

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Fundamentals of Neurology.* By ERNEST GARDNER. (Fifth edition, 1968). Saunders. £3 4s. 0d.

This is a text-book of neurophysiology for students. There is a suitable measure of neuroanatomy. The clearly written text is supported by outstanding diagrams and figures. At the end of each chapter there is a short biographical sketch of men whose names are mentioned in the text or who were outstanding in neurology and a list of references to aid wider reading. This is a good book. It is suitable for undergraduates and postgraduates.

E. A. MARTIN.

*Tumours of the Large Bowel.* By R. J. JACKMAN and O. H. BEHRNS. Publisher : W. B. Saunders. £5 15s. 0d.

This is another volume in the series—Major Problems in Clinical Surgery. The overall editor is J. Englebert Dunphy, and this volume is written by Raymond J. Jackman, and Oliver H. Behrs.

The authors draw on their very considerable experience in the Mayo Clinic for their knowledge of tumours of the large bowel. They have divided the subject into sections. The first two deal with innocent tumours; the next two with cancer and the final section is concerned with growths around the anus.

In dealing with the innocent polyps, the authors divide them up into three categories :

- (1) The diminutive polyp (less than 5 m.m. in diameter).
- (2) The medium sized polyp (6 mm. to 1 cm. in diameter).
- (3) The large polyp (greater than 1 cm.).

They maintain that some of the diminutive ones grow on and that, with the increase in size, the likelihood of malignant change is enhanced. This view may perhaps not be acceptable to everybody, but they give valid reasons for holding it.

The first section shows a large number of coloured plates of the most excellent quality.

The final three sections deal with the malignant lesions of the colon, and these are well set out, though there is nothing startlingly new about them.

The references are given at the end of each chapter and there is a comprehensive index.

This book lives up to the high standard of others in this series and is recommended.

STANLEY T. MCCOLLUM.

*Practical Psychiatry for the Internist.* By DOUGLAS GOLDMAN and GEORGE A. ULETT. Mosby Company, Publishers St. Louis. Price \$9.85.

This very expensive book of 156 pages, was planned to facilitate the understanding and acceptance of psychiatric responsibility by the practitioner, and to indicate to him the importance of the emotional and psychological components of an illness. It gives a simple straight forward superficial account of psychiatric topics, both those encountered in surgical and medical practice as well as the independent psychiatric disorders. Classification, diagnosis and treatment are dealt with in separate chapters and the opening chapter on human biology is probably the most rewarding. Only superficial psychotherapy comprising reassurance, explanation and encouragement is described and scant reference is made to psycho-analysis, behaviour therapy, or social therapy of the neuroses. The chapter on drugs covers all the anti-depressants and tranquillisers in use on this side of the Atlantic without adding anything to our knowledge of treatment.

This would be an excellent introduction to psychiatry for nurses, but I would hesitate to recommend it for students, or general practitioners as there are so many excellent text-books covering the same field, including a paperback at 5/- for those aspiring to a knowledge of psychiatry and its uses in general medicine.

JOHN P. MALONE.

*Synopsis of Pathology.* (7th Edition). By W. A. D. ANDERSON and T. M. SCOTT, C. V. Mosby Co. (St. Louis).

"Anderson's Synopsis"—is just that—a resumé of the excellent two-volume Text-book of Pathology, and as such is succinctly written, freely illustrated (many, however, not too clearly) and with a very useful list of current and classical references as an appendix.

This is an ideal student's introduction to systemic pathology. Of necessity, only a brief glimpse is given of some of the more exciting aspects of general pathology. However, a more than adequate balance is maintained with frequent reference to recent electron microscopy. The sections dealing with the cardiovascular and renal systems are excellent in contrast to the weaker treatment of the alimentary system and central nervous system.

In summary, a handy, compact volume, well worth the investment.

JOHN J. DINN.

*Exploration of the Abdomen.* By J. W. BASSETT. Publisher : C. C. Thomas, Illinois. \$6.75.

This small book is designed to show by diagrams, with a very small text, how the peritoneal cavity should be systematically explored and the various organs examined.

No doubt it is a useful exercise to read such instructions before embarking on a laparotomy; but the craft can only be learned from a master who, if he is involved in the training of a surgeon, should explain the procedures at the operation table and so make the study of this book unnecessary.

STANLEY T. MCCOLLUM.

*Bray's Clinical Laboratory Methods.* By J. D. BAUER, P. J. ACKERMAUR and JELSON TORO. Publisher : C. V. Mosby Co. \$14.85.

