

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

AIDS TO PRESCRIBING

The Hospitals Pharmacopoeia and Formulary, 1954. Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope, 1954. Pp. 141. First edition.

There have been many selected lists of prescriptions used in certain hospitals and clinics in South Africa. Such "formularies" have been prepared for the convenience of local pharmacists and prescribers. The recently qualified young doctor has often found difficulty at first in acquiring the art of prescription-writing and has sought a short-cut to easy 'ready-made' prescriptions.

The appearance in South Africa of the present volume, which follows very closely the National Formulary (1952) used widely in Great Britain, is an important and useful step forward. It will help to make prescribing and dispensing easier and more convenient for all concerned in hospitals controlled by the Cape Provincial Administration. Those in general practice will also find the book of value. It should form the basis of a National Formulary in this country and, with regular revision, the prescribing doctor will be kept up-to-date with advances made in drug therapy and pharmaceutical products.

Many official (B.P., B.P.C.) formulae appear in this formulary but many preparations and formulae have been included which have not yet been accepted in these official books; a certain number of formulae are included because of their traditional use. It is despairing that in spite of persistent recommendations that the Metric System be used the Imperial System is still used in many prescriptions; this is because it is still the practice among doctors in the Commonwealth to use the 'antiquated' system for older remedies and the Metric System for modern ones. The formulae are given in full English, not in Latin; this conforms with the request from the B.P. authorities. The formulary titles are, however, given in Latin with the English name as subtitle.

There is unfortunately no proper index of contents which would give a bird's-eye view of the book; there is, however, a very comprehensive general index. The contents of the formulary are arranged as follows. There is a list of preparations classified on a pharmacological basis according to the main systems of the body affected by particular drugs. The formulary proper which follows makes up the bulk of the book; it consists of a general section and then many sections with formulae used for special purposes and administered by different routes. At the back of the book are lists of proprietary or trade names, and the names of equivalent or identical drugs or preparations.

A few inaccuracies appear in the book, e.g. methadone is the approved name for amidone or physetone (p. 107), and aminophylline is now official for the longer term theophylline with ethylenediamine. For pituitary (posterior lobe) injection which is no longer 'official' there are instead Injection of Oxytocin and Injection of Vasopressin; as a vasoconstrictor drug (p. 4) noradrenaline is better and will have to be included. Paraldehyde enema (p. 5) is in a wrong sub-group. The preface does not read smoothly and some of the points emphasized are not easy to follow.

The list of potentially harmful drugs referred to on p. 113 has already been much publicized, and readers of this *Journal* (11 December 1954) will have noted the regulations governing the use of these drugs, habit-forming drugs, and poisonous drugs.

The material is well and clearly set out in a book of pocket size, and has a useful feature in the blank opposite pages throughout the volume. An Afrikaans edition is being prepared; it is to be hoped that the nomenclature used will be practical and acceptable to all prescribers.

There is no question about the value and need of this book. It will become a 'standard' volume throughout the country, and every doctor should get his copy now, and the Afrikaans edition when it becomes available.

N.S.

TEXT-BOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Text-Book of Ophthalmology, Volume VI. Injuries. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, K.C.V.O., M.A., LL.D., D.Sc. (St. And.), Ph.D. (London), M.D., F.R.C.S., Hon. D.Sc. (Northwestern), M.D. (Dublin), D.M. (Utrecht, Strasbourg), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.A.C.S. (Pp. 6,912, with 1,145 illustrations. 105s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1954.

Contents: Section 18; Injuries. 51. The Nature and Incidence of Ocular Injuries. 52. Concussion Injuries. 53. Wounds. 54. Retained Foreign Bodies. 55. Multiple Explosion and Gunshot Injuries. 56. The Indirect Effects of Mechanical Injuries. 57. Thermal Injuries. 58. Ultrasonic Injuries. 59. Electrical Injuries. 60. Radiational Injuries. 61. Chemical Injuries. 62. Stress Injuries. 63. Injuries.

Twenty-two years have elapsed since the first volume of Sir Stewart Duke-Elder's Text-book of Ophthalmology was published, and this year brings us the final two volumes, namely Volumes VI and VII. Ever since the first volume was published in 1932, ophthalmologists throughout the world have awaited almost with impatience the appearance of each succeeding volume, and as each has appeared they have marvelled at their comprehensive nature and the high standard that has been maintained throughout.

This book doubtless ranks as one of the greatest reference works of our time. When confronted with any new or unusual problem in ophthalmology it would be interesting to know what percentage of practising ophthalmologists refer in the first instance to 'Duke-Elder'.

Volume VI devotes all of its 1067 pages to the subject of Injuries. The text, the reproduction of diagrams, photographs and colour prints, and the bibliography are all up to the high standard we have been taught by former volumes to expect. In addition to covering familiar ground very thoroughly types of injury little known to the average ophthalmologist are included, such as ultrasonic injuries, atomic and radiational injuries, numerous chemical injuries sustained in modern industrial processes, agricultural injuries and stress injuries from raised and lowered barometric pressures, vibration and acceleration.

