

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Royal College of Physicians of London—Portraits. Ed. by G. Wolstenholme, M.R.C.P. Pp. 468. Illustrated. R7.50. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1964.

This volume is an illustrated catalogue of more than 150 portraits, mainly of paintings and busts in the collection of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The catalogue has been brought up-to-date and the book is beautifully illustrated and handsomely bound. It was dedicated to the College by the Trustees of the Ciba Foundation, who are responsible for its production. The portraits are in alphabetical order by name or title of the sitter and illustrate the great physicians of five centuries. Pre-eminence is given to two portraits of King Henry VIII, the founder of the Royal College of Physicians. Each portrait is accompanied by biographical notes while the portraits themselves are described by Mr. David Piper, Assistant Keeper, National Portrait Gallery.

This book provides a magnificent contribution to the names and achievements of many great figures in the history of British medicine. Those interested in art will find it fascinating as a commentary on the changing tastes in portraiture. This volume will be of great interest to the student of the history of medicine and to art lovers. It should find a place in all libraries.

C.A.

ABNORMALITIES OF HIP JOINT

Diagnosis and Treatment of Congenital Hip Pathology in the Newborn. By S. Stanisavljevic, M.D. Pp. xv + 94. Illustrated. R5.20. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins; and London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1964.

This excellent little monograph is really a thesis embodying extensive original research into the problems of congenital pathology of the hip joint. The author has dissected the hip joints of stillborn babies and he has collected all this information to clarify the anatomical and pathological picture in normal and abnormal hip joints. These findings have been correlated with the clinical and radiological pictures and the value of the various signs and appearances compared.

The result is certainly a most valuable contribution to this important problem and should be read by all paediatricians and orthopaedic surgeons.

G.D.

LABORATORIUMTEGNIKE

Progress in Medical Laboratory Technique, 3. Ed. by F. J. Baker, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.S.T., F.R.M.S. Pp. viii + 250. Illustrated. R4.25. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1964.

Hierdie boek is die derde in 'n reeks wat daarop gemik is om die laboratoriumwerker op hoogte te hou met nuwe tegnieke. Dit bestaan uit 8 hoofstukke wat hoofsaaklik handel oor die nuutste ontwikkelinge in stoomsterilisasië, diagnostiese kleurmetodes, vriesdroog van weefsel met termo-elektrisiteit, elektronmikroskopie, mikroskooptegnieke, ensiemiologie en dunlaag-chromatografie. Benewens 'n besondere duidelike uiteensetting van elke metode, word 'n insiggewende inleiding tot elke hoofstuk aangebied. Hierdie boek behoort beslis 'n aanwinst in die laboratorium te wees.

A.L.

SUMMARY OF PHARMACOLOGY

Handbook of Pharmacology, 2nd ed. By W. C. Cutting, M.D. Pp. xii + 647. Illustrated. \$5.95. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1964.

This book is a useful supplement to the larger textbooks on pharmacology. For individual drugs or groups of drugs there is brief mention of the history, chemistry, actions, mechanisms, uses, and toxicity. There is an abundance of structural formulae, and references provided for further reading.

The brief presentation will appeal to many as it provides a quick summary of the subject.

N.S.

UROLOGY

The Year Book of Urology. (1963 - 1964 Year Book Series.) Ed. by J. T. Grayhack, M.D. Pp. 413. Illustrated. \$8.50. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1964.

Judging by the space allocated in the *Year Book*, urological interest during the year has been concentrated on renal disease in relation to hypertension, urinary infection in all its varied facets and renal transplantation. The other articles are the usual mixture one associates with yearbooks, with comment from the new editor as varied—and perhaps, at times, as unnecessary—as some of the articles he has included.

While still an essential *vade mecum* for urologists, the volume is certainly not up to the standard set by W. W. Scott during his last years as editor.

I.J.

CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Fluorescence Microscopy in the Cytodiagnosis of Cancer. By G. Sani, U. Citti, G. Caramazza and P. Quinto. Pp. xvi + 195. Illustrated. \$27.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Recent researches have once again focused attention on genetic mutation as a cause of cancer, or more precisely a change in the large nucleoprotein molecule. The same sort of mechanism for the normal synthesis of proteins is also involved in the neoplastic cells, except that in such cases the synthesis of proteins is considerably more active.

