

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE

*Cecil-Loeb Textbook of Medicine*. 11th ed. Ed. by P. B. Beeson, M.D. and W. McDermott, M.D. Pp. xlv+1,835+1x. Illustrated. R13.65. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1963.

New editors have replaced the retired distinguished Drs. Cecil and Loeb, assisted by numerous associates. The former edition included a 'humanistic' foreword entitled 'Patient-physician communication'. The new edition includes an additional scientific foreword entitled 'Nucleic acids, genes, viruses and immunity'.

The section on infections is excellent, including wide coverage of fungal and viral infections. A new feature is the inclusion of some skin diseases of particular interest to the physician. It is such a mine of information that it is difficult, in fact, to think of any other book which is its superior as a general textbook of medicine, and its popularity is likely to continue.

However, it is not free of imperfections. The concept of 'pseudo-bulbar palsy' is somewhat uncritically copied from earlier editions, although there is no convincing proof of its existence as a distinct clinico-pathological entity. The section entitled 'Secondary polycythaemia' includes two totally different entities, viz.: secondary polycythaemia from chronic anoxia, and polycythaemia secondary to renal and other neoplasms; these entities are, however, not sharply demarcated from each other. In the section on asthma one is taken aback to read, in a textbook emanating from the modern United States, that 'fever therapy, usually produced with intravenous typhoid vaccine, has been used in status asthmaticus', and that 'inhalation of the fumes of burning stramonium leaves is reasonably effective for the relief of mild attacks of asthma'.

M.H.

REFLEX PATTERNS IN DEVELOPMENT

*Reflex Testing Methods for Evaluating C.N.S. Development*. By M. R. Fiorentino, O.T.R. Pp. xiv+58. Illustrated. \$5.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The writer of this book has, with excellent illustrations and pithy captions, described the normal reflex patterns that can be elicited at different stages of a child's development in its progress from being a lying-down creature to one that can first raise itself on all four limbs, and eventually walk on two limbs. (The jargon is 'apedal-quadrupedal-bipedal stages').

She correlates these different reflex patterns with stages of neurological development and points out that persistence of primitive reflex patterns beyond a certain stage suggests delayed cerebral maturation and should prompt immediate neurological assessment.

The book will be of immense value to those who work with children with cerebral palsy and is an important addition to any paediatric or neurological library.

F.R.A.

REVIEW OF THROMBOPHLEBITIS

*Thrombophlebitis*. Current problems and some factors which retard their solution. By R. M. Morrell, M.D. Pp. xiii+182. \$6.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1963.

This book is one in the Modern Medical Monograph series. Dr. I. S. Wright states in the foreword that the purpose of the book is to 'review the present state of our knowledge

and our ignorance and to suggest new directions for attack' on thrombophlebitis.

The author discusses in separate chapters the aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of thrombophlebitis. In the last chapter under 'New horizons' new ideas on the pathogenesis of thrombophlebitis, e.g. a 'countercurrent' and an auto-immune theory of venous disease, are discussed. This rather advanced chapter includes experimental procedures and mathematical formulas which cannot interest the average reader.

This monograph appears to be an excellent review of the literature on thrombophlebitis, and the historical aspects of this condition are fully dealt with. The author also discusses thrombophlebitis in relation to pancreatic cancer, thrombophlebitis of the portal and cerebral veins and thrombophlebitis migrans.

This is a stimulating book that can be recommended to the person especially interested in the subject of thrombophlebitis. For research workers in this field it must be invaluable. It is, however, more a review of the literature than a discussion of the problems pertaining to thrombophlebitis.

B.J.v.R.D.

STUDY OF NERVE PLEXUSES

*The Afferent Innervation of the Heart*. By A. Y. Khabarova, translated by B. Haigh, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. Pp. 175. Illustrated. R9.00. London: Pitman Medical Publishers. 1963.

This book presents a histological study of nerve plexuses in human and other mammalian hearts, stained by the Bielschowsky-Gros, Cajal, or methylene-blue methods. The nerve endings of afferent fibres, distinguished from others by their greater degree of argentophilia, are described and illustrated in detail. The relevant literature is reviewed in chauvinistic rather than academic style and 13½ of the 17 pages of bibliography are devoted to Soviet authors.

A.W.S.

TECHNIQUES IN PARASITOLOGY

*Techniques in Parasitology*. First symposium of the British Society for Parasitology. Ed. by A. E. R. Taylor. Pp. viii+107. R1.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This small booklet brings to the attention of parasitologists new techniques available in other disciplines which could equally well be applied to parasitological problems. Four chapters deal with: the application of biochemical techniques to parasitology, the use of ionizing radiation and radioisotopes in parasitology, *in vitro* cultivation and serological techniques in parasitology, and finally the electron microscopy of parasites.

The text is clear and concise, the style lucid, and the illustrations, although limited in number, are well chosen.

H.D.B.

