

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

CLINICAL ORTHOPAEDICS

Clinical Orthopaedics, No. 20. Ed. by A. F. DePalma. Pp. xi + 272. Illustrated. R6.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. Supplied in South Africa by Pitman Medical Publishers, London. 1961.

The excellent quality of production and high standard of text set by its predecessors have been maintained in this volume. Preceded by a biographical tribute to Codman, the symposium deals with shoulder-girdle diseases. The authoritative stamp of the Editor-in-Chief appears in 4 articles in this section. Lippmann's contribution on the Natural History of rotator-cuff calcification, with rationalization of treatment depending on the stages of the disease, is a most stimulating concept. The remaining sections dealing with general orthopaedics and basic sciences and pathology are equally rewarding. N.R.

OBSTETRICS

Illustrated Obstetrics. A guide to clinical management and operative technique. By J. M. Holmes, M.D., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.O.G. Pp. xii + 336. Illustrated. R5.20. London and Durban: Butterworth. 1962.

This book consists of a briefly annotated photographic illustration of common, as well as the rarer, obstetric manipulations and operations, including the use of the ventouse or vacuum extractor. The photographs are in black and white and have been 'touched up', thus combining clarity with verisimilitude. The illustrations should be of value not only to the practising doctor but also to those concerned with the instruction of medical students and nurses. It is a strong recommendation that a book containing so many photographs is offered at such a very reasonable price. R.P.D.

THE ADRENAL CORTEX

The Human Adrenal Cortex. Proceedings of a conference held at the University of Glasgow, 11-14 July 1960. Ed. by A. R. Currie, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.F.P.S., T. Symington, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.E.; and J. K. Grant, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. Pp. xx + 644. Illustrated. R5.50. Postage 23c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1962.

This is a highly authoritative book on the human adrenal cortex, embodying the work and opinions of a large number of experts, almost all British or American. Morphology, biochemistry and physiology are adequately, and for the most part clearly, represented. The clinical section is discussed from a physiological and biochemical standpoint, and it is particularly poignant to read Joe Jailer's short and clear exposition of current views on the aetiology of Cushing's syndrome, written so shortly before his death.

The conference which this book reports was held in July 1960 and it is a great shame that publishing in Britain is so long delayed. However, the text has remained reasonably up-to-date. In the clinical section there is no more than passing reference to Cushing's disease with pituitary tumour, to the relation between other-organ malignancy and adrenocortical overactivity, and to adrenal-pituitary axis suppression during corticosteroid therapy.

The final section on the foetal gland is highly specialized, and the book emphasizes the difficulty which I find so frequently—it is easy to discover exact accounts of metabolic functions in the foetus, the adult and the newborn; but in young children?

In summary, this is a well-produced and well-indexed work for the anatomist, physiologist, histochemist, biochemist, endocrinologist and interested physician. Others may find it a little hard going, since much basic knowledge is assumed.

W.P.U.J.

PRACTICAL OBSTETRICS

Lecture Notes on Obstetrics. By F. Musgrove, M.D., F.R.C.O.G., D.A. Pp. vii + 424. Illustrated. R2.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1962.

This book is not a text-book, but a collection of lectures covering the most important aspects of obstetrics. The approach is primarily a practical one, both in respect of the subject matter and its presentation. Facts are grouped together as much as possible for easy memorizing, and the last chapter on 'Useful Information' is a boon to any last-minute swotter.

One criticism is that there is no chapter on the course and management of normal labour. Apart from this the book can be recommended to the student or midwife as a useful

adjunct to the standard text-books. Several excellent radiographs illustrate the text.

D.M.

FUNGI UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Practical Mycology. Manual for identification of fungi. By Sigurd Funder, Ph.D. Pp. 143. Illustrated. \$6.50. New York and London: Hafner Publishing Co. 1961.

Though written for beginners, this book, dealing with the common saprophytic fungi as well as animal and plant pathogens, will also be valuable to the experienced laboratory worker.

Except for a short classification, description of methods of isolation and preparing microscopic specimens, with a very brief note on macroscopic appearances, the main section of the book is devoted to hundreds of excellent line drawings of the chief microscopic characters of the various fungi.

The section on medical mycology also gives drawings of the microscopic examination of direct specimens, as well as a key based on clinical and microscopical appearances of the fungi by Morris A. Gordon.

P.A.D.

FLUORESCENT PROTEIN TRACING

Fluorescent Protein Tracing. Ed. by R. C. Nairn, M.D., Ph.D. (L'pool). Pp. xv + 280. Illustrated. R4.20. Postage 17c. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

This admirable book must be recommended to everyone, tyro or pundit, wishing to use the new tool of fluorescent protein tracing. Theory is simply explained, requirements for satisfactory microscopy neither minimized nor exaggerated, and the methods of conjugation and tracing stated clearly and briefly. Much of this welcome brevity follows the authors' introduction of rhodamine as fluor, but it also reflects their thorough groundwork in this field and a careful selection from the numerous publications by bacteriologists, virologists and pathologists who have used the method in human and experimental pathology.

J.A.H.C.

OBSTETRICS FOR MIDWIVES AND STUDENTS

An Introduction to Midwifery. By C. F. V. Smout, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Pp. 119. Illustrated. R1.25. London: Edward Arnold. 1962.

A delightful book written by an anatomist who has an above-average interest in obstetrics. The text is easily followed and is supplemented by many excellent diagrams. The chapters on pelvic anatomy and the development of the embryo are particularly good. My only criticism is that controversial sections on toxæmia of pregnancy and the anatomy of pro-lapse have been included.

This book is recommended to aspirant pupil midwives and to medical students.

C.J.T.C.