

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

### MEDICAL TREATMENT

*Handbook of Medical Treatment.* Fourth Edition. Edited by Milton J. Chatton, A.B., M.D., Sheldon Margen, M.A., M.D. and Henry D. Brainerd, A.B., M.D. Pp. 569. \$3.00. California: Lange Medical Publications. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. General Aspects of Medical Treatment. 2. Fluid and Electrolyte Therapy and Parenteral Feeding. 3. General Symptomatic Treatment. 4. Dietetics and Nutrition. 5. Diseases of the Skin. 6. Diseases of the Respiratory System. 7. Diseases of the Heart. 8. Diseases of the Blood Vessels. 9. Diseases of the Blood and Lymphatic Systems. 10. Diseases of the Gastro-intestinal System. 11. Diseases of the Urinary System. 12. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System. 13. Diseases of the Nervous System. 14. Metabolic and Endocrine Diseases. 15. Hormones and Hormone-like Agents. 16. Neoplastic Diseases. 17. Venereal Diseases. 18. Infectious Diseases. 19. Chemotherapeutic Agents. 20. Diseases of Unknown Etiology. 21. Diseases due to Physical Agents. 22. Diseases due to Toxins. Appendix: Rehabilitation of the Hemiplegic. Index.

Within the short period of only 5 years this book now appears in its 4th edition, a fact which tends to show its general and sustained usefulness as a pocket *vade mecum* to the general medical public. A glance through the list of contents, and more so the booklet itself, will tend to show how nearly impossible it appears to give a fitting review of it.

The aim of this booklet of some 570 pages is 'to make available a handbook summarizing present-day methods of medical management'. This end certainly seems to have been very nearly achieved within the compass of such a small volume. It is not a synopsis, but it is very concise in its statement of facts: *treatment* throughout receives full emphasis; symptoms and signs and prognosis also are given where possible and necessary. These are welcome additions in the text while they enhance the value of the book.

If one compares this with the 1st edition, the thorough manner

of the editing to which this edition has been subjected, as well as the almost complete revision to which the text has been subjected, cannot but strike the reader. Better methods of treatment have taken the place of the old; newer drugs have been introduced—most of these are from the *United States Pharmacopoeia* and the *National Formulary*. But full use has also been made of information from the *British Pharmacopoeia* and the *New and Nonofficial Formulary and Remedies*. In giving the dosages of drugs both the metric and the apothecary systems are used, the latter printed in parenthesis. Wherever possible the American as well as the British name for a drug is given. This should help the non-American reader to follow easily as well as to get to know the foreign names of certain new drugs.

Much space has been given to the antibiotics, antihistaminics, sulphonamides, cortisone and ACTH. In connexion with the last two the authors take the trouble to warn their readers that 'these agents do not appear to "cure".' This is certainly a very necessary warning and they follow this up with a list of the dangers, 8 of these being listed, and they further discuss 'Controls to be Employed to Correct or Minimize Dangers'; and they wind this up with a further discussion of 'Contra-indications and Special Precautions'. If these warnings are properly taken to heart, less 'hit or miss' treatment by means of ACTH and cortisone will be indulged in.

Instead of the Sylvester and Schaeffer methods of artificial respiration, the Nielsen (Arm-Lift-Back-Pressure) method is recommended; descriptive text and diagrams are given. On the other hand, one would like to see the two illustrations on 'gastric suction and on tidal drainage of the urinary bladder restored to the text of future editions. Surely they are of greater use to the practitioner than the newly-added matter on '*Congenital Heart*

*Disease* which might with advantage to other information be safely left out in future.

Notwithstanding the fact that the present edition contains 93 more pages of print, it is hardly bigger than the 1st edition. This has been achieved by rigorous editing, smaller type-face and thinner paper, but all this tends to strain the eyes more. One would like to suggest that in headings and sub-headings and points requiring stressing more use be made in future of bold type and less of italics.

However, this little book can confidently be recommended to practitioners, housemen and senior medical students as being a handy and practical addition to the bookshelf. It has only to be used to be appreciated.

