

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

ANAESTHESIA RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Clinical Anaesthesia—Respiratory Therapy. Ed. by P. Safar, M.D. Pp. xiii + 419. Illustrated. R4.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1965.

Intrinsically this book, the most recent in the Clinical Anaesthesia series, is very good value. The 419 pages are well printed and durably bound, and present 117 photographs, illustrations and tables, most of which are well-chosen and informative.

It is not directed at the tyro, as witness the fact that pulmonary physiology and pathology is condensed into 27 pages. Nevertheless, the management of airway obstruction and emergency resuscitation are most comprehensively and competently dealt with, as is the care of the comatose patient.

The chapters on prolonged artificial ventilation and post-operative respiratory complications are adequate but unexciting as is that on newborn resuscitation and the respiratory distress syndrome.

Without doubt, the most informative and valuable parts of this book are the chapters on nebulization therapy; intermittent positive-pressure breathing therapy; and the management of chronic respiratory insufficiency. There has been, until now, a paucity of authoritative information on these subjects which are progressively entering the anaesthetist's sphere of activities. These chapters appreciably reduce this deficit.

Terminology throughout is quaintly transatlantic, but it is hoped that the (separate) statements that 'plumbing' difficulties are common and that all respirator patients should have a 'babysitter' at the bedside at all times, do not conjure up visions to the reader of infantile nocturnal enuresis!

M.J.R.

MENTAL RETARDATION SYNDROMES

Handbook of Mental Retardation Syndromes. By C. H. Carter, M.D. Pp. xii + 168. Illustrated. \$8.60. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

A concise but comprehensive review, in the light of knowledge derived from recent research, of the prenatal, paranatal, and postnatal causes of mental retardation, including genetic causes. The aetiological roles of infections, intoxications, traumas, allergies, vascular accidents, metabolic abnormalities, endocrine dysfunctions and blood incompatibilities are presented and discussed in separate chapters. A brief but useful chapter lists those conditions which respond to therapy or prophylaxis.

An ideal guide, adequately illustrated, for the busy general practitioner.

R.D.K.

SIR ANDREW SMITH

Sir Andrew Smith, M.D., K.C.B. His life, letters and works. By P. R. Kirby. Pp. ix + 358. Illustrated. R7.90. Cape Town: A. A. Balkema. 1965.

Andrew Smith was born in 1797 in the parish of Kirkton, in Roxburghshire, Scotland. His father was a shepherd who improved himself to the status of market gardener. At the age of 16, Smith became a medical student which in those sensible days involved being apprenticed to a general practitioner during the summer and spending the winter months at the University of Edinburgh. His classmates included James Barry—who was no lady—and Robert Knox—who was no gentleman. Soon after qualifying and writing a paper on renal malformations, Smith joined the Army Medical Department and was posted to the Cape in 1820. Apart from his medical duties, he carried out intensive botanical, zoological and ethnological research; his collection of specimens formed the nucleus of the South African Museum which he founded. He also started the *South African Quarterly Journal* and publicly dissected a whale for the edification of the citizens of Cape Town. He explored further inland than any other white man and in the course of his various travels he made the acquaintance of

numerous men famous in South African history, including Lord Charles Somerset, Adam Kok, Dingaana, Rev. Robert Moffat, Mosheshwe, and Mzilikazi. When Charles Darwin called at the Cape in 1836 on his way to Patagonia in *H.M.S. Beagle*, it was Andrew Smith who took him sight-seeing and drew his attention to the interesting rock formations on the beaches of Green and Sea Point. He returned to England in 1837 where he published the four magnificent volumes of his *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa*. In 1853, he was appointed Director-General of the Army Medical Department and in 1854 the Crimean War was declared. The medical deficiencies of the British Expeditionary Force aroused the wrath of Miss Florence Nightingale and provoked the most fearful thunder from the *London Times*, but Smith somehow managed to survive their onslaughts. In 1857 he was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society and in the following year Queen Victoria appointed him Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. He then devoted himself to the study of the scriptures and he died at the age of 75.

It may be wondered why the biography of this remarkable man had not previously been written. The reason is that it required a man of comparable versatility and ability to deal adequately with this task. Such a man has now been found in the person of Prof. Percival Kirby who occupies the chair of music at the University of the Witwatersrand and in addition has achieved distinction as an historian and as an ethnologist. Professor Kirby has previously edited some of Andrew Smith's diaries, papers and letters for the Van Riebeeck Society and the present volume is the culmination of more than 30 years of study.

