

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

THERAPEUTIC INDEX

A Therapeutic Index. By C. M. Miller, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.) and B. K. Ellenbogen, M.D. (L'pool), M.R.C.P. (Lond.) First Edition. (Pp. 147. 12s. 6d.) London: Bailliére, Tindall and Cox. 1955.

Contents: 1. Therapeutic Index. 2. Dosage Tables. 3. Practical Procedures. 4. Simple Urine Examinations. 5. Some Useful Diets. 6. Infectious Fevers. 7. Normal Values. 8. Approximate Equivalents and Conversion Factors.

Owing to recent rapid advances in knowledge therapeutics has become more rational and scientific than ever before. This has

placed a heavy burden and responsibility on the practitioner to keep abreast of modern developments. It is debatable whether a book of this small size can possibly deal adequately with such a large and complex subject. If it is granted that it can serve a useful purpose then all treatment advocated should in 1955 have as sound a pharmacological and physiological basis as possible.

This book is disappointing because it has not adopted this approach, with the result that much that is irrational creeps into the text. For example, penicillin is advocated for orchitis regardless of aetiology. It is recommended that patients with nephritis should be nursed uncomfortably between blankets 'because it is

customary', and that thyroid should be given for subacute nephritis. The dosage tables refer only to the newer antibiotics, whereas it would be most useful to have a much more comprehensive list.

The treatment advocated for most medical emergencies is adequate and clearly set out but all in all this book attempts too much in too little space and does it badly.

J.H.

BRACHIAL ANALGESIA

Local Analgesia: Brachial Plexus. By R. R. Macintosh, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.S., F.F.A.R.S.S., D.A. and William W. Mushin, M.A., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Third Edition. (Pp. 62, with illustrations. 10s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1954.

The appearance of this, the 3rd edition, speaks in itself of the continual demand for this very excellent little book. Macintosh and Mushin have, with this book, made a very real and valuable contribution to the literature of anaesthetics.

Brachial-plexus block is a reliable and technically simple nerve-block. It is unfortunate that it is not more widely practised by the occasional anaesthetist, and by surgeons who from necessity must work single-handed. By its use all the dangers of an inhalation anaesthetic are avoided. This is particularly important in patients with traumatic injuries to the arm associated with a full stomach. A further advantage is that the patients remain ambulatory and can often return home within an hour.

The essential requirement for a successful nerve block is a knowledge of the anatomy. To many, dismal memories of second-year anatomy would be enough to dismiss all thoughts of practising this technique. In this book, however, the essential relations of the brachial plexus have been most clearly and simply illustrated in colour. The aim has been to describe the technique pictorially rather than in longhand. It is certainly far easier to see how a nerve block is performed than to have to read a description of the technique.

Xylocaine (½-1%) is the analgesic solution preferred by the authors. The use of hyaluronidase is also mentioned. A brief history of the method is given and it is interesting to note that the infraclavicular, axillary and paravertebral approaches have all been employed in the past. The superclavicular approach, which is now commonly used, is undoubtedly the simplest in that all it requires is an ability to locate the first rib. Except in the obese this can usually be palpated through the skin without any difficulty.

The authors are to be congratulated on producing a book which stands above criticism, and it deserves a worthy place on the bookshelves of all who are required to give anaesthetics.

P.R.M.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Growth and Development of Children. By Ernest H. Watson, M.D. and George H. Lowry, M.D. Second Edition. (Pp. 296, with illustrations. \$7.00.) Chicago, U.S.A. The Year Book Publishers Inc. 1954.

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. Heredity and Environment Factors. 3. Fetal Growth and Development. 4. Normal Physical Measurements. 5. The Premature Child. 6. Behavioral Development. 7. Organ Development. 8. Osseous Development. 9. Role of the Endocrine Glands in Normal Growth and Development. 10. Energy Metabolism. 11. Nutrition in Normal Growth. 12. Facial Growth and Dentition. 13. An Outline of Abnormal Growth. Index.

