

## LEPROSY

*Bone Changes in Leprosy.* By V. Møller-Christensen, M.D. Pp. 51. 9 text figs. & 16 plates. R3.50. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1961.

This book is the result of the exhumation of 350 skeletons of patients who had died of leprosy in mediaeval times in Denmark. These skeletons revealed hitherto unrecorded signs such as atrophy of the anterior nasal spine and loosening of the upper central incisors. The author has confirmed that these signs are discoverable in living patients. It is suggested that these signs may aid the early diagnosis of leprosy.

It is of interest that the skull of Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland (1274 - 1329) shows these changes, thus perhaps confirming what was thought to be the myth that he died of leprosy.

The book is profusely illustrated with the early and late bony changes in leprosy.

The book is of more academic than practical value.

A.R.D.

## OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

*Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Vol. 4, No. 4. Ed. by A. E. Rakoff, M.D. and K. P. Russell, M.D. Pp. 917—1216. Illustrated. Subscription \$18.00 per annum (quarterly publication). New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1961.

This volume contains a hive of highly interesting and valuable information. The section on shock and shock-like states is presented in a masterly fashion. To those who practice obstetrics, this symposium should be regarded as an essential addition to the bookshelf. It is interesting to note that in the chapter on postpartum vasomotor collapse, the dangers of overtreatment of toxæmias are emphasized, especially an excessively low salt intake. It was pleasing to note that a chapter was devoted to shock in the newborn infant.

The section on exfoliative cytology is most comprehensively presented, and will be of interest to the postgraduate student and those practitioners especially interested in cytology.

P.F.M. du T.

## TROPICAL MEDICINE

*Clinical Methods in Tropical Medicine.* By B. Maegraith and C. S. Leithead. Pp. xi + 545. Illustrated. R3.00. London: Cassell & Co. 1962.

In their preface the authors state that this book is designed to help students and practitioners in the tropics and those who might have to treat patients from tropical countries. Although several minor points can be adversely criticized, such as their handling of serum-protein patterns, and the electrocardiograms they reproduce, in the main they have succeeded admirably in their aim. The book contains much useful information about symptoms and signs and their significance, and there are well-written sections on laboratory aids to diagnosis.

E.B.A.

## LOCAL ANAESTHESIA

*Histopathologic effects of Local Anesthetic Drugs and related substances.* By P. Pizzolato, M.D. and W. Mannheimer, M.D. Pp. vii + 100. Illustrated. R4.40. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; and Oxford: Blackwell. 1961.

This book contains a full documentation of experimental work carried out by numerous workers to determine the extent of possible local irritant and destructive effects of drugs used in the production of local analgesia by nerve block or infiltration.

The well-known degenerative effects of the ultra-long-acting local anaesthetic agents are explained and their dangers re-emphasized.

Pertinent facts from the experimentation of some 100 workers, mainly on animals, cover the early and late histopathological changes in skin, subcutaneous tissue and nerve tissue resulting from commonly injected materials.

There is little critical appraisal of results and the reader is left to draw his own conclusions from the somewhat scattered data.

Indexing and bibliography are both good and serve to make this a very useful reference book.

A.B.B.