

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### HISTOPATHOLOGY OF THE SKIN

*Histopathology of the Skin.* Second Edition. By Walter F. Lever, M.D. (Pp. 518 + xviii, with 281 illustrations. 96s.) London, Philadelphia, Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1954.

*Contents:* 1. Introduction. 2. Embryology of the Skin. 3. Histology of the Skin. 4. Laboratory Methods. 5. Morphology of Mesodermal Cells. 6. Congenital Diseases (Genodermatoses). 7. Noninfectious Vesicular and Bullous Diseases. 8. Noninfectious Inflammatory Diseases. 9. Eruptions Due to Drugs. 10. Degenerative Diseases. 11. Bacterial Diseases. 12. Spirochetal Diseases. 13. Fungus Diseases. 14. Diseases Caused by Protozoa. 15. Diseases caused by Viruses. 16. Metabolic Diseases. 17. Systemic Diseases of Unknown Cause. 18. Epidermal Tumors. 19. Mesodermal Tumors. 20. Pigmented Nevi and Malignant Melanoma. 21. Lymphoma and Myelosis. Glossary. Index.

In the last decade or so a small number of workers in a few countries have done a great deal to raise dermatology from the status of a terminological mystery to a science. One of these men is W. F. Lever, and the first edition of his book was a praiseworthy contribution to the new scientific dermatology.

The second edition of Lever's book is still of handy size (6½ inches + 9¼ inches + 1¼ inches) and, thanks to good planning, is very easy and pleasing to use. The systematically grouped diseases appear in conveniently large print on glossy paper and each begins with a few lines on the clinical aspects, for the benefit of pathologists. A description of the histopathology follows and this is neither too long nor too short. Where applicable there is a statement of the differing views on the aetiology, usually with the author's opinion as well. Finally there is a paragraph on the differential diagnosis, with cross-references to other parts of the book. The diseases in a chapter are clearly separated from each other and the sub-headings are in a bold type that stands out well. Selected references are placed at the end of each chapter and are grouped according to the diseases to which they refer. There is a useful glossary of histopathological terms at the back of the book. In the index, numerals in bold-face type indicate the main reference to the subject.

Additions to the diseases discussed in the first edition are: beryllium granuloma, papular myxoedema, porphyria, ochronosis, hibernoma, and haemangiopericytoma. The descriptions of the vesicular and bullous diseases and the chapter on naevi and melanomata have been rewritten, and there are improvements in the description of the atrophic lesions of the vulva. There have been additions to and improvements in the photomicrographs that closely follow the text.

The quality of the subject matter in this book is of the highest order. The text is concise, accurate, sound and scientific throughout. The only fault that the reviewer found which is worth mentioning is the omission of the subject of kerato-acanthoma or molluscum sebaceum, which was discussed in several papers that were published before 1954.

There are bigger, costlier, more encyclopaedic and heavier

books (one weighs 9 lb.) on the histopathology of the skin available today, but none of them will be as generally useful as Lever. This book can be wholeheartedly recommended to all those who study or practise dermatology or pathology.

J.C.E.K.

### THE BODY FLUIDS

*The Body Fluids.* By J. Russell Elkington, M.D. and T. S. Danowski, M.D. Pp. xxii + 626, with 175 illustrations. 80s. Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* Part I. Basic Physiology. 1. Body Fluid Dynamics. 2. Paleochemistry Evolution, and Comparative Physiology of the Body Fluids. 3. Methods of Studying Body Fluid Distribution. Part II. Basic Principles as Common Denominators in Clinical Situations. 4. The Water and the Electrolytes of the Body in Health. 5. Mechanisms which Guard the Volume and Composition of the Body Fluids in Health. 6. Common Denominators in Disease States Leading to Deficits of Body Constituents. 7. The Physiologic Effects of Water and Electrolyte Deficits and Their Treatment. 8. Common Denominators in Disease States Resulting in an Excess of Water or Electrolytes and Their Physiologic Significance. 9. Therapy of Excess of Water or the Chief Electrolytes. 10. Anion-Cation Balance and pH: Physicochemical and Physiological Mechanisms. 11. Anion-Cation Balance and pH: Clinical Disturbances and Their Treatment. Part III. Disease Entities. 12. Renal Failure. 13. Congestive Heart Failure: A new Steady State. 14. Cirrhosis and Ascites. 15. Diabetic Ketosis and Coma. 16. Familial Periodic Paralysis. 17. Water and Electrolyte Changes in Relation to the Anterior Pituitary, Thyroid, Gonads, and the Pancreatic Islets. 18. Hypo- and Hyperfunction of the Adrenal Cortex. 19. Diabetes Insipidus and Other Disorders of the Antidiuretic System. 20. Pediatric Fluid Disorders and Their Therapy. 21. Body Fluid Problems in Surgical Patients. Part IV. Clinical Dicta and Practical Therapeutics. 22. Clinical and Laboratory Assessment of Body Fluid Disturbances. 23. Range of Requirement of Individual Fluid Constituents and Their Homeostatic Limitations. 24. Technics and Solutions in Replacement Therapy. 25. Vivodialysis in the Therapy of Excesses or Deficits. Appendix. The Balance Technic.