The relevant manuscript sources in South African and British collections have been thoroughly examined and are recorded in a valuable bibliography together with a list of Smith's published works. From these and other primary sources, Professor Kirby has prepared a splendid biography and a major contribution to South African historical writing. A feature of the book is the skilful blending of long excerpts from Smith's notebooks and letters with Professor Kirby's own graceful narrative.

Smith spent only 17 years of his very full life in South Africa but more than two-thirds of the book are devoted to this period. As a result, the complex history of the medical services in the Crimean War is—relatively speaking—glossed over and Professor Kirby's defence of Smith's alleged deficiencies in this respect are not wholly convincing. However, it is good that he has shown the other side of the story—the admirers of Miss Florence Nightingale have had it their own way for far too long.

H.G.

PSYCHIATRY FOR THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Practical Lectures in Psychiatry for the Medical Practitioner. Ed. by G. L. Usdin, M.D. Pp. xiii + 226. \$4.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

This book is the result of a symposium sponsored by the Division of Neurology and Psychiatry of Touro Infirmary which took place in New Orleans early in 1965. The list of contributors, in addition to senior staff members of the Touro Infirmary, comprised guest participants from various universities and institutes of mental health in the USA. Panel discussions follow various sections.

It attempts to cover a wide field and is aimed at the general practitioner who will first encounter psychiatric problems among the patients in his practice. The timing of referrals for psychiatric opinion and even more important, the preparation of the patient for psychiatric treatment is discussed.

The subject matter ranges from hypochondriasis, alcoholism, depressive reactions treatable by the general practitioners, adolescent problems, counselling and psychiatric emergencies, to the menopause and finally schizophrenia. The book is not highly technical nor clouded by obscure language. It is a useful addition to the shelf of the general practitioner.

J.B.L.

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Vol. 6. Ed. by G. H. Bourne. Pp. ix + 330. Illustrated. R14.00. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1966.

The present volume in this series contains 9 stimulating review articles on a variety of subjects. Aspects of the international food situation are discussed in articles by Kark and Dean, and food consumption trends in the United Kingdom in a painstaking review by Greaves and Hollingsworth. The nutritional status of the Netherlands population is systematically reviewed in a competent article by Den Hartog, whose example will, one hopes, be followed by workers in other countries. Physiological contributions include an article on nutrition and ageing, one on ascorbic acid and adrenocortical function and one on salivary function in ruminants, as well as an excellent review on gastric function and protein digestion which throws much light on phenomena relating to food digestibility. The role of citrus fruits and citrus products in human nutrition is considered in a comprehensive review which neglects, however, to point out the possible connection between tooth decay and excessive citrus juice consumption.

M.L.N.

BABAVOEDING

Babavoeding. Deur P. J. Pretorius, M.Med. (Paed.), M.D. (Pret.). Bll. 126. Geillustreerd. Kaapstad en Johannesburg: Nasou Bpk. 1966.

Babavoeding handel hoofsaaklik oor voeding en voedingsprobleme in die eerste lewensjaar. Die laaste derde van die boek word bestee aan gebreksiektes van kinders. Babavoeding bly steeds 'n duistere onderwerp vir die meeste mediese studente en verpleegsters en ook vir baie praktiserende geneeshere, ten spyte van 'n aantal reeds beskikbare handleidings. Daar moet dus aanvaar word dat daar nog 'n leemte bestaan aan 'n duideliker uiteensetting. In hierdie boek bespreek prof. Pretorius die gewone strydvrage so mooi, bondig, kalm en logies, dat 'n sg. probleem telkens opgelos word aan die einde van 'n paragraaf.

Dit is egter nie duidelik uit die boek of water stadium volsterkte kunsvoeding aanbeveel word nie. Dit is seker ook essensieel (en nie net 'wenslik' nie—bl. 60) om die koppenent van die wiegie te lig gedurende 'n voeding aan 'n prematuur-baba. Baie mense sal seker ook nie weet wat die 'gewone maniere' is waarop seker gemaak word dat die buis wel in die maag is nie (bl. 60). Op bl. 46 is 'n slegte drukfout—een teelepel word as die ekwivalent van 'n halwe ons aangegee.

Aangaande die taalgebruik, is dit verblydend om te vind dat die term 'prematuurbaba' gebruik word ten koste van 'vroeggebore baba'. 'Voltermynbaba' en 'vravoedings' is albei terme wat byval behoort te vind. Ander woorde weer, is hinderlik, bv. 'berie-berie', 'enterococci' (bl. 3) maar 'staflikokke' (bl. 27) en 'afekteer' (i.p.v. aantas). Sulke 'groeipyne' is seker onvermydelik in die tans ontluikende Afrikaanse vakkundige terminologie en in 'n eerste uitgawe.

