

REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

The Life, Works and Times of Charles Turner Thackrah. A. Meikeljohn. 25s. nett. Pp. vii+238 with 7 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, Limited. 1957.

Contents: Preface. 45 pages of life and times of Thackrah. The effects of Arts, Trades and Professions on Health and Longevity.

Here is a book on a pioneer of industrial medicine. The life, work and times of Charles Turner Thackrah are sketched in an essay consisting of 45 pages; the balance of 233 pages being

a facsimile reprint of his *magnum opus*, 'The Effects of Arts, Trades and Professions on Health and Longevity.'

Originally published in London in 1832 and long out of print, this book gives a life-like picture of the life and working conditions of the England of the early 19th century when the industrial revolution had got into its stride and the baleful effects of industrial hazards had not yet been recognized.

Thackrah was one of the earliest to realize the dangers the workman incurred as a result of his occupation. In those days, when working hours were 'reduced from 72 to 69 hours per week', it is interesting to note that 'footmen who stand long behind

carriages are said to be frequently affected with hydrocele', that the 'comparative rarity moreover of aged men in distilleries . . . leads to the opinion that life is abbreviated either by the inhalation or potation of spirit', and that 'Bronzers in general are said to be intemperate.'

The book is very well got up. Several portraits of Thackrah and illustrations of the contemporary scene enliven its pages. The enquiring reader will find any more illustrations he may need in any volume of Hogarth's engravings. A splendid production.

T.S.

X-RAY DIAGNOSIS

Röntgendiagnostik. Ergebnisse 1952-1956. Herausgegeben von H. R. Schinz, R. Glauner, E. Uehlinger. Unter Mitarbeit von W. E. Baensch, J. E. W. Brocher, U. Cocchi, R. Glocker, W. Hess, R. Janker, O. Norman, R. Prévôt, G. Schoch, E. Uehlinger, S. Welin, J. Wellauer, G. Yasargil, E. Zdansky. Seiten xii + 590. 550 Abbildungen in 892 Einzeldarstellungen. DM 139. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1957.

Inhaltsverzeichnis: Vorwort. Der Strahlenschutz in der Röntgendiagnostik, R. Glocker. Neuere Ergebnisse der Wirbelsäulendiagnostik, J. E. W. Brocher. Benigne und semimaligne cystische Knochengeschwülste, E. Uehlinger. Was leistet die Röntgenuntersuchung für die Beurteilung der Herzfunktion des Erwachsenen? E. Zdansky. Die Angiokardiographie der kongenitalen Anomalien des Herzens und der grossen Gefässe mit Rechts-Links-Shunt, R. Janker. Die abdominale Aortographie, J. Wellauer. Arteriographie der Extremitäten, J. Wellauer. Venographie, J. Wellauer. Vertebralisangiographie, G. Yasargil. Zur Diagnose und Differentialdiagnose der Lungenerkrankungen: Entzündungen und Dystrophien, E. Uehlinger und G. Schoch. Vanishing lung, progressive Lungendystrophie, E. Uehlinger. Das Mittellappensyndrom, E. Uehlinger und G. Schoch. Der kleine Magenkrebs, R. Prévôt. Gutartige Pylorushypertrophie des Erwachsenen, R. Prévôt. Der Magenschleimhautprolaps, R. Prévôt. Karzinome, Karzinoide, Sarkome und gutartige Tumoren des Dünndarms, W. E. Baensch. Die nichtsklerosierende Ileitis, R. Prévôt. Röntgendiagnostik von Kolonpolypen. S. Welin. Pneumoretroperitoneum und Pneumomediastinum, U. Cocchi. Die Cholangiographie mit Biligrafin, R. Prévôt. Cholangiographie intra operationem. W. Hess. Hystero-Salpingo-Pelviographie, O. Norman. Autorenverzeichnis. Sachverzeichnis.

This is a review of the developments which have taken place in diagnostic radiology since the end of the second world war. The advances in radiotherapy have not been included. In this relatively small book the authors have succeeded in giving a clear and concise account of almost the whole field, combining both precise details of technique for those of practice and a complete general picture of the latest advances for those engaged in research work.

The book opens aptly with a chapter on protection from X-rays during diagnostic procedures—a much discussed problem today. It warns that one must never lose sight of the need for protecting both patient and radiologist.

Although written by continental authors, developments which have taken place in other parts of the world are included and fully discussed in the text.

Throughout, the diagnostic procedures are viewed in their proper clinical perspective, and thus the book will appeal not only to the roentgenologist, but also to physician and surgeon alike.

It would be pointless trying to review separately each one of the excellent articles, many of which are monographs in their own right.

The book is 'a must' for those who can read German, and it can be confidently recommended to those not fluent in that medium, for it is lavishly illustrated with many more pictures than pages of excellent and pertinent radiographs, diagrams and pathological specimens, which tell the story without one's having to consult the text.

Each chapter is provided with an extensive bibliography.

R.H.G.

