

RESEARCH IN PSYCHIATRY

Methods of Psychiatric Research. An introduction for clinical psychiatrists. Ed. by P. Sainsbury, B.A., M.D., D.P.M. and N. Kreitman, M.D., D.P.M. Pp. xi + 175. R3.50. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1963.

It is very much in keeping with the rapidly expanding interest in and knowledge of mental illness that a book such as this should have appeared. It is excellent, and provides guide lines as well as a mass of practical details about psychiatric research. Subjects dealt with include the design of experiments, co-operation with a statistician, punch-card systems, survey methods, measuring and recording physiological variables, how to write a paper—and much else of concern to the research worker.

This book has been needed for years. It is of particular value to those who want to do psychiatric research, but are not as yet familiar with techniques. L.S.G.

SYMPOSIUM ON HYPOXAEMIA

Selective Vulnerability of the Brain in Hypoxaemia. A symposium organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences established under the joint auspices of UNESCO & WHO. Ed. by J. P. Schadé and W. H. McMenemey. Pp. xii + 395. Illustrated. R7.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

This book is a detailed report of a symposium held at Baden in 1961 under the combined auspices of WHO and Unesco. Participants came from the USA, England and many European countries. The original papers are printed in full and these are followed by records of the discussion.

As the title indicates, the subject under review was the cerebral reaction to hypoxaemia, and many different aspects were discussed—circulation, blood flow, oxygen diffusion, metabolism and morphology, up to the electron-microscope level.

The result is indeed a book for the specialist with considerable knowledge of central nervous system anatomy, physiology and experimental method and no good purpose would be served by a detailed analysis of the contents which are so full of detail that considerable concentration was required in the reading thereof. The book is an impressive indication of the research activities in an important physiological field. B.J.P.B.

GERIATRIC PRACTICE

The Practice of Geriatrics. By J. Agate, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. Pp. 490. Illustrated. R5.00. London: William Heinemann. 1963.

There is no need to justify the publication of this book on geriatrics. It is mainly in the sections on senescence and retirement, hospital and community care that medical practitioners and students will find the most value.

Unfortunately, the systematic chapters covering the various diseases and treatment lack the same comprehensiveness and emphasis to be of equal value to the specialist. There is no real need to include the explanations of such terms as sinus arrhythmia, pulsus bigeminus, degrees of heart block, dysarthria, aphasia, etc.

The minor errors in spelling, and also the listing of phenindione as a coumarol derivative (p. 68) can be overlooked. D.G.

HISTORY OF ANTIBIOTICS

Miracle Drugs. A history of antibiotics. By H. M. Böttcher. Pp. ix + 285. R4.20. London: William Heinemann. 1963.

The title of this book does not reveal that this volume contains much information on the history of medicine. Also the subtitle is unsatisfactory in that details are given with regard to metabolic products and cellular secretions, whatever their origin, that can be shown to be fatal to microbes. The term antibiotic has been used in the literal sense; nevertheless there is a good account of the history of the discovery of the 'true' antibiotics. The author has an interesting style, gives lively explanations, and has provided a book that is of great interest and value to doctors, pharmacists, and others concerned with the origin of many of our modern remedies and therapeutic practices. N.S.

CENTENARY OF MEDICAL PUBLISHERS

Footprints on the Sands of Time 1863-1963. The story of the House of Livingstone, medical, scientific, nursing and dental publishers. Pp. 71. Illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1963.

A book published to commemorate the centenary of the House of Livingstone—a historical survey of its progress from its humble beginnings as a general bookshop to the well-known publishers of highly skilled technical books and journals. It also gives a brief review of the changes in the teachings and practice of medicine in Edinburgh during that period.

This book is informative and of intense interest, and the references to those eminent medical and dental teachers whose books and works have been published by this firm will provide a feeling of nostalgia to all who have studied at Edinburgh University.

TEXTBOOK ON GENERAL PATHOLOGY

General Pathology. By J. B. Walter, M.D., M.R.C.P. and M. S. Israel, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.P. Pp. xii + 937. Illustrated. R10.00. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

This book is intended as a guide for the Primary F.R.C.S. and F.F.A. examinee. Therefore it is somewhat different from other textbooks of general pathology, inasmuch as it includes chapters on antibacterial chemotherapy, hospital infections and chemotherapy of cancer apart from the usual subjects dealt with in such a book. Furthermore there are 76 pages on haematology, blood grouping and blood transfusion, properly parts of systemic pathology. Otherwise this book follows the lines common to other texts on general pathology apart from the omission of gross malformations.

Some chapters, such as wound healing, immunity, hypersensitivity, to mention only a few, are very good. Unfortunately there are a few statements and errors which are somewhat disturbing, and will have to be corrected, e.g. the remark about the Van Gieson staining (p. 67), the vague definition of an abscess, or the statement (p. 499), 'A true cyst is a circumscribed collection of fluid . . .'

These and other shortcomings of this well-produced book will have to be improved in future editions, especially the insufficient number of illustrations of which there are only about 270 (including many graphs) in a volume of 937 pages. H.W.W.