RESTORATIVE MEDICINE IN GERIATRICS

*Restorative Medicine in Geriatrics*. By M. M. Dacso, M.D. Pp. xiii+324. Illustrated. \$10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The prevention of the syndrome of immobilization and the restoration of effective function of elderly patients are the two themes of this book. The positive role of the various members of the medical profession, particularly that of the physician, is clearly emphasized.

This book, although the work of 15 contributors, is uni-

formly well written. The section on the architectural environment could include more details of design and space organization in the home itself.

Special mention must be made of the chapter 'Senile gait' by Pezczynski which is well worth closer study. D.G.

### RESEARCH IN MENTAL HEALTH

*Opening Doors for Troubled People.* By D. S. Shapiro, Ph.D. and L. T. Maholick, M.D. Pp. xi+121. \$4.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1963.

The authors tell of their exploration into action research for mental health in the community. This work has resulted in the development of techniques and methods suitable for key professional groups such as the family doctor and the minister of religion in their problem-solving function in daily practice.

From this there has also emerged a practicable *modus operandi* for valuable community-wide measures to combat mental illness.

This work should be a stimulus to educators of general practitioners, ministers of religion, social scientists, mental health and public health administrators.

Additional features for which the book deserves praise are an excellent summary and a series of valuable appendices which include a mental health assessment kit; special evaluation *pro formae* and instructions for mental health and counselling. Recommended reading. H.M.

### TEXTBOOK OF ANAESTHETICS

*Anaesthesiology.* 2nd ed. Ed. by D. E. Hale, A.B., M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.A. Pp. xiii+1024. Illustrated. R20.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1963.

This is a 'good and wholesome' book, not only for the specialist, and it deserves a far more generous sale in South Africa than its first edition 8 years ago. Its good English prose without much scientific detail of the kind requiring careful study will appeal to the occasional anaesthetist. Thus, while there is sometimes too much commentary at the cost of factual information, one can safely predict its usefulness and also the real pleasure it will give to its readers.

The British spelling in the title of this rather parochial American book is misleading. Like medical practice in America generally, the standard of the essays by its 50 authors varies from masterful accounts of pertinent physiology and spinal analgesia to quaint old-fashioned sentiments about nitrous oxide and verbose, pleonastic writing on continuous caudal analgesia and the control of pain. The repeated advice to intubate the trachea of conscious patients when the stomach is not empty (is it ever really empty?) will not find favour in South Africa. I think it is wrong to start the essay on hypothermia with a fairy tale without any comment.

After the dangers of treating convulsions caused by local analgesics with thiopentone is rightly stressed and the use of

suxamethonium with oxygenation properly advised, no less than five authors reiterate the old-fashioned advice to give the barbiturate. On p. 296 the oil-water partition coefficient of halothane (330) is said to be higher than that of any other accepted anaesthetic drug, yet on p. 301 that of methoxy-fluorane is given as 400. On p. 339 it is wrongly stated that 'liver function is not disturbed if ethylene is administered with anoxia'. More important, on p. 466 in the first column, line 37, the 3 mm. should be 3 cm. At the top of the next column the quantity '10 to 20 cc.' should be '15 to 60 ml.' as advised in the next paragraph. Students should note that on p. 575 the illustrated laryngoscope blades are confused. At the top of the second column on p. 650 the word 'parenteral' should be 'enteral' or 'alimentary'. On p. 700, 7th line from the end of the first column, the insertion of the word 'difference' before the comma will clarify an obscure paragraph.

Unlike so much of sound present-day medical writing, this book abounds with the indiscriminate use of trade names. It is not helpful to a South African to read, for instance, that 'Emivan seems promising as an antiepileptic'. Chapter 32 seems to be pure repetition of what has gone before at least twice. The masking effect of general anaesthesia on reactions to unsuitable blood is not discussed, and among the lists of remedies cortisone is conspicuously absent; in this connection the discussion of jaundice is poor.

I should like to see names such as Bonica, Daniel Moore, Dobkin and Beecher among future contributors. However, there is a definite need for this fine book—the most useful single textbook of anaesthetics available today. J.W.M.

### PAEDIATRIC TEXTBOOK

*Donald Paterson's Sick Children.* 8th ed. By R. Lightwood, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Eng.) and F. S. W. Brimblecombe, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.C.H. Pp. xi + 724. Illustrated. R5.00. London: Cassell & Co. 1963.

This 8th edition of Donald Paterson's well-known *Sick Children*, has been radically revised by Lightwood and Brimblecombe. Much new material has been included, brief mention also being made of the rarer diseases in which recent advances in knowledge have occurred.

Apart from the usual chapters found in paediatric textbooks, there are fine, to the point, up-to-date chapters on heredity, genetics, metabolic disorders, and a chapter on emotional disorders by Dr. Mildred Creak. The appendices on antibiotics, corticosteroid therapy, other drugs, and particularly on special diets, are most useful.

A few subjects, perhaps, might have been more fully discussed, such as accidental poisoning and the classification of diarrhoea.

This book can, however, be confidently recommended to undergraduate medical students, for whom it is probably one of the best available paediatric textbooks. The postgraduate undergoing paediatric training and the practising doctor, too, will find much useful information in this book. M.P.K.