The chapters on Perforating Wounds and retained foreign bodies are particularly well done. Every type of localization of foreign bodies is referred to and illustrated. These chapters are among the very few in the complete text-book in which illustrations of operative procedure are to be found.

If one should criticize this and all former volumes, the first point is that the shiny surface of the paper causes light reflections sufficient to obscure the print unless great care is paid to the method of illuminating the page. This is a definite source of irritation which one feels could have been eliminated by selecting a different type of paper.

In a volume on injuries one might hope to find a chapter on their medico-legal aspects but this has been omitted. None the less one can be sure that this volume will be one of the standard books of reference in most medico-legal cases concerned with eye injuries.

The final Volume VII which is the smallest of the series, is printed on more readable paper and consists of two parts. Firstly there is an abbreviated Summary of Systemic Ophthalmology. This consists of short notes on sulphonamides, antibiotics and steroids which have come into use since the earlier volumes were written. Lists of infective and non-infective systemic diseases, central nervous diseases, diseases of unknown etiology and skin diseases are given with short notes on etiology, ocular manifestations and treatment of each.

The second part of this Volume VII is a general index of all the volumes. This is most useful as it enables one to look up references in a single index instead of delving into the index of each volume separately.

Comprehensive as these seven volumes are, the most noteworthy lack is an adequate volume on operative surgery. It was hoped by many that a volume on surgery would complete the series, but Sir Stewart has decided against this possibly because there have been

several excellent and comprehensive text-books on Ophthalmic Surgery in recent years.

Ophthalmology owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Sir Stewart-Duke Elder and to all those first-rate workers who have assisted him in producing this monumental work. In the compass of seven Volumes the practising ophthalmologist has the equivalent of a reference library, which will stand him in good stead for most of the problems which confront him.

R.L.H.T.

PRACTICAL OBSTETRICS

Practical Obstetrics. By Bruce T. Mayes, M.V.O., M.B., B.S. (Sidney), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 500 + xiv, with illustrations. 87s. 6d.) London: Angus & Robertson, Ltd.

Contents: 1. Pre-Eclamptic Toxaemia. 2. Diagnosis and Management of Hypertension in Pregnancy. 3. Eclampsia. 4. A Summing-up: The Present-Day Management of Toxaemia of Pregnancy. 5. Hydatid Mole and Toxaemia of Pregnancy. 6. The Rh. Factor in Pregnancy. 7. Rubella and Pregnancy. 8. The Pregnant Diabetic. 9. Fibroids in Pregnancy, Labour, and the Puerperium. 10. Sterility: The First Consultation. 11. Sterility: Further Investigations. 12. Artificial Insemination. 13. Ante-Partum Haemorrhage. 14. The Long Labour and its Management. 15. Prolonged Labour, "Disproportion" and "Inertia". 16. Breech Presentation and the Lovsett Technique. 17. Local Anaesthesia to the Pelvic Floor and Perineum. 18. The Occipito-Posterior. 19. Brow Presentation. 20. Prolapsed Cord. 21. Forceps Delivery. 22. Episiotomy: Complete Tear of the Perineum—Technique of Repair, and Nursing Care. 23. Induction of Labour. 24. Therapeutic Abortion: Hysterotomy; Sterilization. 25. Post-Partum Haemorrhage. 26. Traumatic Post-Partum Haemorrhage. 27. Acute Inversion of the Uterus. 28. Anuria. 29. Lower-Segment Caesarean Section. 30. Vaginal Delivery following Caesarean Section. 31. Abdominal Pregnancy. 32. Post-Maturity. 33. Infertility. 34. Supports in Pregnancy and Lactation. 35. Craniotomy or Caesarean Section. 36. Constriction Ring. 37. Post-Operative Intestinal Obstruction. 38. Consulting Room. Epilogue. Index.

This is an unusual text-book in which the author's knowledge and experience are clearly reflected. The presentation of actual cases illustrating obstetrical problems with discussion of the treatment is a most instructive way of clarifying these difficulties, while the reader should find the philosophical approach to obstetrical complications, and to the patient, most interesting.

Professor Mayes' description of toxæmia deserves special mention, particularly the discussion of the relative importance of the various clinical signs of this most perplexing condition. The author's understanding of human nature is obvious from his description of rest at home as compared with rest in hospital.

The chapter on the pregnant diabetic deals with hormonal as well as the conventional treatment, while the necessity for specialists in the different branches of medicine to work together is also emphasized. Mention is made too of the danger of rupturing the membranes during the induction of labour in cases of intra-uterine foetal death.

The treatment of brow presentation is simple, according to the author, namely Caesarean section. Some authorities may consider this too radical; as far as the rest of the book is concerned, however, the more conservative school of thought is followed.

The literary style of this 'companion' and its conciseness make for easy reading. Those interested in refreshing their knowledge of obstetrics can do no better than to read this volume once or twice.

J.B.N.

RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Rheumatic Diseases: Diagnosis and Treatment. By Eugene F. Traut, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 942 + xvi, with 192 illustrations. £8 10s. 0d.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1952.

Contents: 1. Etiology, Classification and Pathogenesis of Diseases of Joints. 2. The Nervous System and Rheumatic Diseases. 3. Psychologic Factors in Rheumatoid Arthritis. 4. Joints and Periarticular Tissues in Immobilized Extremities. 5. Focal Infection. 6. Pathology of Joint Disease. 7. Histopathology of Muscle in Rheumatoid Arthritis and Other Diseases. 8. The Collagen Diseases. 9. Symp-

toms, Findings and Diagnosis of Joint Disease. 10. Rheumatic Pains in Children. 11. Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (Still's Disease). 12. The Skin in Rheumatism. 13. The Ocular Manifestations of Rheumatic Diseases. 14. Gout. 15. Tuberculous Arthritis (Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints). 16. Fibrositis. 17. Rheumatic Fever. 18. Endocarditis. 19. Rheumatic Diseases Affecting the Feet. 20. Rheumatic Diseases of the Back. 21. Osteoporosis. 22. Disorders of the Intervertebral Disks. 23. Sciatica. 24. Pain About the Shoulder. 25. Disability of the Upper Extremities in Coronary Disease (Shoulder-Hand Syndrome). 26. Psychogenic Rheumatism. 27. Lupus Erythematosus Disseminatus. 28. Scleroderma. 29. Periarthritis Nodosa (Polyarthritis Nodosa, Necrotizing Arteritis, Panarteritis). 30. Dermatomyositis. 31. Psoriasis and Arthritis. 32. Reiter's Disease. 33. Hemorrhagic Arthropathies. 34. Hypertrophic Pulmonary Osteoarthropathy (Clubbed Fingers, Hippocratic Fingers, Marie-Bamberger's Disease). 35. Abnormal Calcification in Skeletal Disease. 36. Prognosis of Joint Disease. 37. Treatment of Joint Disease (General). 38. Medicinal Treatment of Chronic, Nonspecific Arthritis. 39. The Relation of the Endocrine Glands to Rheumatic Diseases. 40. Food in Arthritis. 41. Vitamins in the Treatment of Arthritis. 42. Physical Medicine in the Treatment of Arthritis. 43. Manipulation. 44. Occupational Therapy. 45. Roentgen Therapy of Arthritis. 46. Vaccines in Treatment of Arthritis. 47. Gold and Other Heavy Metals in Arthritis. 48. Prevention of Deformities in Joint Disease. 49. Surgical Treatment of Arthritis. 50. An Outline of the Approach to Treatment of Chronic Joint Disease of Unknown Origin. 51. Compensation (Legal) Features of Rheumatism—Its Industrial, Insurance and Military Aspects. Index.

There are not many well-known books available which deal comprehensively with the rheumatic diseases, so that a newcomer to the field does have a place. The chapters are all compiled by the author himself, though acknowledgement is made to various collaborators, with the result that one is offered the considered opinion on all aspects of rheumatology by an author with wide experience and interest in this field. The book has rightly omitted theories and therapies considered outmoded, and avoids the error of uncritical enthusiasm for the newer endocrine therapy in the arthritides. It is well worth reading by the general physician, the rheumatologist, and the student.

M.H.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ANAESTHESIA

A.M.A. Fundamentals of Anesthesia. Prepared under the Editorial Direction of the Consultant Committee for Revision of Fundamentals of Anesthesia, a publication of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. Third Edition. (Pp 279 + xvi with illustrations). Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Company. 1954.

Contents: 1. Physiology of Respiration. 2. Chemistry and Physics. 3. Preoperative Care. 4. General Anesthesia. 5. Regional (Conduction) Anesthesia. 6. Special Applications. 7. Postoperative Care. 8. Complications. 9. Miscellaneous Considerations: Important Concepts for Inhalation Therapy. 10. Records. Appendix. Index.

The third edition of this very excellent book is of a standard that is only to be expected of such a distinguished panel of authors. The first two editions were published during World War II as a manual of instruction in anaesthesia for medical officers. It served this purpose so well that it has now become a text-book of instruction in the basic principles of anaesthesia for medical students, interns and registrars. The presentation of the subject matter is clear and precise, and allows a rapid revision of those fundamentals which are so necessary to anyone who wishes to give safe anaesthetics. With the increasing complexity of modern anaesthesia a thorough knowledge of the physiology of respiration is essential, and this has been very well covered. The chapter on regional anaesthesia is excellent. The relaxants, however, have not been very adequately dealt with, and the dangers of thiopentone might have been more forcibly stressed. The widespread use of relaxants in this country by the occasional anaesthetist must lead to a large number of deaths. A large proportion of these could be avoided if the very real dangers of these drugs were more widely understood.

The importance of a clear air-way and adequate oxygenation of the patient is well illustrated with diagrams. This book can be thoroughly recommended to anyone who may be called upon to administer anaesthetics.

P.R.M.