G. C. A. v. d. W.

#### THE NATURE OF DISEASE

*A Further Study in the Nature of Diseases.* By J. E. R. McDonagh, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 372. 21s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Introduction. 2. The Nature of Disease. 3. The Blue Book. 4. The Buff Book. 5. Rheumatism. 6. Influenza in the Years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53. 7. Influenza in the Years 1950-51 and 1951-52. 8. Influenza in the Year 1952-53. 9. The Ductless Glands in Health and Disease. 10. Conclusion. Index.

The latest work by Dr. McDonagh on the nature of disease must be considered as a welcome event for, like all his earlier writings on the subject, it makes stimulating if provocative reading. The chapters on The Buff Book Rheumatism, Influenza in the Years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53, and on The Ductless Glands in Health and Disease reveal the author's burning passion for enquiry into the nature and causation of disease; but commendable as this may be, we are left in some doubt as to the validity of his analytical methods, and in a state of uncertainty in regard to his capacity for verbal expression. On page 3 appears the sentence: 'Death is by no means the inevitable result of the departure from health, or life; death is prevented from being an inevitable result of disease by expansion being automatically succeeded by contraction, and by the first region of the radiating portion of the fourth region of the attracting portion over-contracting to save "activity" from being obliged to take one of the two courses to the terminus'. Sentences like this—and there are many of them—are cumbersome and obscure. And finally we would say that the author's conception of causal relations is not likely to satisfy a mind trained in the present-day methods of clinical methodology. Thus when the author speaks of 'disease' we would prefer to speak of 'disease process', and what he conceives to be a cause—in the sense of *causa efficiens* of the philosophers—we would regard as a factor in the chain of causality, a chain which has its beginning, in many instances, in the multiform environment, and which traverses, by a process of interaction, the psychic and somatic segments of the human personality. This is medical science; the rest is mysticism.

L.F.F.

#### GYNAECOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

*Die Gynäkologischen Operationen.* Von Heinrich Martius. (Pp. 434 + xvi, with illustrations, some in colour.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1954.

In this useful reference volume all the standard gynaecological operations are described in the minutest detail, even abdominal incisions. All the operations are explained by superb illustrations.

Some of the opinions expressed are not quite in keeping with modern trends in gynaecology; for instance the author is in favour of total hysterectomy in cases of associated cervical pathology where a hysterectomy is indicated, but in the absence of cervical pathology he advises subtotal hysterectomy in young women. He quotes a mortality rate of 3.6% in total hysterectomy in a series of 2,305 cases and 1.9% in subtotal hysterectomy in a series of 4,575 cases. The corresponding figures in his own clinic for 4 years (1950-1953) were 3.2% and 1.9% in total and subtotal hysterectomy respectively. (These figures are the author's. The contrary has been found in many centres.)

The author states that the incidence of carcinoma developing in the stump is in the region of 0.6% and this therefore compares favourably with the much higher mortality of total hysterectomy; and furthermore 50% of these carcinoma cases are cured (quoting

J. Ries of the Frauenklinik, München). He concludes that he is against the world-wide predilection for total hysterectomy.

The author regards the Schauta operation as effective as the Wertheim for carcinoma of the cervix. This opinion is shared by only a limited number of authorities. S. Mitra of Calcutta, who is an exponent of the Schauta opinion performs a pelvic lymphadenectomy in addition a few weeks after the radical vaginal operation.

This volume can be recommended for its operative technique.

J.B.N.

#### DIAGNOSIS IN CHILDREN

*Pediatric Diagnosis.* By Morris Green, M.D. and Julius B. Richmond, M.D. (Pp. 436 + xvii.) Edinburgh and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1954.

