

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### RECENT ADVANCES IN UROLOGY

*Recent Advances in Urology.* By Howard G. Hanley, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 270. 83 Illustrations. 30s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface. 1. Medical Problems in Urology: Physiology and Renal Failure. 2. The Chemotherapy of Urinary Infections. 3. Radiology of the Genito-urinary Tract. 4. Conservative Renal Surgery: Hydronephrosis and Partial Nephrectomy. 5. Prostatic Obstruction. 6. Perurethral Prostatic Resection. 7. Prostatic Cancer. 8. Renal Tumours. 9. Bladder Tumours. 10. Diversion of the Kidney Urine. 11. Urinary Lithiasis. 12. Genito-urinary Tuberculosis. 13. Surgery of the Adrenal Glands. 14. Subfertility. Index.

This book deals with aspects of urology in which new data are accumulating or in which recent advances have occurred. It is a valuable contribution in that it enables the busy urologist to obtain an overall picture of current trends in his subject without having to wade through a mass of well known data. For those who wish to do further reading on a particular subject there is an excellent list of references at the end of each chapter.

The chapter on medical problems in urology is a welcome feature. This has up to now been a much neglected subject in text books of urology and brief though this chapter is, one feels certain that it will stimulate further interest in this most important field. There has in recent years developed a narrower gap between urology and renal disorders dealt with by the physician. It is inevitable that the urologist will advance further and further into this field.

The section on radiology of the genito-urinary tract gives a preview of the fascinating possibilities with the extended use of the image amplifier. One is a little perturbed that perirenal insufflation is discussed without any mention being made of its now well known dangers.

Urinary diversions are adequately discussed in a well-balanced contribution. The relative merits of uretero-colic anastomosis and ileal loop replacements are very clearly stated. The unsatisfactory

long-term results of the former are if anything understated. The use of ileum has extended considerably since this chapter was written and many further favourable reports have appeared in the literature. The comment in the introductory paragraph on the surgery of the adrenal gland is most interesting. The author states that the surgical exposure of the adrenal gland presents no new problem to the urologist who is used to overcoming greater difficulties in this area than those generally associated with adrenal surgery. This is a truism which one is surprised has not become apparent sooner.

Special mention must be made of the chapter on bladder tumours. It is a concise and lucid contribution. If there is any criticism of this useful volume it is that one would have liked to see a section devoted to pediatric urology. This could have replaced the chapters on prostatic obstruction and perurethral resection with distinct advantage.

M.M.

### GASTROINTESTINAL THERAPY

*The Physiologic Basis of Gastrointestinal Therapy.* Selected Topics. By Heinrich Necheles, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P. and Martin M. Kirshen, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. v+330. \$8.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1957.

*Contents:* Preface. Innervation. Gastrointestinal Motility and Its Disturbances. Drugs Affecting the Gastrointestinal Musculature. Secretion and Digestion. Absorption, Excretion, Feces. Ulcer. Liver and Gallbladder. Pancreas. Index.

This book is far more comprehensive and useful than the title suggests, for the authors pay as much attention to the physiological basis underlying the diseases they discuss as to the principles of treatment. The result is a very well-rounded discussion of topics of current interest in the field of gastroenterology; yet mundane subjects like constipation and diarrhoea are not neglected. It is very up to date and it is most gratifying to read an American

book and encounter so many references to the British literature. This book provides a critical and fair survey of current opinion about the treatment of gastro-intestinal disorders, and is most

useful for reference purposes. It is a pity that it is slightly marred by a pedestrian style and frequent misprints.

K.D.