

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

### PAEDIATRICS

*Neo-natal Paediatrics*. Edited by W. R. F. Collis, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H. Pp. xiii+301. 35 Figures. 30s. net. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books—Ltd. 1958.

There has been a great need for a good book on this subject. Dr. Collis, world renowned paediatrician and author, has relied upon 27 contributors, largely Dublin paediatricians, to fulfil this need.

Much of what is written is well said and obviously the result of many years of observation and experience. The chapters on renal function, the baby of the diabetic mother, and the ear, nose and throat are particularly good. All through, the student and practitioner will find excellent practical points being stressed.

On the other hand, many paediatricians will disagree with rigid, punctual, 3-hourly feeds for babies under 8 lb., that thyroid for premature infants is beneficial and that the serum bilirubin in the full-term infant is normally 0.8 mg.%. A separate chapter on emergencies in the neonatal period is recommended and possibly another on procedures because scalp vein infusions are not even mentioned.

Unfortunately, there are a large number of unnecessary spelling and printing errors (e.g. the tables on water and electrolyte metabolism), which lead to the untrue statement on page 249, that 'Kernicterus is a complication of haemorrhagic disease of the new born'.

Despite these criticisms this book will be helpful to midwives, medical students, general practitioners, obstetricians and paediatricians.

F.W.

### CHIRURGIESE HANDBOEK

*Text-book of Surgery*. 2e Druk. Deur Patrick Kiely, B.Sc., M.D., M.Ch. (N.U.I.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. x+1158. 60s. Illustrasies. 63s. Londen: H. K. Lewis & Kie. Bpk. 1958.

Hierdie is 'n baie volledige naslaanboek vir die mediese student in sy finale jaar, sowel as vir vroeë nagraadse studie. Die eerste 9 hoofstukke van die boek—die algemene deel—handel oor inflammasie, wonde, bloeding, oorlogswonde, ulserasie, gangreen en chirurgiese infeksies, Ek voel egter dat dit nie die manier is waarop hierdie kennis aan mediese studente behoort gebring te word nie, omdat dit 'n blote samestelling van feite is.

Skere van die hoofstukke bv. die dele oor perifere senuwees en die senustelsel, ortopedie, nek, tiroïd, paratiroïd, oor, neus, keel en urologie, is skitterend, terwyl die dele wat handel oor die rektum en anus, oesofagus, en nog meer ander hoofstukke, nie so goed is nie. Veral kongenitale abnormaliteite en pediatriese gedeeltes is baie afgeskeep.

Die hoofstuk oor bloedvate is, soos dit die geval is met alle handboeke, 'n paar jaar agter by die heel nuwere ontwikkelings, alhoewel daar moet toegegee word dat vaatchirurgie baie vinnig gevorder het gedurende die afgelope paar jare. Nog 'n deel wat so opgestel is dat 'n student dit moeilik sal verstaan is die deel oor die retikuloses. Hier is ons konsepte baie meer duidelik vandag en behoort 'n meer verstaanbare klassifikasie gebruik te word. Onnodige repetisie kom voor in die deel oor tumore en kiste. Hierdie deel kan net sowel onder die verskillende stelsels bespreek gewees het.

Afgesien van hierdie paar kritiese opmerkings is dit 'n naslaanboek vir die student in sy finale jaar wat kan meeding met die beste wat ek gesien het. Die inhoud is kort gestel, maar kragtig. J.J.D.J.

#### ANATOMIE EN FISILOGIE VAN DIE NEUS

*The Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Nose and Paranasal Sinuses.* Deur Sir Victor Negus, Hon. D.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Hon. F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Hon. F.R.C.S. (Ireland). Pp. xv+402. 178 Afbeeldings. 70s. + 3s. Posgeld Oorsee. Edinburgh en Londen: E. & S. Livingstone Bpk. 1958.

Hierdie boek is 'n omvattende werk wat die uitvloeisel is van intensiewe navorsing wat oor baie jare strek.

In 'n poging om die ingewikkelde struktuur van die menslike neus en die paranasale sinusse te verstaan en te verduidelik, en om die struktuur met funksie te korreleer, het die skrywer 'n ondersoek gedoen na die vergelykende anatomie van die neuse van visse, amfibieë, reptiele, sekere diere en die mens. Die vergelykende fisiologie word bygehaal om stap vir stap aan te toon hoe die makroskopiese en die mikroskopiese bou of verander het om aan te pas by veranderende funksionele behoeftes of redelik konstant gebly het waar die behoeftes onveranderd gebly het.

Die laaste twee hoofstukke word gewy aan die menslike neus en paranasale sinusse en is eintlik 'n terugblik op die lang pad van ontwikkeling.