*Contents:* Section I. The Pediatric History. Section II. Physical Examination. 1. The Pediatric physical Examination. 2. Examination of the Head. 3. Examination of the Head. 4. Examination of the Eyes. 5. Examination of the Ears. 6. Examination of the Mouth. 7. Examination of the Tongue. 8. Examination of the Lower Jaw. 9. Examination of the Salivary Glands. 10. Examination of the Teeth. 11. Speech. 12. Examination of the Throat. 13. Examination of the Neck. 14. Examination of the Chest. 15. Examination of the Heart. 16. The Breasts. 17. Examination of the Abdomen. 18. Anus and Rectum. 19. Genitalia. 20. Examination of the Skeletal System. 21. Examination of the Muscular System. 22. The Neurologic Examination. 23. Developmental Neurology. 24. Examination of the Skin. Section III. 25. Disturbances in Growth. 26. Failure to Gain; Failure to Thrive; Weight Loss. 27. Fever. 28. Edema. 29. Cyanosis. 30. Symptoms Referable to the Urinary Tract. 31. Symptoms Related to Sexual Development. 32. Coma. 33. Convulsions. 34. Intellectual Retardation. 35. Lymphadenopathy. 36. Leg Pains. 37. Tumors, Swellings, Masses. 38. Understature. 39. Gigantism, Overstature. 40. Obesity. 41. Anorexia. 42. Regurgitation and Vomiting. 43. Constipation. 44. Diarrhea. 45. Melena. 46. Abdominal Pain. 47. Symptoms Referable to the Respiratory Tract. 48. Cough. 49. Dyspnea. 50. Stridor, Noisy Breathing, Wheezing. 51. Pallor. Section IV. Health Supervision. 52. Introduction. 53. Prenatal Considerations. 54. Infancy. 55. Preschool Period (1 to 5 Years). 56. The School Years. 57. Adolescence. Appendix. Index.

The authors state in their preface that they 'have been concerned with helping students and practitioners increase their diagnostic skill through a systematic and integrated approach to patient study that can be readily applied at the bedside or in the office'. They have been very successful.

The book is divided into 4 sections, viz. (I) Introduction, which includes the Pediatric History, (II) Pediatric Physical Examination, (III) Signs and Symptoms, and (IV) Health Supervision.

Throughout the book great emphasis is laid upon the psychological aspects of development and disease—a greatly neglected topic in the past.

The physical examination is discussed in great detail. It is gratifying to see the art of clinical examination placed in its correct perspective in a modern text-book.

The chapters on fever, disturbances of growth, sexual development, and jaundice are excellent. However, some rare conditions, e.g. muscular dystrophy, have nearly a whole page devoted to them, while tuberculous spondylitis has only half a paragraph. As the book is strictly diagnostic, dissertations on therapy, e.g. surgery in poliomyelitis, are not entirely necessary.

The chapter on health supervision is extremely practical and full of useful data. It indicates the role of the physician in all aspects of child life commencing pre-natally and ending after adolescence.

The references are given after the up-to-date quoted extracts—a most useful method.

The book is full of accurate modern data and deserves to be recommended to all interested in the art of medicine.

J.L.B.

#### CANCER

*Cancer.* By Lauren V. Ackerman, M.D. and Juan A. del Regato, M.D. Second Edition. (Pp. 1201, with 702 illustrations. £9 11s. 3d.) St. Louis, U.S.A.: C. V. Mosby Co. 1954.

*Contents:* Part I. Chapter 1. Introduction. 2. Cancer Research. 3. Pathology of Cancer. 4. Surgery of Cancer. 5. Radiotherapy of Cancer. Part II. 6. Cancer of the Skin. 7. Cancer of the Respiratory System and Upper Digestive Tract. 8. Tumors of the Thyroid Gland. 9. Tumors of the Mediastinum. 10. Cancer of the Digestive Tract. 11. Cancer of the Genitourinary Tract. 12. Cancer of the Male Genital Organs. 13. Tumors of the Suprarenal Gland. 14. Cancer of the Female Genital Organs. 15. Cancer of the Mammary Gland. 16. Malignant Tumors of Bone. 17. Sarcomas of the Soft Tissues. 18. Cancer of the Eye. 19. Hodgkin's Disease. 20. Leukemia.

