2. 11. Hypnosis in Dermatology. Appendix I. Appendix II. Index.

The subject of this book is that of numerous publications which have recently appeared since the revival of interest in hypnosis as a therapeutic weapon in general medicine. The authors attempt to illustrate the value of hypnosis in the management of a very wide variety of conditions in the fields of general medicine, surgery, gynaecology, obstetrics, paediatrics and psychiatry. Your reviewer, however, found himself wriggling a little uneasily in his chair on being called upon to accept hypnosis as a panacea for a host of ills.

Throughout the book brief descriptions of cases are relied upon to prove the efficacy of hypnosis as a means of treatment. The presentation of these cases is, unfortunately, rather shallow and unconvincing. The reader is left in ignorance about the indications, limitations and dangers of hypnosis. The claim that is made that 'its undoubted value lies in its power of symptom removal' becomes a little alarming when it is appreciated that symptoms which can be removed by hypnosis may represent vital psychological defence-mechanisms against the patient's unresolved inner emotional conflicts. In the chapter on paediatrics, concepts of 'inherent' and 'constitutional' anxiety leave one dubious of the writers' understanding of the psychodynamics of anxiety in children.

The book succeeds in drawing the practitioner's attention to the fact that no patient's psyche should ever be overlooked and that hypnosis has a place in certain spheres of medicine. It is otherwise uninspiring and has very little that is instructive to offer its readers.

H.C.

MENSTRUAL DISORDERS

The Management of Menstrual Disorders. By C. Frederic Fluhmann, B.A., M.D., C.M. Pp. xii + 350. Illustrations: 121 Figs. \$8.50. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1956.

Contents: 1. Historical Review of Concepts of Menstruation. 2. The Gonadotropins. 3. Steroid Hormones. 4. Neural and Endocrine Control of Menstruation. 5. Mammalian Reproductive Cycles. 6. Age at Inception of Menstruation. 7. The Menarche. 8. Menstrual Disorders of Adolescence. 9. The Menstrual Cycle. 10. Systemic Changes during the Menstrual Cycle. 11. Systemic Disorders of the Menstrual Cycle. 12. The Ovarian Cycle. 13. Disorders of the Ovarulatory Phase. 14. The Uterine Cycle. 15. Cyclic Changes of Vulva, Vagina, Fallopian Tubes, and Mammary Glands. 16. A Classification of Disorders of Menstruation

and Abnormal Uterine Hemorrhage. 17. Polymenorrhoea and Oligomenorrhoea. 18. Secondary Amenorrhoea. 19. Diagnosis and Treatment of Secondary Amenorrhoea. 20. Hypomenorrhoea and Hypermenorrhoea. 21. Anovulatory Menstruation and Hyperplasia of the Endometrium. 22. Metrorrhagia. 23. The Management of Pathologic Uterine Bleeding. 24. Dysmenorrhoea. 25. The Climacteric and Menopause. 26. Clinical Usage and Commercial Preparations of Sex Hormones. Index.

This American text-book has been written 'primarily for the medical practitioner'—one assumes the general practitioner. In ordinary everyday practice the menstrual disorders that are most difficult to deal with are those which are not associated with any pathology. These disturbances frequently occur as isolated symptoms not part and parcel of any definite disease-entity, and when the patient is relatively young, as so often happens, the problem is rendered doubly hard. Now it is in turning to the chapters dealing with the treatment of these disorders that one meets with some disappointment—not entirely to be laid at the author's door. To a large measure reliance must be placed on the use of hormone preparations, but with experience most of us have lost faith in them. Dr. Fluhmann has not succeeded in making the management of this type of disorder any easier.

This book presents some commendable features. It is nicely illustrated. Among the chapters well worth reading is the very first, in which is given a concise and well written account of some of the historical aspects of menstruation. Other chapters deserving honourable mention are those on the Control of Menstruation, Mammalian Reproductive Cycles, the Menarche and the Climacteric. Dr. Fluhmann constantly and very rightly stresses the possibility of cancer in dealing with the many types of abnormal uterine bleeding. References to the literature are liberally quoted and listed.

One has come to expect beautifully produced books from the publishing firm of Saunders and this volume certainly lives up to the high standard. The price, as with most American text-books, is high.

E.M.S.

SUBARACHNOID HAEMORRHAGE

Subarachnoid Haemorrhage. By John N. Walton, M.D. (Durh.), M.R.C.P. Foreword by Sir Charles Symonds, K.B.E., C.B., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. xv + 350. 25 Figures. 30s. net. Postage 1s. Abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1956.

Contents: 1. Historical Note. 2. Incidence. 3. Aetiology. 4. Previous Medical History. 5. The Symptomatology of the Illness. 6. Findings on Physical Examination. 7. Investigations. 8. Diagnosis. 9. The Course of the Illness. 10. Prognosis. 11. The Pathological Basis of Subarachnoid Haemorrhage. 12. A Correlation of Clinical and Pathological Features. 13. Treatment. 14. A Critical Comparison of the Results of Medical and Surgical Treatment and Conclusions Concerning Management. Bibliography. Author Index. Subject Index.

In this excellent book Dr. Walton deals with the subject of 'spontaneous' subarachnoid haemorrhage from the view-point of the physician. He reviews the extensive literature and adds 312 cases admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, during 1940-1949. He effectively combines the experience of other workers with his own series and draws out a detailed survey of the present knowledge of the various aspects of the condition. The book is logically written and answers the many problems faced by the physician once a subarachnoid haemorrhage is diagnosed. Does pregnancy affect the prognosis and should it be terminated? What advice should be given to the patient after recovery from the haemorrhage? What is the relationship of migraine and hypertension to aneurysm?