At present there is a bewildering spate of new text-books of paediatrics and related subjects. In most of them growth and development is dealt with relatively briefly in comparison with descriptions of disease, feeding methods etc. On the other hand, books devoted entirely to growth and development tend to be cumbersome and difficult to read. This does not apply to this small and inexpensive volume, which originated from a series of lectures given to the undergraduate students at the University of Michigan. It was later expanded for the use of graduate students and paediatric residents and now in its 2nd edition contains a store of useful information. Every important statement is backed by a good and very up-to-date reference in the bibliography that one finds at the end of each chapter.

The authors' approach is a sound and sensible one. In the section on heredity they point out that the inheritance of the urge to grow normally and the over-all similarity of development

among children has received little attention. The problem is complex but the implications are great.

The development of every organ and system in the body from the time of conception to puberty is briefly outlined, with particular emphasis on the important physiological aspects. The most generally accepted standard tables and graphs of normal physical measurements are outlined with suitable comments on their particular uses and disadvantages.

Behavioural development is well, if superficially, dealt with and the norms of behaviour at different ages are tabulated. Osseous development and its radiology are clearly presented and the changing patterns of posture with age is emphasized. There is a chapter on growth and development of the face, jaws and teeth, and tooth eruption and malocclusion, which contains information not readily found elsewhere.

All in all this is a useful book both as a reference for those in practice and as a text for those studying for examination.

J.H.

PRACTICAL OBSTETRIC PROBLEMS

Practical Obstetric Problems. By Ian Donald, M.B.E., M.D., B.S. (Lond.), B.A. (Cape Town), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 578 + xii, with illustrations. 54s.) London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1955.

Contents: 1. The Scope of Antenatal Care. 2. Abortion. 3. Special Cases. 4. The Cardiac Case. 5. Diabetes Mellitus. 6. Anaemia and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 7. Symptom Complexes. 8. Local Abnormalities. 9. Toxaemias of Pregnancy. 10. Urinary Complications. 11. Twins and Hydramnios. 12. Breech Presentation. 13. Face and Brow Presentation. 14. Shoulder Presentation. 15. Prolapse of the Cord. 16. Antepartum Haemorrhage. 17. Induced Labour. 18. Disproportion. 19. Relief of Pain. 20. Prolonged Labour. 21. Technique and Pitfalls of Forceps Delivery. 22. Resuscitation of the Newborn. 23. Postpartum Collapse. 24. Postpartum Haemorrhage. 25. Maternal Injuries. 26. Caesarean Section. 27. Infection. 28. The Use and Misuse of Antibiotics. 29. Postmaturity. 30. Prematurity. 31. R.H. Factor. Appendices. Index.

The author has had a good season and is to be congratulated: he has been made a Regius professor, has written a book, and has been raised to the fellowship of his College. The book was written because 'there is a place for a book of a practical sort which would appeal to the clinician who lives in the rough and tumble of it all, as well as to aspirants for additional diplomas in the subject'.

The volume is attractive, and the author's approach to the subject is vigorous. Four chapters are contributed by other experts. The policy was to write as a teacher and to stimulate, and quite emphatically to be original. It is however repeatedly seen that the author is still fettered by orthodoxy and tradition, and the process of breaking his bonds robs him of most of his energy. One is therefore not surprised to find how sound in learning the substance of this work is; it has laid the foundation for what might be subsequently shaped into a classic.

It is difficult to justify the many small books on Obstetrics written by British authors. One looks to Britain for a large comprehensive reference book such as America has given us or like those by Continental scholars. The expert deals with what is fashionable at the moment, but the precious gift derives from the wisdom of him who considers the more permanent fundamentals and perspectives. These works demand time and scholarship, neither of which is readily exercised in the practice of intensive Obstetrics, the third essential.

The present author has made a number of mistakes of the immature kind, a typical example being that haemorrhage may occur when retraction is not fast enough to catch up with contraction. Nevertheless, the book represents London at its best, and there is every promise that the Professor will develop such power and independence of thought in his new sphere that he will give us a classic presently.

O.S.H.

THREE PSYCHOLOGICAL CASES

Three Men—An Experiment in the Biography of Emotions. By Jean Evans. (Pp. 297 + xviii. 15s.) London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. 1954.

