

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

TROPICAL DISEASES OF CHILDREN

Diseases of Children in the Subtropics and Tropics, 2nd ed. Ed. by D. B. Jelliffe, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.A.A.P., F.A.P.H.A., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H. Pp. xx + 1011. Illustrated. £12.50. London: Edward Arnold. 1970.

The expense of this book (R25) justifies fairly severe criticism. It is not clear for whom it is meant. Inclusion of a section on the clinical examination of the child as well as many of the diseases of children in temperate climates suggests it is for medical students. At the same time some forms of treatment are omitted as being 'far beyond the resources of most developing countries', but does this include the medical schools? The microscope might be expected to be at hand for most tropical practitioners but microscopical appearances such as those of the stool in diarrhoea are not described. This confusion of objective and confusion of format and lack of balance are no doubt partly due to the multiple authors but it does not justify it. Tetanus neonatorum is described in a chapter on newborn, while the disease at a later age appears 21 chapters later. Endemic goitre is sandwiched between the vitamin diseases of beri-beri and pellagra (infantile beri-beri gets 6 pages, rickets 3½). All in all a disappointing book in a price bracket its contents do not justify.

P.M.S.

ANAESTHESIA

Anaesthesia, Recovery and Intensive Care. By D. A. Buxton Hopkin, M.D. (Lond.), F.F.A.R.C.S. Pp. xi + 196. Illustrated. £1.25, paperback edition; £1.95, hard-cover edition. London: The English Universities Press. 1970.

The author makes no pretense at having produced a manual of sophisticated anaesthesiology. His aim has been to provide a small text book, the main purpose of which is to present a valuable working knowledge of anaesthesia to assist the senior medical student, the junior house officer, nurses and sisters, whose duties may include assistance in the technical and practical aspects of anaesthesia in the operating theatres, post-operative care in the recovery wards, and in the Intensive Care Units; and as such, he has succeeded admirably in his purpose.

The diagrams are presented with great clarity for the uninitiated, and the importance of monitoring, the recovery-rooms, and the Intensive Care Units, are very rightly stressed.

An excellent little book for the new-comer to anaesthesia.

J.A.

AEROBIOLOGY

Aerobiology. Proceedings of the Third International Symposium held at the University of Sussex, England, September 1969. Ed. by I. H. Silver. Pp. ix + 278. Illustrated. £3.50. London and New York: 1970.

The third International Symposium on Aerobiology was held at the University of Sussex, England, in September 1969. This book demonstrates the success of the efforts of the Organizing Committee and is of special interest to all scientists and medical workers studying the spread and control of airborne diseases, and the scientific principles and techniques employed. The following problems are dealt with: airborne infections in closed and segregated environments; intramural spread of infection; laboratory safety; immunological aspects of pathogenesis; value and use of germ-free environments; vaccines and methods of vaccination; microbial survival in air; rapid diagnosis, physiological and genetic factors in host resistance; techniques in aerobiology; initiation of infection by airborne particles.

The book can be recommended as an up-to-date source of information.

H.D.B.

CELL FUNCTION

The Biology of Large RNA Viruses. Papers based on a symposium held in Cambridge, England, July 1969. Ed. by R. D. Barry and B. W. J. Mahy. Pp. xvi + 736. Illustrated. £10.00. London and New York: Academic Press. 1970.

The current state of knowledge of the molecular and cellular biology of the influenza and para-influenza viruses, the rhabdoviruses, and the leucoviruses was considered at a symposium held in Cambridge, England. The replication of these viruses poses problems for which there do not appear to be any analogies among the bacteriophages. Large RNA viruses form an interesting group due to maturation of the virus particle at the cell surface, involving conversion of the cell membrane into the virus envelope, the existence of a fragmented RNA genome, and due to the participation of DNA in the replication of virus RNA involving transformation of the host cell. The authors express their own views on the significance of experimental findings, particularly where controversy exists. Many recommendations for future research are given.

This book will be of value to all scientists concerned with cell function and differentiation.

H.D.B.