The 1st edition of this book was an unqualified success, as shown by the fact that it was reprinted twice within 1 year of its publica-

tion. Now comes the 2nd edition, thoroughly revised and partly rewritten.

This is an excellent reference book on the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of cancer. It is well produced and most liberally illustrated with over 700 photographs, graphs and diagrams. What will be of greater benefit is the most extensive list of references at the end of each chapter—here there is the very common American tendency of virtually ignoring the British literature on the subject.

The first part of the book is devoted to certain general considerations concerning cancer and its treatment. This is a most interesting section, giving valuable information on incidence, the early detection of cancer, carcinogenesis and general principles in cancer treatment.

The second part of the book deals in detail with cancer as it affects particular structures. Each section is described systematically, with a brief account of the relative anatomy followed by etiology, gross and microscopic pathology, clinical picture, differential diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Although details of surgical and radiotherapeutic technique are not included, the sections on treatment are comprehensive accounts of modern therapy—a good example is the section on the treatment of skin cancer (excluding melanoma) which comprises 13 pages.

In a reference book of this standing it is difficult to single out any portions for particular praise but there can be no doubt that the chapter on cancer of the Respiratory System and Upper Digestive Tract deserves special mention, with almost 300 pages of the most detailed description of cancer in those areas. Similarly the chapter on cancer of the Mammary Gland is a model of its kind.

It is interesting to note that the authors feel that the evidence is suggestive that carcinoma follows chronic cystic disease of the breast in greater proportion than normally expected.

Here unquestionably is an excellent book which can be read with enjoyment and great benefit by all clinicians and should provide a valuable source of reference for a long time to come.

D. J. du P.

#### BLOOD GROUPS

*Blood Groups in Man.* By R. R. Race, Ph.D. (Cambridge), M.R.C.S., F.R.S. and Ruth Sanger, Ph.D. (London), B.Sc. (Sydney). Second Edition. (Pp. 400 + xvi. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. Introduction. 2. Blood Groups and Human Genetics. 3. The ABO Blood Groups. 4. Secretion in the Saliva of the Antigens of the ABO System. 5. The MNSs Blood Group. 6. The P Blood Groups. 7. The Rh Antigens. 8. The Inheritance of the Rh Blood Groups. 9. Rh Antibodies. 10. The Lutheran Blood Groups. 11. The Kell Blood Groups. 12. The Lewis Blood Groups. 13. The Duffy Blood Groups. 14. The Kidd Blood Groups. 15. Other Blood Groups. 16. Methods used in Blood Grouping. 17. Identification of Blood Group Antibodies. 18. The Multiplicity of Blood Group Combinations. 19. Blood Groups and Problems of Identity and Parentage. 20. Blood Groups and Disease. 21. Blood Groups and Linkage.

The 2nd edition of Race and Sanger, like the first, gives a full account of the more theoretical aspects of blood-group knowledge; it is thus complementary to the other British works—Mollison on clinical applications and of Mourant on anthropology. It is a first-class exposition and an essential book for blood-group workers and clinical pathologists, but I believe that many others, including those clinicians who do not take fright at blood-group nomenclature, will read it with unexpected pleasure. The science of blood groups is a complicated but very elegant subject, and Race and Sanger succeed in conveying, from first-hand experience, some of the excitement of the research worker. There are occasional most attractive touches of enthusiasm, such as the remark that Cwde is 'a fine chromosome'.

This edition has 2 new chapters, on the Kidd groups and on linkage, and the others have been revised to include many recent advances such as blood groups and disease, the factor, and the extraordinary chromosome -D- which appeared briefly in an addendum to the 1st edition. Race and Sanger of course are hardened adherents of the theory of triple linked Rh genes which Fisher had the effrontery to suggest after it had been rejected by Wiener, and of the CDE notation for the Rh factors which causes such distress on the other side of the Atlantic. Genetic controversy apart, this approach makes life a great deal easier for the beginner who would like to understand Rh without superhuman efforts. Rh, without CDE is like arithmetic without Arabic numerals.