There has been much advance in recent years in our knowledge of the physiology and biochemistry of the body fluids and the disturbances that take place in diseased states. Much has been achieved in a relatively short time and the great advance in this knowledge will be further increased with benefit in its application to sick people.

The authors of this profusely illustrated and well documented volume give a full account of the basic physiology and practical therapeutics of this subject. They present a unified concept of the dynamic interactions of the body fluids which can be used by the physician as a background for the analysis of disturbances of the body fluids observed in his patients. The principal divisions of the body fluids are described, with illustrations of the types of chemical and physical forces in fluid systems. An outline is given of the various constituents of the body fluids related to the total water-content of the various fluid-phases and to one another. The problems that arise in clinical practice regarding replacement therapy are discussed. The limitations and usefulness of laboratory analyses and the clinical assessment of the patient are emphasized. Deficits in calcium, magnesium, protein and other

electrolytes are discussed in relation to particular disease-entities. The controversy that exists concerning the effects of posterior pituitary and adrenal cortex hormones upon electrolyte and water excretion is considered. Two chapters are devoted to the role of the hydrogen ion concentration in the body fluids and its physico-chemical regulation by buffer systems and the regulation and readjustment of the latter systems by the lungs and kidneys. The methods by which the composition of body fluids are estimated are described; direct analyses of tissues or entire carcasses, *in vitro* studies, the use of radio-active substances, and metabolic balance techniques. Reference is made to the defects of many test-substances used to determine the volume of the extracellular fluid (plasma and interstitial space). The availability of radio-active isotopes for use as tracer constituents in the body fluids, the development of the flame photometer for the rapid estimation of sodium and potassium, and the tremendous expansion of research in recent years have begun a new era in the study of water and electrolytes. This book gives a good insight into all aspects of the subject.

N.S.

## TOXICOLOGY

*Handbook of Poisons.* By Robert H. Dreisbach, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 426. Illustrated. \$3.00. Los Altos: Lange Medical Publications. 1955.

*Contents:* Section I. General Consideration of Poisons and Poisoning. 1. Emergency Management of Poisoning. 2. General Principles in the Treatment of Acute Poisoning. 3. Prevention of Poisoning. 4. The Physician's Legal and Medical Responsibility in Poisoning. Section II. Pesticides and Other Agricultural Poisons. 5. Chlorinated Insecticides. 6. Phosphate Ester Insecticides. 7. Miscellaneous Pesticides. 8. Rodenticides. Section III. Industrial Hazards. 9. Nitrogen Compounds. 10. Halogenated Hydrocarbons. 11. Alcohols and Glycols. 12. Esters, Aldehydes, Ketones, and Ethers. 13. Hydrocarbons. 14. Corrosives. 15. Metallic Poisons. 16. Cyanides, Sulfides, and Carbon Monoxide. 17. Pneumoconioses. Section IV. Household Chemicals. 18. Cosmetics. 19. Food Poisoning. 20. Miscellaneous Household Chemicals. Section V. Medicinal Poisons. 21. Analgesics and Antipyretics. 22. Anesthetics. 23. Depressants. 24. Drugs Affecting the Autonomic Nervous System. 25. Antiseptics. 25. Cardiac Drugs. 27. Chemotherapeutic Drugs. 28. Stimulants. 29. Irritants and Rubefacients. 30. Cathartics. 31. Endocrine Drugs. 32. Miscellaneous Therapeutic and Diagnostic Agents. Section VI. Plant and Animal Hazards. 33. Reptiles. 34. Arachnids and Insects. 35. Fish. 36. Plants. Appendix: Mechanical Resuscitation Equipment. Supplementary Oxygen Equipment. Index.