DRUGS FOR PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

Modern Drugs for the Treatment of Mental Illness. By D. Blair, M.A., M.D., Ch.B. (Cantab.), D.P.M. (Lond.). Pp. 327. R5.00. London: Staples Press, 1963.

During the last few years a tremendous number and variety of drugs, many already established as most useful, have been introduced for the management of psychiatric disorders. Many general practitioners and specialists have a difficult problem in assessing the value of pharmaceutical drugs that are now so abundantly available. In this volume there are fourteen separate chapters on particular groups of drugs. The pharmacology and therapeutic applications are presented in some detail. The presentation is very readable, and gives good insight into the problems involved. Two criticisms that can be made are the use of the term 'chemotherapy', and the unnecessary number of typographical errors. Practitioners will find this a useful book. N.S.

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

An Introduction to Human Physiology. By J. H. Green, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Cantab.), Ph.D. (Lond.). A.R.I.C. Pp. 153. Illustrated. R2.10. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press, 1963.

This is a short, cheap, readable, paper-backed textbook, with numerous clear diagrams. Despite one or two numerical errors ($3 \times 18 = 48!$), the text is well presented, although the inclusion of practical details, especially of antiquated apparatus and large numerical tables, appears somewhat out of place. However, here is a most useful book for those requiring a shorter course, such as physiotherapy students, or to serve as an introduction to the subject for medical students. G.B.R.

DYSTROPHIA MYOTONICA

Dystrophia Myotonica and Related Disorders. By J. E. Caughey, M.D. (N.Z.), F.R.A.C.P., F.R.C.P. (Lond.) and N. C. Myrianthopoulos, Ph.D. Pp. xvi + 282. Illustrated. \$10.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1963.

This is an exhaustive and fascinating description of dystrophia myotonica. It starts with an interesting historical introduction and goes on to a detailed description of the clinical, genetic and biochemical aspects of this disease and of related conditions such as myotonia congenita and, interestingly enough, of disorders characterized by episodic muscle weakness. An attempt is made to find a common factor in the pathogenesis of all these diseases and their final tentative suggestion is 'that myotonia and paralysis could probably be explained on the basis of a failure of a physiological mechanism which presumably depends on one dominant gene. This may well be defective formation or utilization of energy-rich phosphates.'

F.R.A.

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Practical Neurology. By W. B. Matthews, D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. vii + 256. R2.75. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1963.

This book is not a textbook in the usual sense but a series of essays on common neurological disorders. Dr. Matthews has taken symptoms as grounds for his clear and simple discussion: some of the chapter headings are at first sight rather naive—for instance 'Pain in the leg', 'Difficulty in walking', 'The incurable patient'—but his approach is sound, sensible and refreshingly clear, his illustrations from case histories are amusing and at times unexpectedly dramatic, and his references limited to less than half a dozen easily available articles at the end of each chapter. The importance of this book is not that it is another good book on neurological subjects but that it is full of excellent practical hints about the meaning of neurological symptoms, and at the same time it can be read easily and with enjoyment—aspects of writing that have almost vanished from books of textbook standard. J.M.M.

MEDIËSE FISIOLIE

Review of Medical Physiology. By W. F. Ganong, M.D. Pp. 577. Illustrated. \$6.50. Los Altos, California: Lange Medical Publications, 1963.

'n Dogmatiese skryftrant verseker beknopte en volledige in hierdie oorsig, vergelykbaar met ander uitgafte in die reeks, bv. Harper se *Review of Physiological Chemistry*.

Die voorgaande student sal dit nuttig vind as padwyser langs 'n meer omvattende teksboek. Van meer besondere waarde is dit egter vir die nagraadse geneesheer wat werk vir die primêre eksamen in fisiologie, as deel van 'n hoër kwalifikasie in geneeskunde.

Spesiale melding van die seksie oor psigotomietiese en susmiddels op brein chemie en gedrag (bl. 183-186) en van chromosomale bepaling van geslagsdifferensiasie en ontwikkeling (hoofstuk 23) moet gemaak word.

Waterstofioon-regulasie word in die Brönsted-terminologie bespreek. Die onortodokse rangskikking—hoofstuk 1, die fisies-chemiese beginsels, hoofstuk 35 die buffersisteme (as onderdeel van gastransport) en hoofstuk 40 die behoud van H^+ ion konsentrasie (tussen ander paragrawe oor behoud van ekstracellulêre volume en ion konsentrasie)—het baie om dit aan te beveel, mits die kruisverwysings natuurlik raakgesien word.

Daar is sekerlik swakker hoofstukke en om een uit te sonder, kan mens verwys na die hematologie, waar relatief nuttelose diagramme onekonomies gebruik word. Vordering sedert 1950 is in hierdie seksie grotendeels ignoreer.

Oor die algemeen vul die boek 'n noodsaaklike plek vir snelle oriëntasie in 'n snelgroeende vakgebied, en 'n gekeurde bibliografie verseker 'n afspringplek vir verdere studie oor bepaalde onderwerpe. H.P.W.