Criticisms are all very minor ones. Some reviewers objected to the order in which the chapters were arranged in the 1st edition; this has not been altered but I do not find it offensive. Altogether Race and Sanger is a very good book, and one that more than repays the labour of reading for review. This is high praise.

P.B.

#### ABILITY SCALES FOR BABIES

*The Abilities of Babies.* By Ruth Griffiths, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.Ps.S. (Pp. 229 + x, with illustrations. 20s.) London: University of London Press Ltd. 1954.

*Contents.* 1. Introduction. Part 1. Criteria for a New Technique for Testing Infants. 2. Observation of Normal Infants and Test Construction. 3. A Study of Other Tests and a New Classification. 4. Clinical Implications of the New Scale. Part 2. Standardisation of the Scale and Diagnostic Implications. 5. Standardisation of the Scale. 6. The Frequency Distribution and General Validity of the Scale. 7. Profile Studies of Normal Infants. 8. Differential Diagnosis of Mental Handicap in Special Cases. Part 3. Administering the Scale. 9. Environment for the Testing and Standardised Apparatus. 10. The Approach to the Infant in the Test Situation. 11. Administering the Locomotor Scale (Scale A). 12. Administering the Personal-Social Scale (Scale B). 13. Administering the Hearing and Speech Scale (Scale C). 14. Administering the Hand and Eye Scale (Scale D). 15. Administering the Performance Scale (Scale E). Appendix 1. Scoring the Tests and Assessing Results. Appendix 2. Complete Inventory of Test Items. Bibliography. Index.

In recent years, the work of Gesell and others has stimulated research in the difficult field of the management of intelligence and ability in young children. The book under review sets out the results of many years of investigation into the mental development of babies from birth to 2 years of age. Out of this investigation has come a system of approach which, the author claims, gives interpretive results parallel to those achieved for older children with the Binet-Simon and Terman-Nerril scales.

Dr. Griffiths uses a 5-scale test which has the following components: (1) a locomotor scale measuring muscular movements of all kinds; (2) the personal-social scale which assesses the child's progress within its social setting; (3) hearing and speech in the sense of active listening and the acquisition of a vocabulary of sounds to be built up into words and sentences; (4) hand and eye development with emphasis on manipulative activities; and (5) tests of performance and ability to reason. Each section contains 52 finely graded items arranged in order of difficulty, some 260 in all. Nevertheless, a series of tests for any one child can be carried out in less than 30 minutes.

The actual tests are detailed. At the end of the book there is an appendix in which all tests are itemized in tabular form for each individual month of age up to the end of the 2nd year of life. Much thought and careful painstaking investigation has been put into this work and the book is recommended in particular to the paediatrician, child psychologist and child psychiatrist. There are several illustrative diagrams in the text and 23 excellent photographs.

C.A.