FRACTURES AND JOINT INJURIES

Outline of Fractures Including Joint Injuries. By John Crawford Adams, M.D. (London), F.R.C.S. (England). Pp. vii + 248. 218 Figures. 27s. 6d. net + Postage Abroad 11d. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Introduction. I. General Features of Fractures. II. Principles of Fracture Treatment. III. Joint Injuries. IV. Injuries of the Spine and Thorax. V. Injuries of the Upper Extremity. VI. Injuries of the Lower Extremity. Index.

This is an excellent little book. As outlined in the author's preface, it has been written primarily for the medical student, the busy practitioner and the physiotherapist. The author outlines the

requirements such a book should fulfil and the reviewer agrees with his criteria, and feels that he has achieved his intentions exceedingly well.

A book of this nature should be concise, and, if necessary, dogmatic. Here again the author has managed to adhere to these essentials with praiseworthy success. The keynote in treatment has been conservatism, which the reviewer feels is in keeping with the demands of the readers for whom the book is intended.

It is difficult to single out individual sections of the book, but it can be confidently stated that the section dealing with features of the neck of the femur is very well covered. The reviewer is surprised, however, that in the section on fractures of the shaft of the femur no mention is made of fixed traction as opposed to sliding traction.

The illustrations are well reproduced and convey the salient information at a glance.

This is a book which will fill great want, on the shelves of the medical student in particular.

G.D.

PAEDIATRIC NURSING

A Textbook on the Nursing and Diseases of Sick Children for Nurses. Sixth Edition. By Various Authors. Edited by Alan Moncrieff, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., J.P. and A. P. Norman, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xvi + 777. Illustrations 146. 50s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1957.

Contents: Preface to Sixth Edition. Extracts from Preface to First Edition. Part I. General Considerations and Nursing. Introduction. I. The Normal Child—Management and Care. II. Preventive Medicine and Child Health. III. The Sick Child—Management and Care. IV. The Nursing of Sick Children at Home. V. The Collection and Observation of Specimens. VI. General Nursing Procedures in Childhood. VII. Bacteriology. VIII. The Process of Inflammation. IX. General Principles of Surgical Technique. X. Anaesthesia and Anaesthetics. XI. Pre-Operative and Post-Operative Nursing Care. XII. Haemorrhage and Shock. Part II. Diseases of Children. XIII. Diseases of the Newly-Born. XIV. Dietetics in Childhood. XV. Breast Feeding. XVI. Artificial Feeding. XVII. Disorders of Nutrition and Metabolism. XVIII. Diseases of the Endocrine System. XIX. Diseases of the Circulatory System. XX. Tuberculosis, Rheumatism and Nephritis. XXI. Diseases of the Skin. XXII. Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ears. XXIII. Diseases of the Respiratory System. XXIV. Disorders of the Alimentary System. XXV. Surgical Disorders of the Alimentary System. XXVI. Functional Nervous Disorders. XXVII. Neurosurgery. XXIX. Orthopaedic Surgery, Part I. XXX. Orthopaedic Surgery, Part II. XXXI. Orthopaedic Surgery, Part III. XXXII. Surgical Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System. XXXIII. Diseases of the Eye. XXXIV. Burns. XXXV. Plastic Surgery. XXXVI. Tumours and Cysts. XXXVII. Infectious Disorders. XXXVIII. Children in the Tropics. Appendix. Index.

This book, having reached its 6th edition, is obviously one for which there has been considerable demand. The latest version will probably be just as popular. It is over 700 pages long, and the twin editorial pens might have been driven more ruthlessly through a great deal of the contents to make them suitable for nurses, not sister-tutors or medical students. Any paediatric nurse who invests in this gospel of Great Ormond Street will certainly have her money's worth if she has the time and staying power to assimilate it.

Some sections, such as those concerned with general nursing management, bacteriology, burns, plastic surgery, functional nervous diseases and X-rays, are admirable. But throughout the whole text are scattered items which are certainly peculiar if not intended as comic relief. The preparation of solutions from pure drugs (page 94) is pure pantomime. Some of the tit-bits of mediaeval information on poultices, leeches, mustard baths, blisters, cupping, and recipes for sherry whey and the inevitable, inexplicable, an innutritious bone and vegetable broth are surely no part of the training of a modern nurse. Comparable comment is called for in other respects in that the instruction is not in keeping with current practice and thought. Are there still people who clothe premature babies in union flannel and feed them every hour, who think that mastitis is very common in newborn infants, that strapping of umbilical hernias is really beneficial, that rectal prolapse is wilfully produced, and pyelitis any sort of an entity?

The print is good, the photographs and index excellent, but many of the line drawings are due for replacement by photographs or for simplification and the illustrations of a steam tent and a typhoid chart must have been in the first edition.

The crucial point, from a nurse's angle, on the quality of a textbook is its usefulness as an aid to the passing of her examinations. The last section of this book consists of sample examination questions. The text supplies the answers and therefore should find a ready market wherever paediatric nursing is taught.

F.J.F.