WETENSKAPLIKE MEDISYNE

The Scientific Basis of Medicine Annual Reviews—1963. By the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. Pp. ix + 348. Illustrated. R4.00. London: Athlone Press, 1963.

Hierdie boek is die 11de uitgawe van 'n bekende boek-reeks wat feitlik jaarliks deur die Britse Nagraadse Mediese Federasie gepubliseer word, en bestaan uit 'n samevatting van 'n reeks lesings van basiese wetenskaplike aard. Dit is onmoontlik om kortliks reg te laat geskied aan die 1963-uitgawe, wat 20 losstaande verhandelinge deur verskillende outoriteite insluit. Onder andere bevat dit 'n interessante aanvangsartikel deur Lord Cohen van Birkenhead oor die invloed van oorerwing en liggaamskonstitusie op menslike siektes. Basiese fisiologiese artikels oor die groei-hormoon, A.D.P. en plaatjie-klopping, kontrolemeganisme van puberteit en postuur-beheer, word afgewissel deur referate van suiwer anatomiese aard, bv. embriologie van die gesig, beginsels van revaskularisasie, anoretale anatomie, en bloedvoorsiening van die hipofise. Die klinikus sal egter meer waarde put uit die tweede helfte van die boek wat o.a. hoofstukke bevat oor ons huidige kennis van galpigment-metabolisme, en intestinale absorpsie: hoewel min nuuts hieruit voortspruit, word kliniese implikasies handig bespreek. Van die beste kliniese georiënteerde referate handel egter oor die belang van magnesium in liggaamsmetabolisme, en die werking van paratormoon met klem op die hiperparatiroïdisme-beeld. Ander artikels bespreek onder meer die genesing van been, elektronmikroskopie-bevindinge in oornus- en keelsiektes en laastens 'n epidemiologiese studie van die tering-basillus en sy weerstand teen veral I.N.H.-terapie soos blyk uit 'n M.R.C.-projek in Indië en Wes-Afrika.

Die boek is dus van beperkte waarde vir die klinikus. Onderwerpe wat behandel word, en deurgaans aangevul is deur volledige verwysingslyste, sal egter van groot nut wees vir basiese navorsers op die betrokke gebiede. 'n Handige terminale inhoudsopgawe dek alle artikels wat sedert 1951 in hierdie boek-reeks verskyn het. F.P.R.

TREATMENT OF NEUROSIS

Lysergic Acid (LSD 25) & Ritalin in the Treatment of Neurosis. By T. M. Ling, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. and J. Buckman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. 172. R2.10. Sidcup, Kent: Lambarde Press. 1963.

The psychopharmacology of lysergic acid is described and reasons given for its combination with 'ritalin'. The potentialities, safeguards and contraindications for clinical use are indicated.

Full descriptions of nine cases treated at afternoon and evening sessions at the Marlborough Day Hospital are given. The descriptions give details of criteria and projective tests to establish suitability for treatment. Detailed information about dosage of drugs, frequency of sessions and regressive and abreactive effects of drug treatment combined with depth psychotherapy is given.

This book will be of interest to general practitioners, and is a must for psychiatrists associated with psychiatric day hospitals.

P.J.F.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND

A History of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland 1654-1963. By J. D. H. Widdess, M.A. (Dubl.), L.R.C.P. & S.I. Pp. xii + 255. Illustrated. R4.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and its fellows are of great importance in the history of medicine and no excuse is needed for presenting this admirable record of their activities. The origin of the College is traced back to a 'Fraternity of Physicians' founded in 1654 by John Stearne. The early years were stormy: the College had no permanent home or income and its usefulness was restricted by the religious

prejudices of the University when appointing its fellows and officials. During the 18th century, the development of the College was retarded by the constitutional limitation of its fellows to 14.

However, in the 19th century, the College developed as an important influence for the good of Irish medical practice and for the health of Ireland as a whole. The College was responsible for promoting smallpox vaccination in Ireland and for introducing other measures to limit the spread of infectious diseases during the terrible 'potato famines' which periodically ravaged the country. Clinical medicine was burgeoning in Ireland and the fellows of the College included illustrious names such as Cheyne, Stokes, Graves and Corrigan. With these men in the lead, the College rapidly achieved maturity, and in 1862 numerical and religious limitations were removed from the candidates for its fellowship.

All this and a great deal more is interestingly recorded by Prof. J. D. H. Widdess, the College librarian. He has provided not only a history of the College against the background of the general history of Ireland and of medicine generally, but also many brief sketches of the important persons who made the history. In this approach lies the weakness and the strength of his book—the many digressions into personal biographies interrupt the chronological sequence and the reader often has to turn back a few pages to regain his historical bearings—but the biographies themselves are full of interest and the book would be comparatively dull without them.

In South Africa, our relatively young College, after an auspicious beginning, is rapidly developing in strength and influence. It is only when one reads of the turbulent early histories of the older Colleges in Great Britain—and particularly of the long struggles before harmonious relationships were established with the State and the Universities—that one realizes how much the South African College has benefited from the experiences of its predecessors across the seas. H.G.