Met hierdie kritiese aanmerkings wil ek geensins afbreuk doen aan die voortreflikheid van die boek aangaande inhoud en taalgebruik nie. *Babavoeding* word sterk aanbeveel vir gebruik deur praktiserende geneeshere, mediese studente en verpleegsters.

M.P.K.

PULMONARY DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD

Pulmonary Diseases and Anomalies of Infancy and Childhood. Their diagnosis and treatment. By M. I. Levine, M.D., F.A.C.C.P. and A. V. Mascia, M.D., F.A.C.C.P. Pp. xii + 368. Illustrated. \$12.00. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row. 1966.

This is an excellent book of modest size, giving a large amount of information in condensed form but with abundant references to the relevant literature. It is profusely and beautifully illustrated with both X-ray reproductions and line drawings. It is a book of value to all with a paediatric interest and indispensable to a medical library for either undergraduates or postgraduates. This is a model for books to which reference can be made quickly without having to wade through masses of detail.

F.J.F.

VASCULAR SURGERY

Vascular Surgery. Ed. by H. R. Hawthorne, M.D. Pp. xii + 249. Illustrated. \$18.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

The contents of this book represent a fairly wide range of vascular subjects that were presented at a conference on vascular surgery. There are over 30 contributors, some of whom are of international repute. The subjects are usually well covered, clear, mostly concise and easily readable; this in spite of multiple authors. The chapters on arteriography, anticoagulants, aorto-iliac and femoro-popliteal arterial reconstruction and graft selection contain most useful information. There is interesting information on the genesis and current concepts of atherosclerosis. The book represents subjects presented at a symposium and therefore cannot cover the entire field of vascular surgery. However, it is a book of value to those who want a quick review of that which is topical.

H.G.

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

Clinical Pathology. Clinical microbiology and the processes of disease. By J. D. Allan Gray, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., F.C. Path., D.P.H. and G. Discombe, M.D., B.Sc., F.C. Path., F.R.I.C. Pp. xi + 857. R9.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1966.

This book is intended for housemen and general practitioners to make the best use of the 'clinical laboratory'. For this purpose the authors have attempted to bridge the gap between textbooks of clinical medicine and manuals of laboratory technique. More than half of the volume concerns microbiology, the rest deals with the most important aspects of metabolic disorders, deficiency diseases, and haematology. It is evident that *Clinical Pathology*, as a medical discipline, has no clear demarcations; it depends mainly on the author's approach. The book has some shortcomings with regard to histopathology, especially to tumour diagnosis.

The authors had the idea of supplying historical facts in the form of footnotes. Unfortunately there are many errors in this section. I was surprised to read that Gram was a bacteriologist (he was a surgeon); that Guérin died as early as 1886 (he actually died in 1961); that Escherich was an Austrian bacteriologist (while he was in fact a German paediatrician); that Jules Bordet died in 1959 (instead of 1961); that Ducrey was a bacteriologist (instead of a dermatologist) . . . etc. All these errors are misleading and should be eliminated. It may also be of interest to the authors that the number of salmonellae at present amounts to $\pm 1,000$, and not 400, as stated in the text. Foreign words should be spelt correctly or else omitted.

The book definitely needs an additional list of 'errata' before being handed over to the bookseller, but otherwise the text is clear and concise.

H.D.B.

HEART DISEASE IN CHILDREN

Heart Disease in Children. Diagnosis and treatment. By B. M. Gasul, M.D., M.S., René A. Arcilla, M.D. and M. Lev, B.S., M.D. Pp. xiv + 1363. Illustrated. R24.00. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1966.

This book is a timely, up-to-date review of the rapidly expanding field of paediatric cardiology. Current practice is covered in a systematic fashion with special reference to congenital heart disease. Differential diagnosis and special methods of investigation are emphasized. The sections on pathology, electrocardiography and angiocardiology are excellent. A subsequent edition could be improved by more lucid X-rays and angiocardigrams, greater brevity of language and the use of tables of differential diagnosis to avoid extensive repetition. The section on primary myocardial disease is very brief, pericarditis does not have a separate chapter and aortitis is not mentioned.

This book should become a standard manual for specialists dealing with heart disease in children and a reference guide for general practitioners dealing with individual patients.

M.S.G.