This volume of handy size for the pocket or the bag is one of a series of publications a few of which are already well known in this country. In this particular book there is concise presentation of facts relating to symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of poisoning by a large number and variety of toxic agents. Consideration is given not only to poisonous substances used medicinally but also to those encountered in industry, agriculture, in the home, and in nature. Some idea of the numerous classes of compounds dealt with is given by the list of contents at the head of this review. There are numerous tables, formulae, classifications, and some illustrations, e.g. methods of artificial respiration, resuscitating equipment, and poisonous fish. The newer antidotes used in metallic intoxication, viz. dimercaprol and sodium-calcium-edetate (edathamil calcium disodium), and the use of nalorphine are mentioned in the appropriate places. In connection with mushroom poisoning no mention is made of the possibility of symptoms being due to myceto-atropine.

There is no sharp line of division between toxicology and pharmacology. Much of interest and importance is to be found in this book for the daily need of physicians, pharmacists, and public health officials, as well as for its use in emergencies.

N.S.

## SYMPOSIUM ON HISTAMINE

*Ciba Foundation Symposium on Histamine.* Edited by Dr. G. E. W. Wolstenholme. Pp. xvi+472. 133 illustrations. 50/- net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1956.

*Contents:* Symposium of the Physiological and Pharmacological Societies at the Wellcome Foundation. Part I: Occurrence of histamine in the body. Chairman: W. Feldberg. Chairman's opening remarks. Distribution of histamine in the body by W. Feldberg. Histamine and mast cells by G. B. West. Histamine and intracellular particles by F. C. MacIntosh. Free and conjugated histamine by J. H. Gaddum. Short Communications: Histamine and mast cells by J. F. Riley. Action of 48/80 on the mast cell population and histamine content of the wall of the gastro-intestinal tract of the rat by I. Mota, W. T. Beraldo, A. G. Ferri and L. C. U. Junqueira. The isolation of imidazoleacetic acid riboside by

H. Tabor. Histaminopexic action of blood serum by J. L. Parrot and C. Laborde. Inhibition of histidine decarboxylase *in vivo* by derivatives of benzyl-1-isouquinoline by J. L. Parrot and C. Laborde. Part II: Release of histamine. Chairman: F. C. MacIntosh. The mechanism of histamine release by W. D. M. Paton. Measurement of histamine-releasing activity by J. L. Mongar. Histamine release by long chain molecules by B. N. Halpern. Histamine release by naturally occurring substances by M. Rocha e Silva. Histamine release and anaphylaxis by H. O. Schild. Short Communications: Antihistamine drugs and histamine release, especially in anaphylaxis by J. J. Reuse. Release of histamine—clinical considerations by H. O. J. Collier. The release of cellular histamine in rabbit blood by dextran and dextran sulphate by C. G. Haining. Histamine release and the angio-oedema type of reaction by M. Schachter. The mode of histamine binding in animal tissues by F. C. MacIntosh. Endogenous histamine liberation in man by J. Lecomte. A slow reacting substance in anaphylaxis—'SRS-A' by W. E. Brocklehurst. Some discrepancies in the histamine theory of anaphylaxis in smooth muscle by D. F. Hawkins and L. M. Rosa. Part III: The origin and significance of histamine in the body. Chairman: Sir Henry Dale. The origin and fate of histamine in the body by R. W. Schayer. Histamine and gastric secretion by C. F. Code. Histamine and vasodilatation by R. F. Whelan. Histamine and nerves by U. S. von Euler. Skin histamine by W. L. M. Perry. The significance of histamine in the body by G. Kahlson. Short Communications: On the classification and nomenclature of amine oxidases by E. A. Zeller. Histamine in nerves by E. Werle. Histamine and gastric secretion by R. A. Gregory. The effect of sex hormones on histaminase by R. Kapeller-Adler. The action of histamine on the sympathetic nervous system by U. Trendelenburg. Histamine and vasodilator axon reflex of the skin by J. L. Parrot. Imidazoleacetic acid metabolism in bacteria by H. Tabor.