This book is a timely exposition of these facts. Acridine orange fluorochroming, as an instrument of cytofunctional exploration of the nucleic acids of the normal and malignant cell, represents a significant scientific advance in the early detection and differential diagnosis of cancer with the least possible expenditure of time and money. It must, however, be emphasized that fluorescence microscopy is not merely a technique but an art since it requires, in addition to special training and equipment, a mental attitude sensitive to colour, shading and design as well as an ability to determine an analytical interpretation of the image.

The subject matter of the book is thoroughly expounded, from the physical and chemical bases of fluorescence to details of technique; from clinical research involving many organs of the body to the discussion of the cytodiagnosis in the gynaecological and other fields of malignancy. The whole subject of fluorescence microscopy is clearly and simply explained and illustrated. The magnificent colour microphotography of the pathological specimens is outstanding and has to be seen to be appreciated.

This is a book that merits careful study by any scientist interested in the cytological detection of cancer.

T.F.

DRUGS IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Modern Treatment, Vol. 1, No. 4. Treatment of infectious diseases. Ed. by L. A. Rantz, M.D. Pp. 791-1033. Bimonthly publication, subscription \$16.00 per year. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row Publishers. 1964.

At a time when the numerous available antimicrobial drugs threaten to get out of hand, this welcome paperback gives reasoned, expert advice on the best drugs to use in certain infections. Introductory chapters deal with the absorption and metabolism, the uses and dangers of the important drugs, including the new penicillins.

Treatment covers a full consideration of the following: non-pneumonic viral respiratory infections; beta-haemolytic streptococcal infections; pneumonia; chronic pulmonary infections; staphylococcal infections; Gram-negative bacillary sepsis; and bacterial endocarditis.

Treatment details may vary according to experience, but the over-all recommendations would largely eliminate the irresponsible use of these powerful drugs with loss of their efficiency.

H.R.A.

PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY

Pediatric Neurology. Ed. by T. W. Farmer, M.D. Pp. xiv + 690. Illustrated. \$18.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row Publishers. 1964.

This book has been written by 13 well-known paediatricians, neurologists and neurosurgeons. The initial chapter covers the neurologic history and examination, the following 10 chapters deal with intracranial disorders, and the final 3 chapters are devoted to spinal cord, peripheral nerve and muscular disorders.

Apart from the fact that there is no separate chapter on neonatal neurology and that cerebral palsy is dealt with rather superficially, there is nothing to be criticized in this excellent book. Students will find it a valuable reference book and it should be considered as an essential addition to the library of any doctor dealing with children. M.P.K.

CANCER

Cancer: Nature, Cause and Cure. By A. Berglas. Pp. xx + 154. Illustrated. Paris: Institute Pasteur. 1957.

This book published in 1957 justifies its title in the following manner. The nature of cancer is basically a healing effort by the organism. The cause is inhibition of this healing process by chronic noxae. The cure is to induce cell division artificially in the cancer cells, particularly before the cancer cell has accumulated all the materials which normally precede cell division, in the manner of modern weed-killers in lawns which stimulate the weeds to excessive growth and death. No such therapeutic substance, however, is known. J.G.T.

CEREBRAL PALSY

Cerebral Palsy. By S. Keats, B.S., M.D. Pp. xii + 369. \$12.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Sidney Keats, an orthopaedic surgeon and director of the Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Institute in New Jersey, has presented a well-balanced account of cerebral palsy, its management and treatment. He discusses the work of each of the many medical and paramedical personnel involved in the management of these children. His particular contribution, however, is in the detailed discussion of his own series of orthopaedic procedures carried out on cerebral palsied children. The section on associated handicaps (visual defects, seizures, laterality disturbances, etc.) is evidence of the author's holistic approach to the problem and the book ends with an appendix in which dressing techniques are described in detail (useful for the occupational therapists). There is an adequate review of current literature and the text, produced in large print, is written in good readable English. W.H.