Die boek lees maklik en is duidelik geïllustreer. Dit is van belang vir die anatoom, die fisioloog en die oor-, neus- en keelarts. Dit kan ook met die grootste vrymoedigheid aanbeveel word as interessante leesstof vir die medikus wat belangstel in die diere-wêreld om ons.

J.F.v.E.K.

#### PHARMACOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

*The Pharmacological Principles of Medical Practice,* 4th Edition. A Text-book on Pharmacology and Therapeutics for Medical Students, Physicians, and the Members of the Professions Allied to Medicine. By John C. Krantz, Jr. and C. Jelleff Carr. Pp. xi+1313. Illustrations. 112s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

Several major changes have been made in this edition although the general arrangement of the text has been retained. There are new chapters on pharmacologic agents in allergic diseases, uses of drugs in the treatment of mental illness, and the local use of drugs in the ear, nose and throat. Most chapters have been enlarged such as those dealing with epilepsy, antibiotics, hypertension, the arthritides, and diabetes. At the end of each chapter is a list of U.S.P. official preparations and B.P. preparations (now performe altered in certain ways because of the advent of the B.P. 1958). Special detailed references (mainly to the American literature) are given, apart from numerous references to authors throughout the text.

Many drugs no longer generally used are not described, but 140 drugs are considered for the first time. All these features are in keeping with the best teaching practice, taking cognizance of the advances and altering perspectives in a rapidly changing field.

Chemical formulae, charts and figures are abundantly distributed throughout the book, and there are also, as in previous editions, some portraits of men distinguished for their contribu-

tions to the therapeutic armamentarium. Many consultants (names given in the preface) have checked particular sections of the text.

This edition will be as popular as its predecessors for its clear and detailed presentation of the principles of modern drug therapy. N.S.

#### EYE SURGERY

*Eye Surgery.* 3rd Edition (Revised). By H. B. Stallard, M.B.E., M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Hon. LL.D. (St. Andrews). Pp. xiv+899. 671 Illustrations. 95s.+2s. 3d. Postage. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1958.

The 1st edition of this work appeared at the end of the last war and consisted of a succinct exposition of the author's own procedures in his execution of the common eye operations. As such this book was invaluable to many in acting as a guide to their own surgical performance. For the unusual operation or for the numerous variations on a common theme, the more encyclopaedic Spaeth could be consulted.

In recent years numerous text-books of operative surgery have appeared. Some have been devoted to one subject only, e.g. cataract, some have been more general such as Arruga's. It speaks for its own popularity that this book has already entered its third edition, an edition which is double its previous size, which includes the latest advances and developments in drugs and anaesthetics as well as operative procedures and which contains numerous alternative procedures, e.g. Ridley's acrylic lens insertion and scleral resection. It is therefore altogether more comprehensive in scope. Nevertheless the compactness of the first edition will be missed as an old friend in his old clothes who has moved to a fashionable new suburb in the latest and smartest outfit obtainable.

L.S.

#### ANTISERA, TOXOIDS, VACCINES AND TUBERCULINS

*Antisera, Toxoids, Vaccines and Tuberculin in Prophylaxis and Treatment.* 4th Edition. By H. J. Parish, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. Pp. x+256. Illustrations. 30s. net+1s. 5d. Postage Abroad. Edinburgh and London: Published for the Wellcome Foundation Ltd. by E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

The fact that this small book has gone into its 4th edition since it was first published 10 years ago, means that it has won a place for itself in many public and private medical libraries. It is both authoritative and concise and gathers together a great deal of information, which is not always easily come by, especially by the doctor, who is usually in a hurry or has an emergency on his hands.

I feel that every doctor who ever handles a syringe should read the 3rd chapter in this book and refresh his memory about some of the pitfalls, which can accompany 'just a little prick'. Equally important are the author's suggestions for the prevention of serum reactions.

The whole problem of tetanus is expertly handled and the excellent chart entitled 'The prevention of tetanus in injured persons', which originally appeared in the *British Medical Journal* (Parish, Laurent and Moynihan (1957): 1, 639 and 1063), is reproduced here. One feels that this chart could well be cut out, framed, and hung in the casualty department of every hospital.

Diphtheria, too, is handled in a masterly way and, towards the end of the chapter the following sentence appears—to which surely both doctors and parents must whole-heartedly agree—'every child should have a personal immunization card, which should be made out at birth and filed with the utmost care. It must be readily available when inoculations of all types are given, or when the child contracts an infectious disease. Intelligent parents could surely be trusted to safeguard duplicate cards . . .'

The tuberculin, B.C.G. and Vole-bacillus vaccines, are fully and sensibly dealt with and the last section of the book gives a full and up-to-date account of what can be accomplished by way of protection against virus and rickettsial diseases.

To the busy doctor, harassed by the patient who is an assiduous reader of popular medical literature and who demands that his child should be given gamma globulin etc., this book will be very welcome.

N.S.