Symposium at the Ciba Foundation. Part I: The origin and fate of histamine in the body. Chairman: J. H. Gaddum. The origin of histamine in the body by J. H. Gaddum. Discussion: Blaschko, Code, Dale, Feldberg, Gaddum, Kahlson, MacIntosh, Mongar, Parrot, Paton, Rocha e Silva, Schayer, Schild, Tabor, Ungar, Werle, West, Zeller. The fate of histamine in the body by H. Tabor. Discussion: Code, Dale, Feldberg, Gaddum, Paton, Tabor, Werle, Wilson, Zeller. The fate of histamine in the body with particular reference to the enzymology of histamine oxidation by E. A. Zeller. Discussion: Blaschko, Gaddum, Kahlson, Kapeller-Adler, Parrot, Paton, Schayer, Schild, Tabor, Werle, Zeller. Is histaminase identical with diamine oxidase? by R. Kapeller-Adler. Discussion: Blaschko, Code, Dale, Feldberg, Gaddum, Kapeller-Adler, Mongar, Paton, Schayer, Tabor, Werle, Zeller. Part II: Location of histamine in the body, and mechanism of histamine release. Chairman: W. Feldberg. Remarks on the location of histamine in mammalian tissues by H. Blaschko. Discussion: Blaschko, Code, Dale, von Euler, Feldberg, Gaddum, Halpern, MacIntosh, Parrot, Paton, Perry, Reuse, Riley, Rocha e Silva, Schayer, Schild, Werle, Zeller. The location of histamine in the body by J. F. Riley. Discussion: Bein, Code, Dale, Feldberg, Halpern, Kahlson, MacIntosh, McIntire, Mongar, Paton, Parrot, Reuse, Riley, Rocha e Silva, Schachter, Ungar, Werle, West. The mechanism of histamine release by F. C. MacIntosh. Mechanism of histamine release by G. Ungar. Discussion: Bein, Code, Dale, Feldberg, Halpern, Humphrey, McIntire, Mongar, Perry, Riley, Rocha e Silva, Schachter, Schayer, Schild, Ungar, Werle, West, Zeller.

The lengthy summary of the contents of this book, given at the head of this review, shows at a glance what a distinguished group of workers from many countries were gathered in London last year to discuss the latest information on histamine. The many and varied papers submitted at the two symposia indicate the great interest in histamine, and research seems to have reached a point at which important advances in this field can be expected. Scientific workers throughout the world will be pleased to read this informative and stimulating record of our newer knowledge on the subject of histamine. Teachers of several of the medical sciences will be able to make much use of the material presented in this lucid and well-illustrated volume.

There is still much to be learnt about histamine. Our knowledge of the physiological and pathological function of the substance is incomplete. Its precise location within the mast cells remains to be definitely established. The way in which it is bound in the tissues has been explained in many theories: Further progress will depend on methods for estimating free and conjugated histamine in mixtures. The possible combination of histamine with hepaxia has been explored, since both substances are present in mast cells. Differences of opinion also exist about the mechanism of release of histamine, and here further studies on the human subject are desirable. Many drugs are believed to release histamine, which may account for certain of their pharmacological effects. That much experimental work still needs to be done is clear enough, and as a starting point for the young researcher, or for stimulation of those already engaged in this work, this information book will be most helpful.

N.S.

## CONTROL OF TROPICAL DISEASES

*The Control of Disease in the Tropics.* By T. H. Davey and W. P. H. Lightbody. Pp. x+408+85 Illustrations. £2 7s. 6d. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1956.

*Contents:* Preface. I. Economic and Social Aspects of Disease. II. Communicable Disease. III. General Measures of Communicable Disease Control. IV. Control of Community-wide Disease. V. Diseases Associated with Low Standard of Personal and Public Hygiene. VI. Diseases Associated with Low Standards of Personal and Public Hygiene (continued). VII. Diseases Associated with Low Standards of Personal and Public Hygiene (continued). VIII. Diseases Associated