NARCOTICS

Narcotics and Narcotic Antagonists. Chemistry, pharmacology, and applications in anesthesiology and obstetrics. By F. F. Foldes, M.D., M. Swerdlow, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S. and E. S. Siker, M.D. Pp. xxxviii + 425. \$11.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

This book has been written by three anaesthetists who have had much experience in experimental investigation, new techniques, and the practice of anaesthesiology. They present detailed and well-documented information on addictive analgesics and their antagonists, particularly valuable for anaesthetists and pharmacologists, but practitioners, obstetricians, and other specialists concerned with the management of pain will find this volume a most important reference work.

In the first section the authors deal with the history, chemistry, and pharmacology of analgesics and their antagonists, the physiology of pain, and the assessment of analgesia. In the second part there are sections on pre- and postoperative medication with analgesics, their use (alone) in operations, in obstetrics, their combination with tranquillizers, the antagonists and the treatment of poisoning by analgesics. The bibliography contains 1,575 references.

The authors are to be commended for a good practical review of the subject. N.S.

ELEMENTARY ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

How to Produce a Readable Electrocardiogram. By B. A. Bradlow, M.B., B.Ch.(Rand), M.D.(Rand), M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.E. Pp. xxiii + 182. Illustrated. \$8.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Electrocardiograms are so generally performed and so readily available that Dr. Bradlow's booklet on the technical problems involved in taking an ECG is timely.

Too few technicians and doctors are aware of the technical pitfalls that can be encountered. So much can be, and is, deduced from minor deflections in the electrocardiographic tracing that it is essential for the record to be true and any deviation from normal, to be genuine and not artifactual. Too much iatrogenic disease can result from diagnosing abnormality from faulty tracings.

The book is designed for the uninitiated and serves an excellent purpose. It can be thoroughly recommended to all doctors and technicians concerned with electrocardiography. It has not been written for the experienced electrocardiographer who would have no difficulty in recognizing the artificial nature of the recordings illustrated. It is a pity that Fig. 80 is included since it would require a very superficial glance indeed to mistake this for ventricular tachycardia. V.S.

INVESTIGATIONS IN PHYSIOLOGY

Selected Papers of Charles H. Best, C.B.E., M.A., M.D. (Tor.), D.Sc.(Lond.), F.R.S.C., F.R.C.P.(C), F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Pp. xix + 723. Illustrated. R16.80. London: Cassell. 1964.

This collection of 61 publications by Charles H. Best follows the general plan of the similar 'Festschrift', *Adventures in Physiology*, which commemorated in 1953 the work of Sir Henry Dale, one of Best's teachers and friends. Original papers are presented with the minimum of re-editing and with illuminating comments by Professor Best. The main fields of investigation covered are the actions of insulin and glucagon, of choline and other lipotropic factors, and of heparin. The range of time is from the first report on insulin in 1921 to papers on 'The future in the field of diabetes' and 'A brief history of the discovery of the lipotropic factors'; both written for this volume, which show that Best is still an active and up-to-date investigator.

Although the high cost of the book will preclude many private purchases it should be in every medical library. The contents represent some of the most important physiological advances of the last 40 years, brought together from many sources and linked by explanatory notes to make a thrilling story of scientific discovery. It will be of interest to medical historians as well as to physiologists, biochemists, pathologists, and clinicians. A.W.S.

SURGICAL ANATOMY

Manual of Surgical Anatomy. By Sir J. Bruce, C.B.E., T.D., M.B., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E., R. Walmsley, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E., and J. A. Ross, M.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S.E. Pp. vii + 562. Illustrated. R9.00. Edinburgh and London: E & S Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

This new book on surgical anatomy has been beautifully produced with the best quality paper and 247 excellent illustrations, consisting of line-drawings, X-ray reproductions, and some of the beautiful coloured drawings previously used in Jamieson's *Illustrations of Regional Anatomy*. All these combine to form a production of the highest quality.

The subject matter is divided into chapters dealing with the various regions of the body. The text reads smoothly and the clinical application of the anatomical facts is emphasized throughout, important points in operative surgery being mentioned. For this reason the book is more than its title implies, because a great deal of clinical and operative surgery can be learnt by reading it.

There is a comprehensive index which makes reference easy, and the print is clear. The 2-column page also helps to make the book easy to read.

This book succeeds remarkably well in presenting the anatomical basis of surgical practice, and can be confidently recommended to clinical students and postgraduates.

D.J.du.P.