#### PAEDIATRICS FOR THE PRACTITIONER

*Paediatrics for the Practitioner.* Edited by Wilfrid Gaisford, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., and Reginald Lightwood, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H. Volume 3. Pp. 670 + xi with 159 illustrations. 81s. 6d. London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., South African Office—Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Limited, Durban. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. General Comments on Examination and Clinical Signs. 2. Congenital Malformations (including Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida). 3. Injuries of the Central Nervous System. 4. Infections of the Nervous System. 5. Infections of the Nervous Systems. 6. Tumours, Cysts and Abscesses of the Central Nervous System: Neurofibromatosis. 7. Intracranial Vascular Lesions. 8. Degenerative Diseases of the Nervous System. 9. Cerebral Palsy. 10. Epilepsy and Convulsions. 11. Allergy—General. 12. Eczema—Atopic Dermatitis. 13. Urticaria. 14. Asthma. 15. Serum Diseases. 16. Drug Allergy. 17. Gastro-Intestinal Allergy. 18. Periodic Syndrome. 19. Allergic Rhinitis. 20. Congenital and Hereditary Disorders of the Skin. 21. Diseases of the Skin due to Physical and Chemical Agents. 22. Bacterial and Virus Diseases of the Skin. 23. Fungoid and Parasitic Infections. 24. Neoplasms of the Skin. 25. Other Disorders of the Skin. 26. Hereditary and Congenital Defects: Birth Injury. 27. Cataract. 28. Refractive Errors. 29. Infections: Injuries. 30. Disorders of the Eyelids, Lacrimal System and Orbit. 31. Abnormality of the Ocular Fundus. 32. Retrolental Fibroplasia. 33. Virus Diseases. 34. Rickettsial Infections. 35. Bacterial Infections. 36. The Treponematoses. 37. Leptospirosis (Including Weil's Disease or Leptospirosis Ictero-haemorrhagica. 38. Rat Bite Fever. 39. Mycotic Infections. 40. Toxoplasmosis. 41. Diseases of Muscles. 42. Fractures and Joint Injuries. 43. Chronic Non-Tuberculous Bone Infection. 44. Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints. 45. Acute Infections of Bones. 46. Osteochondritis Juvenilis. 47. Congenital Malformations and Acquired Deformities. 48. Bone Tumours. 49. Surgical Approach to Paralysis. 50. Peripheral Vascular Disease in Children. 51. Pink Disease. 52. Rheumatoid

Arthritis (Still's Disease). 53. Acute and Subacute Generalized Lupus Erythematosus. 54. Dermatomyositis and Similar Diseases. 55. Polyarteritis Nodosa. 56. Sarcoidosis. 57. Endocardial Fibro-Elastosis. Index.

This volume, the last of the series of three, maintains the standard of its predecessors. Like them it gives the practitioner in search of information a brief survey of the known facts on the subject without obliging him to spend time sifting them out from a long dissertation.

This might even be the most valuable volume of the three since, among other things, it deals with diseases of the nervous system and the infectious fevers. In both these fields the general practitioner is likely to look relatively frequently for text-book assistance. Examination of the nervous system of the infant and young child is not easy, and the interpretation of the results of examination often difficult; and the section on examination of the nervous system and the clinical signs of nervous disorders will be found to be most helpful. The section dealing with the infectious fevers is clear and, mostly, explicit though in the treatment of acute pyogenic meningitis massive therapy is mentioned several times but nowhere defined. The dermatological section is probably not the least helpful section of the 3 volumes, though it inclines towards the use of violently coloured remedies which are unlikely to find much favour with the parents. A considerable number of relatively rare conditions are discussed with commendable brevity but the whole ophthalmological part has suffered from too much condensation. It is very clear and concise but so concentrated that it has practically crystallized. Strabismus is discussed in 2 pages. Myopia, hypermetropia, and astigmatism—which the practitioner has to explain to the parents with some frequency and

at some length—are together allotted 2 pages, while retrolental fibroplasia, which in some parts of the world is now a major cause of blindness, is allowed 3 pages for an admirable survey.

There is a small note above the index to this volume stating that a general index for all three will be published. Whether this is part of the series—and the purchase—or whether it is an optional addition is not stated, but the indexing of each volume would be sufficient for the most purposes.

In the review of the first volume of the series it was stated that the financial outlay involved would be justifiable. After perusal of the second and third volumes, that comment is still valid.

F.J.F.

#### MEMORIES OF THE DISSECTING ROOM

*Living with the Dead.* By D. J. Coetzee. Second Edition. (Pp. 89. 10s.) Printed in Holland. 1954.

There is something particularly pleasing about recollections of one's past, and the smell of formalin can still evoke in the decrepit doctor pleasant memories of his days in anatomy before the shades of the prison-house had quite closed about him. This book, now in its 2nd edition, should, for Cape Town men at least, have something of the same effect. Mr. Coetzee is a character; a connoisseur of coffee, an expert manufacturer of neckties, and the possessor of a piano guaranteed for 5,000 years. His book may safely be offered to a maiden aunt of reasonably progressive views, and in spite of one or two minor imperfections it should give amusement to all who passed through the Cape Town department under his benign supervision.

P.B.