with Low Standards of Personal and Public Hygiene (continued). IX. Proximity and Contact Infections. X. Proximity and Contact Infections (continued). XI. Proximity and Contact Infections (continued). XII. Proximity and Contact Infections (continued). XIII. The House-fly. XIV. Insect-borne Infections. XV. Insect-borne Infections (continued). XVI. Insect-borne Infections (continued). XVII. Insect-borne Infections (continued). XVIII. Insect-borne Infections (continued). XIX. Insect-borne Infections (continued). XX. Insect-borne Infections (continued). XXI. Infections from Lower Animals. XXII. Infections from Lower Animals (continued). XXIII. Infections from Lower Animals (continued). XXIV. Welfare Services. XXV. Water Supplies. XXVI. Water Supplies (continued). XXVII. Disposal of Human and Animal Wastes. XXVIII. Disposal of Human and Animal Wastes (continued). XXIX. Village Housing. XXX. Food Requirements and Dietary Surveys. XXXI. Vital Statistics. Appendix. Index.

This new book, written by the Professorial Unit, is based on their lectures at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. It covers the prevention and control of communicable diseases in the Tropics from a public-health point of view. Bearing the stamp of authority, it has an immediate local appeal. Two further characteristics widen the merit of the book:

1. Because tropical diseases are largely rural, it adopts the rural outlook rather than the urban point of view of the usual public-health text-book.

2. Devoid of clinical pretensions, it is not intended as an exhaustive reference book on tropical diseases, and thus only the really important diseases are included.

The diseases broadly fall into 4 big groups according to their mode of transmission, which is often the determining factor in their practical control: (1) Diseases associated with low standards of personal and public hygiene; (2) proximity and contact diseases; (3) insect-borne infections; and (4) infections from animals.

Each disease is separately considered—definition, geographical distribution, causative organism, epidemiology, diagnostic criteria and control measures. The fundamental preventive health-services required to deal with each group are well presented, and include child and maternal welfare, water supplies, disposal of human and animal wastes, flies, village housing, dietetics, and elementary vital statistics. Many valuable investigations are detailed in an appendix.

The fact that the book is not written from a strictly aetiological aspect leads to anomalies, e.g. Q fever and typhus—both rickettsial diseases—are included under different headings, the former under 'Infections from Lower Animals', the latter under 'Insect-borne Infections'. This however, does not detract from the great practical value of the book to the officer responsible for public health in the Tropics. Many of the subjects dealt with are applicable to our own 'platteland' towns. Hence this book should prove of real help to our rural part-time and full-time health-officers in South Africa.

H.R.A.

## CHILD HEALTH AND WELFARE

*Child Health and Development.* Second Edition. By various Authors, edited by R. W. B. Ellis, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E. Pp. x + 525, with illustrations. 42s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1956.

*Contents:* List of Contributors. Preface. Introduction—R. W. B. Ellis. Part I. Development. Chapter I. Genetical Aspects of Child Health—F. A. E. Crew. II. Prenatal Development—L. Donald. III. The Newborn—J. W. Farquhar. IV. Digestion, Nutrition and Feeding—R. W. B. Ellis. V. The Establishment of Feeding Habits—A. Freud. VI. Development and Care of the Teeth—R. E. Rix. VII. Postnatal Growth—R. W. B. Ellis. VIII. Puberty and Adolescence—R. W. B. Ellis. IX. Intellectual Development—L. S. Penrose. X. Emotional and Instinctive Development—A. Freud. XI. Immunity—G. Payling Wright. Part II. Social Aspects of Child Health. XII. The Development of the Child Health Services—H. P. Tait. XIII. The Infant and Pre-school Child Health Services—H. P. Tait. XIV. The School Health Service—W. N. Boog Watson. XV. Care of the Under-privileged Child—H. P. Tait. XVI. Child Guidance—M. Creak. XVII. Vocational Guidance—D. McMahon. XVIII. Present Aims and Problems in Education—E. B. Castle. XIX. Health Education—R. Sutherland. XX. Punishment. XXI. Juvenile Courts—E. Youngusband. XXII. Child Health in the Tropics—R. W. B. Ellis. XXIII. Milk Production and Processing—E. A. Capstick. Appendices. Appendix I. Synopsis of Legislation—H. P. Tait. II. Normal Biological Values—M. S. Fraser. Index.

This book, compiled and edited by Prof. R. W. B. Ellis of Edinburgh with the assistance of a number of contributors highly distinguished in their special fields, is in some ways quite a remarkable work and the reasonable price represents excellent value.