Contents: 1. Johnny Rocco. 2. Follow-up: September 1952. 3. William Miller. 4. Follow-up: November 1951. 5. Martin Beardson. Afterword.

Jean Evans has cast her book in a very vivid pattern. Each of the 'three men' is a psychological problem. She has portrayed the

autobiography of each case without any attempt at diagnosis or treatment, giving excellent case histories together with a follow-up. The three subjects are genuine, names and places only being altered. This book reads excellently and all three cases stand out vividly.

Two main impressions arise: Firstly a desire to diagnose each case. Yet not one of the three characters appears to fit as an entity into the conventional psychiatric pigeon-holes one is familiar with; but is this not the more realistic, how often does one strike the true text-book case in any walk of medicine, especially psychiatry? To quote Dr. Gordon W. Allport, who wrote the introduction, 'it is a temptation to comment in detail on Johnny, Miller and Martin. They are so viable and so insistent that every reader will feel impelled to diagnose, interpret and prescribe. But if I personally yielded to the temptation, I should be taking unfair advantage of the reader and of the author'.

The second impression is one of a continuity of theme running through all three cases; firstly, all the subjects appeared to have had adverse early home conditions; secondly, the early memories of the maternal influence appear to predominate abnormally in later life; and thirdly, all three subjects were sensitive children.

Johnny Rocco was one of the younger members of a large family of Italian extraction living in a large American City; poverty and environmental factors wreaked havoc with his sensitive nature, the 'seed' undeniably was there, the 'soil' fertile; the result social rebellion, clashes with the local police and reform school. However, the young misfit later finds a form of haven with a humble home of his own in a far better environment and appears to find a stabilizing factor in the pleasures of his two young children.

William Miller is of a different sort, an orphan. From an early age he became markedly introverted and reclusive, and thrown entirely on his own resources. Theft was one of the outcomes. His misfortunes include blindness. To what degree this handicaps him in his endeavours to better his predicament and to what degree he used it as a means of obtaining sympathy, comfort and escape from any difficult problem, one is not sure.

Martin Beardson is a young homosexual. His early background although unhappy is slightly more fortuitous than that of the other two. His mental problem presents a mixture of passive homosexuality coupled with a fear of the male sexual climax on his part at any time, and an underlying appreciation of the unnaturalness of his actions. His whole existence appears wrapped around a battle with himself and his sex desires.

This book can be strongly recommended to medical and lay readers alike, and especially to sociologists and those interested in psychology and psychiatry. It has a limited value for the criminologist. The author is to be complimented.

P.L.W.

YEAR BOOK OF DRUG THERAPY

The Year Book of Drug Therapy (1954-1955 Year Book Series)
Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D. (Pp. 592, with 74 illustrations.
\$6.00) Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1955.

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. Allergy. 3. Antibiotics and Sulfonamides. 4. Cardiovascular Diseases. 5. Dermatology. 6. Endocrinology. 7. Gastro-enterology. 8. Hematology. 9. Internal Medicine. 10. Neuropsychiatry. 11. Obstetrics and Gynecology. 12. Ophthalmology. 13. Otorhinolaryngology. 14. Pediatrics. 15. Surgery. 16. Venereology. Index.

This new annual volume covers articles from journals received between August 1953 and August 1954. It is a valuable book of reference for recent advances in therapy. There cannot be many subjects of interest to the general physician which are not touched on. Under each heading the book is a ready reference to recent advances. The 3-page introduction by the Editor constitutes a useful review of trends in the last year. In it the advances and retreats are faithfully recorded. Of course there are retreats, because American therapy is always inclined to be optimistic. Among the retreats are from hydrazinophthalazine (apresoline) as an antihypertensive drug, from fumagillin for intestinal amoebiasis, from trypsin for systemic administration and from N-allylnormorphine as a direct stimulant of the respiratory centre.

The advances are too numerous to record in this review. A few that may be new to South African readers include phenylbutazone for sub-acute superficial thrombo-phlebitis, magmamycin for granuloma inguinale, and daraprim (suppressive) and primaquine (causal prophylactic) against vivax malaria.

