

BOOK REVIEW : BOEKBESPREKING

YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL SURGERY

The Year Book of General Surgery (1960 - 1961 Year Book Series). Ed. by Michael E. de Bakey, B.S., M.D., M.S. Pp. 616. Illustrated. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers. 1960.

The remarkable change in emphasis in the 1961 *Year Book of General Surgery* as compared with, for example, a similar volume of 20 years ago, is most striking. This mirrors the altered techniques and newer interests. Our old friend and standby, the appendix, has at long last dropped out entirely from the list of subjects discussed and, while the biliary tract still manages to retain 26 pages for its consideration, the section on surgery of the heart and great blood-

vessels occupies no fewer than 140 pages — by far the longest section. Interest in the oesophagus (9 pages) seems to have fallen off a bit, but the stomach and duodenum (50 pages) are still fertile fields for research and writing.

While it is never meant to be a text-book of surgery, the book fills a vital need for the general surgeon and surgical teacher who have to keep abreast of current events in their discipline. Outstanding perhaps is the rise in interest in treating cancer by local arterial perfusion with cytotoxic drugs. There is also a revival of interest in the immunological aspects of cancer, and reports are made of attempts to develop vaccines.

A worthy number of a very worthy series.

T.S.