The chapter on treatment is detailed as far as conservative methods are concerned, and the effects of most forms of therapy from bed rest to hibernation are evaluated. Surgical results are dealt with, but techniques are not described.

The final chapter compares the results of medical and surgical treatment. It is this vexatious question that is not yet settled. That diagnostic carotid angiography should be performed on all but those of advanced age, severely hypertensive or atherosclerotic is agreed by most of those dealing with the problem; by no means all, however, will agree that the optimum time for surgical treatment is the 7th to the 14th day of illness.

It is unfortunate that the 312 cases observed were in the pre-surgical era and the etiology of 228 of these is unknown.

This book is recommended to all practitioners.

A.G.

CLINICAL ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

Klinische Elektrokardiographie. By Dr. Max Holzmann. Pp. 687 + xii, with illustrations. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 1955.

Contents: 1. Geschichtliche Einleitung und Umfassendes Schrifttum. 2. Apparaturen. 3. Die Anatomischen Grundlagen. 4. Die Elektro-Physiologischen Grundlagen. 5. Das Normale Elektrokardiogramm. 6. Das Abnorme Ekg. Abgesehen von Rhythmusstörungen. 7. Das Ekg bei Rhythmusstörungen. 8. Das Syndrom von Wolff, Parkinson und White. Die Antesystolie. 9. Ekg und Herztrauma. 10. Das Ekg der Kongenitalen Angiokardiopathien und der Mitralklappenstenose. 11. Das Ekg bei Herztumoren. 12. Das Ekg bei Neuro-Muskulären Systemerkrankungen. 13. Das Sterbende Herz. Abbildungen und Tabellen für den Praktischen Gebrauch.

This is a well written and carefully planned text-book of electrocardiography.

Starting with a brief historical survey, the author goes on to a technical discussion of the apparatus, and follows with a clear and precise picture of the anatomical and physiological principles underlying electrocardiography. It is difficult to pick out any one chapter for special comment, but the section on injury current and S-T deviation in the ventricular leads deserves special study and forms a logical basis for the clearer understanding of the electrocardiogram in myocardial infarction.

Considerable space is devoted to the discussion of the normal electrocardiogram and the variations produced in it by age, nervous factors and the effect of work. Another excellent chapter is devoted to the description of the abnormal electrocardiogram and the various aetiologies giving rise to it.

However, the chapter on myocardial infarction was disappointing. The localization of the lesions and the progressive changes are well illustrated, but there is not a single example of the electrocardiographic changes of infarction as shown in unipolar extremity leads.

There is an excellent theoretical discussion of these extremity leads, but a marked paucity of them in the illustrations throughout the book. We have now come to accept these leads as an integral part of a standard electrocardiogram, and their omission is a serious gap in a modern text-book of electrocardiography.

The description of the electrocardiographic changes in congenital heart disease is precise and clear, but the chapter could have been considerably improved by the inclusion of some illustrations. The section on arrhythmias is excellent and the notes on treatment valuable. The chapter on heart injuries is unusual and interesting, and especially as the effect of electrical stimulation on the human heart is as yet a largely unexplored field.

This book is comprehensive and up to date as far as the

theoretical discussion of the recent advances is concerned. Their practical application, however, is insufficiently demonstrated.

It would be well, in the next edition, to bring the book more in line with English and American text-books by making greater use of unipolar-lead electrocardiography.

The book is written in German.

H.L.

MEDICINE IN ITS HUMAN SETTING

Medicine in its Human Setting. A. E. Clark-Kennedy, M. D. F. R. C. P., (Pp 276. with illustrations 13s.6d.) London: Faber & Faber Ltd, 1954

Contents: Preface. 1. The Patient and his Disease. 2. Early Handicap. 3. Gallant Struggle. 4. Advancing Age. 5. Renal Relations. 6. Follow Through. 7. The Great Fog. 8. Hospital Ward. 9. Ubiquitous Bacillus. 10. Crowded Factory. 11. Study in Tact. 12. Text Book Cases. 13. Evening Surgery. 14. Mental Break-down. 15. Bold Bad Baronet. 16. Elderly Unfitness. 17. Two Sorts of Coma. 18. Bad stomach Ache. 19. Epidemic in the School. 20. Incurable Disease. 21. Unsolved Mystery. 22. Home for the Dying. Index.

Dr. Clark-Kennedy describes his book as 'clinical stories for students, nurses and practitioners'. It is in fact a collection of short stories, each giving an account of a particular disease or a group of diseases, as seen through the eyes of the practitioner on his daily round. The author's design is to present in a more realistic and palatable form than could be found in a text-book some of the facts of medicine and to overcome the tendency, for which rapid technical advance may have been partly responsible, of thinking of disease as though it were a process apart from those who suffer from it. In this he succeeds admirably, and the stories underline the pathos and the humour, the triumphs and disappointments, that fill the practitioner's professional life, and the scientific knowledge and common-sense that is demanded of him.

Early Handicap, for example gives the life story of a patient crippled by mitral stenosis, beginning with the original attack of rheumatism in childhood, and showing how the disease progresses remorselessly through adolescence, marriage and motherhood, to the final tragic outcome. Study in Tact described the practitioner's approach, firm yet humane, to syphilis in exalted family circles. Elderly Unfitness tells the story of the delay in applying radical treatment in bleeding gastric ulcer that leads to tragedy. The central figure of Incurable Disease is the doctor's wife; the slow onset of disseminated sclerosis is realistically described.

For the practitioner who wishes to keep abreast of modern advances in medicine, this readable book is ideal. There is hardly a dull page in it and the technical side is treated with admirable simplicity. Miss Treadgold's line drawings are excellent. P.L.