The practice of editorial comment as a footnote to certain reviews is a healthy one in the hands of a balanced editor, particularly when it restrains unjustified enthusiasm. Of interest to readers in South Africa will be the editorial view that in the scramble to introduce new anticoagulants in competition with dicoumarol 'the original drug will retain its feet until it can be shown for a rival agent that is not only a superior anticoagulant but also as free as dicoumarol from side or toxic actions.'

Light is thrown on the propensity of American editors and reviewers to ignore most articles not published in American journals by a random count of the articles reviewed in 50 consecutive pages. Of 31 articles three were from the English press, two from the Continental press and the remaining 26 from American journals.

J.F.B.

13th April, 1955

AMPHETAMINE

Amphetamine in Clinical Medicine Actions and Uses. By W. R. Bett, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.S.L. Leonard H. Howells, M.D., F.R.C.P. and A.D. MacDonald, M.A., M.D., M.Sc. (Pp. 78. 7/6d.) Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1954.

Contents: 1. Historical Introduction. 2. Pharmacology. 3. Overweight. 4. Fatigue and Depression. 5. Narcolepsy. 6. Alcoholism and Other Drug Additions. 7. Barbiturate Intoxication. 8. Psychopathic States. 9. Enuresis and Other Behaviour Disorders in Children. Index.

This very short review of the actions and uses of Amphetamine compounds (it can be read quite comfortably in an hour or two) is brimful of interesting and useful information.

The chapters on fatigue and depression and on psychopathic states and behaviour disorders in children are especially interesting. The definite statement that addiction, in its proper sense, does not occur, is reassuring but may not be accepted by everyone.

In all, this is a valuable little book which is unreservedly recommended, especially to general practitioners.

H.M.

SURGICAL PHYSICAL SIGNS

Demonstrations of Physical Signs in Clinical Surgery. By Hamilton Bailey F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.S.E. and Allan Clain, M.B. F.R.C.S. Twelfth Edition. (Pp. 456. +xii. 681 illustrations. 38s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1954.

Contents: 1. Introduction. 2. Some Basic Physical Signs. 3. Localized Swellings. 4. Signs of Local Inflammation; Ulcers and Sinuses. 5. Suspected Fractures; Examination of Joints. 6. The Mouth. 7. The Salivary Glands. 8. The Face and Jaws. 9. The Head. 10. The Ear. 11. The Orbit. 12. The Neck (Excluding the Thyroid Gland.) 13. The Thyroid Gland. 14. The Breast and Axillary Lymph-Nodes. 15. The Thorax. 16. The Shoulder, Arm, and Forearm. 17. The Wrist and Hand. 18. Hernia. Lymphatics of Groin. 19. Non-Acute Abdominal Conditions. 20. Non-Acute Abdominal Conditions—Special Demonstrations. 21. Rectal and Vaginal Examination. 22. Clinical Examination of the Urinary Organs. 23. The Male Generative Organs. 24. Common Acute Abdominal Conditions. 25. Abdominal and Pelvic Injuries. 26. Some Rarer Acute Abdominal Conditions. 27. The Spine and Sacro-iliac Joints. 28. The Hip-Joint. 29. The Knee-Joint. 30. The Leg and Foot. 31. Bone. 32. The Peripheral Nerves. 33. The Blood-Vessels of the Extremities. 34. Some Signs to Confirm a Suspicion of Neurosis. 35. Supplementary Physical Signs. Glossary. Index.

Every teacher of surgery is grateful to Mr. Hamilton Bailey for his *Demonstrations of Physical Signs*, which have now reached their 12th—and best—edition in 27 years. Most of us cut our surgical teeth on one or other edition of this book. This last edition is the most pleasing because the illustrations are clearer, and their choice better than ever before. It is a phoenix of a book.

The size of the present edition, at 456 pages and 681 illustrations, almost prevents it from fitting the pocket. This is a pity, because its handy size in the earlier editions was a great advantage. However, it still fulfils precisely the aims stated in the preface, and epitomized in Sir Henry Wade's aphorism quoted on the fly leaf, 'the wards are the greatest of all research laboratories.'

Every undergraduate and postgraduate student—indeed every doctor who has a sense of the artistic pleasure of clinical observation—who does not already own a 'Hamilton Bailey,' should get this one.

R.D.H.B.