The book is in no sense a text-book of paediatrics. Nevertheless, for undergraduates and more especially for postgraduate medical students specializing in paediatrics, for child-welfare medical officers and nursing sisters in Welfare work, for social workers, and for paediatric consultants in teaching units, this volume

contains a wealth of factual and essential information which otherwise would not be readily accessible without a tremendous amount of research and which is skilfully welded together into a very readable work.

The first part of the book is devoted to the development of the embryo, the infant and the young child and contains a great variety and wealth of detailed information about somatic growth and intellectual maturation patterns and standards.

The second part of the book gives a full and most interesting account of the history and functions of the Child Health and Welfare Services and the School Health Services; this section also contains a wealth of interesting and most stimulating information and opinion about the care of the under-privileged child, child guidance and vocational guidance, educational problems and health education, punishment and Juvenile Courts, and an interesting chapter on child health in the Tropics.

Although much of the historical and legislative information applies to the United Kingdom, this is no great disadvantage since, in many instances, similar legislation has been enacted in this country. Furthermore, frequent reference is made to American and Continental work and opinion.

This book is a veritable mine of information for a wide variety of workers, medical, non-medical and nursing, in the field of Child Health and Welfare, to whom the book is unreservedly recommended.

R.F.M.

## CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY

*Clinical Psychiatry.* By Ian Skottowe, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 395 + X. \$8.75.) London: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1954.

*Contents:* Part 1. *The principles of clinical psychiatry.* 1. Introduction. 2. The Nature, Forms and Incidence of Mental Ill-Health. 3. The Factors Concerned in Mental Illness. 4. Psychiatric Case-Taking. 5. Principles of Treatment. Part 2. *Clinical description of psychiatric disorders.* 6. Affective Disorders. 7. Schizophrenic Disorders. 8. Paranoid Disorders. 9. Organic Psychiatric Disorders. 10. Obsessional Disorders. 11. Hysteria. 12. Disorders of Mental Development. 13. Psychopathic Personalities. 14. Psychiatric Disorders in Children. List of Key References and Guide for further reading. Index.

The subject matter of this book is founded largely on cases observed by the writer himself in St. John's Hospital and the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesley, England, where a special feature of out-patient treatment and domiciliary diagnosis and treatment has been made for many years. It is therefore a practical document and not only a theoretical treatise.

The book is intended primarily for general practitioners and for specialists in various branches of medicine who seek practical guidance in the many psychiatric problems which, as is now well recognized, they are likely to meet and encounter in their day-to-day work.

A.B.

## CARDIAC SYMPTOMS IN THE NEUROSES

*Cardiac Symptoms in the Neuroses.* By Doris M. Baker, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. Pp. 50 + viii, with 7 illustrations. 6s. 6d. London: H.K. Lewis & Co Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Introductory. 2. Left Inframammary Pain. 3. Sighing Respiration. 4. Palpitation. 5. Conclusions and General Management. References.

The symptom complex consisting of left inframammary pain, palpitation, sighing respiration and exhaustion has been carefully studied by the author for many years and forms the subject of this small readable book. The title is purposely kept broad because she feels there is still no satisfactory designation for the syndrome. Nevertheless she feels that 'da Costa's Syndrome' is preferable to 'Neurocirculatory Asthenia', 'Effort Syndrome' or 'Irritable Heart'.

The great importance of the cardiac symptoms in the neuroses lies in the fact that they are frequently interpreted by the patient, and at times by the doctor, as indicative of organic disease of the heart. Thus the inframammary pain may simulate true angina, the sighing respiration true dyspnoea, and sinus tachycardia or ectopic beats a more serious arrhythmia. The points of differentia-

tion between these symptoms as well as their significance are so well known that the book has little new to offer. Nevertheless, the careful description of the symptoms in a large number of cases gives the reader a clear insight into the symptomatology. And herein lies the chief merit of the monograph, for no doctor can practice sound medicine without a clear knowledge of the syndrome.

However, the discussion on the mechanism of production of the symptoms is disappointing for there is nothing new added and no mention of the role of hyperventilation *per se* in the production of giddiness, shakiness, mental confusion and apprehension, palpitation etc. Furthermore, there is little offered to guide one in the management of the condition.

L.V.

## RADIOTHERAPY

*British Practice in Radiotherapy.* Under the General Editorship of Sir Ernest Rock Carling, LL.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., B. W. Windeyer, M.B., B.S., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. F.F.R. and D. W. Smithers, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. Pp. xii + 516 + (32). 142 Figures. 85s. + 2s. delivery. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. South African Office: Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Limited, P.O. Box 792, Durban. 1955.

*Contents: Part I. General Problems in Radiotherapy.* Dosage and Measurements. Biophysical Basis. Clinical Basis for the Choice of Treatment. Methods of Radiotherapy. Safety and Protection. Work of the Radiographer. *Part II. Treatment.* Cancer of the Breast. Malignant Tumours of the Ovary. Cancer of the Uterus, Cervix and Body. Diseases of the Vagina, Urethra and Vulva. Carcinoma of the Penis. Tumours of the Testicle. Tumours of the Nose and Nasal Sinuses. Tumours of the Pharynx and Tonsillar Fossa. Carcinoma of the Larynx. Carcinoma of the Bronchus. Mouth Tongue and Lip. Carcinoma of the Oesophagus and Stomach. Carcinoma of the Rectum and Anal Canal. Tumours of the Kidney and Bladder. Tumours of the Brain and Spinal Cord. Diseases of the Eye. Tumours of the Thymus. Cancer of the Thyroid Gland. Treatment of Thyrotoxicosis by Radio-iodine. Cancer of the Skin. Tumours of Bone and Soft Tissue. Reticulosis and Reticulosarcoma. Malignant Disease in Children. Radiotherapy in some non-malignant Conditions. Records and Presentation of Result. Index.

In as far as the contributors have been drawn from most of the major British Radiotherapeutic Institutions or Departments this volume truly reflects current British Radiotherapeutic practice. One feels however that the size of the book does not befit the title and that the subject-matter could more reasonably and more profitably have occupied two or three volumes of similar size. In its present form it appeared more like a companion volume to British Surgical Practice than a text-book such as one would like to see under this title.

Despite the fact that there are so many contributors the book is so delightfully written and produced that one does not really sense the changes in authorship as one courses from section to section. Another tribute to the contributors lies in the way they

have encompassed such a vast amount of knowledge into 515 pages.

Part I of the work opens on a high note with an excellent review of the development of dosimetry in radiotherapy. The theme of this part is then developed with equal prowess by physicists and other of similar calibre. From here the theme assumes its more clinical nature in chapters appropriately written by radiotherapists of high standing.

Part II is given over almost entirely to the treatment of malignant conditions. There is a small chapter on the treatment of thyrotoxicosis by radio-iodine. Somewhat scant attention is paid to the treatment of non-malignant conditions and the work terminates with a chapter on Records and the presentation of Results.

The subdivisions of this part follow the classical lines depending largely on the primary site of the cancer. In almost every instance these 23 subdivisions are discussed by a radiotherapist in collaboration with a surgeon or physician. This procedure has added very considerably to the value of the work, which should be on every radiotherapist's shelf.

J.M.G.

*Radiotherapy*

The section on radiation therapy maintains the high standard of previous years in abstracting of radiotherapeutic articles published during the past year.

The trend at present is towards the use of supervoltage apparatus, and a number of the abstracts deal with this aspect, mainly on the physical side, but it is noted that the results are disappointing, although comparable 5-year survival figures are not yet available. There are a number of articles on rotation therapy, also mostly from the physical aspect, the only clinical data quoted indicating that this method of treatment may have some advantage over standard 250 K.V. therapy, particularly in treatment of intrathoracic lesions.

One article of particular interest to practising radiotherapists, is a report on the response to treatment of liposarcomata by X-rays. This should encourage the treatment of these tumours, especially metastases. The reviewer has recently treated secondary deposits in the scapula from a liposarcoma with a remarkable response.

A review of 1,070 incapacitated cardiac patients treated with radio-active iodine from several clinics, indicates the satisfactory results which may be obtained by this method without risk or complications. This has been the experience of the reviewer and his associates in the treatment of some 80 cases of angina.

This is an excellent reference book and should be of particular interest not only to radiotherapists, but also to physicists and clinicians dealing with malignant disease.

A.J.H.H.