The text of the seventh edition of Bray's Clinical Laboratory Methods like that of its predecessors, is based on lectures on clinical pathology delivered to medical students and trainee technicians. As a result it contains little which is not of immediate use to the practising physician or laboratory worker while at the same time covering every aspect of laboratory medicine in sufficient detail to satisfy all but the specialist. Each section has been revised, enlarged and brought up to date, and some have been completely re-written. A new chapter on quality control, not only of laboratory reagents, but also of techniques and the reproductibility of results makes interesting reading and prompts the question why it is only in laboratory medicine that serious efforts are made to establish the size of the inherent errors in diagnostic procedures.

The index is complete, the references, both European and American, comprehensive and the illustrations, many in colour, are clear and helpful while the production of the volume is up to the usual American standard.

Since its first publication in 1936 this has been a useful and popular laboratory handbook and the present edition maintains the tradition so firmly established by its distinguished forebears.

DOUGLAS MELLON.

*The Medical Annual.* Edited by SIR BODLEY SCOTT and R. M. WALKER. Publisher : John Wright.

The Medical Annual is now in its sixty-eighth edition and time has brought changes in the authorship of some of the chapters but each is still authoritative and bearing in mind the delays inevitable in printing and publishing manuscripts, surprisingly well up to date. The advances made during the year are concisely reviewed and this year's special articles deal with mobile intensive care in the management of myocardial infarction with immunity in malignant disease, chronic pyogenic cholangitis and injuries of the hand. The first is of particular interest in this country being written by Dr. J. F. Pantridge and based on his experiences in such a unit in Belfast, much of which is probably relevant to conditions in other Irish towns : The second condenses into ten pages information derived from no less than sixty different papers on recent developments in this exciting field.

Progress is recorded in every branch of medicine and each chapter casts a clear, critical, and searching light on its subject. Such an annual review is of particular value to those who attempt to assimilate some of the deluge of material ceaselessly pouring from the printing presses. This volume alone lists no less than 700 textbooks and 90 pharmacological preparations produced during the year. It is notable that in spite of our five medical schools, and two Royal Colleges, our innumerable professors, lecturers and part time research workers, not one contributor is from Eire, and among the thousands of references quoted not one refers to work done here.

For those who require ready access to information and balanced views on progress in fields outside their own speciality the Medical Annual has long been invaluable and the present volume maintains this tradition.

D. E. MELLON, M.D.

*X-Ray Diagnosis of Congenital Cardiac Disease.* By L. P. ELLIOTT and G. L. SCHEIBLER. Published by Charles C. Thomas, Illinois. Price \$11.50.

While the title of this book would lead one to believe that it dealt exclusively with congenital heart disease, such is not the case. In the introductory section (65 pages) the radiological changes produced by increased pressure in, increased flow through, or hypertrophy of, the individual cardiac chambers, are enumerated, and clearly explained.

All radiological findings in the common (and most of the very rare) congenital cardiac lesions are described in detail. In each condition the physical signs are briefly explained. Adequate phonocardiograms, electrocardiograms and vectorcardiograms are provided. Perhaps the most praiseworthy section is that dealing with cardiac mal position—"mid line mix ups"—this is a difficult subject, but the angiograms, which are accompanied by diagrams, clearly explain the many variants.

The text is written by three authors, but despite this the style is reasonably uniform. The index is concise and accurate, but the bibliography is sadly lacking.

It is a book which may be recommended to the radiologist and the cardiologist.

CONOR MCCARTHY.

*Amputation and Prosthesis Survey in North West Europe and America.* By G. E. FULFORD and M. J. HALL. Publisher: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 42/-

The science and technology of prosthetics has advanced enormously since the last war, so much so that the few text books now available are hopelessly out of date. Advances, however have taken place piece-meal in many different centres, often as the result of work by isolated groups in small centres, which have advanced technologically in one direction, but many lag behind in another. The main advances have been in North America and Germany, stimulated first by the war casualties of 1939 to 1945 and later by the thalidomide disaster. Britain and other countries have advanced less rapidly. In most European centres and in North America the manufacture of prosthetics has been mainly in the hands of private firms and the War Veterans Institutions. It is comparatively recently, particularly with the advent of powered limbs, that University and Hospital Centres have instituted prosthetic research programmes. It was only with the interest of Universities, stimulated by the possibility of powered limbs and the need for prosthetic centres and trained staff in the newly emergent nations, that prosthetics became the subject of International conferences and seminars and that papers on experimental prosthetic work began to be heard at academic meetings.

Up to the present, information of advances in prosthetics has had to be sought in monographs in many different medical and trade publications, often in a foreign language, or in unpublished papers read to local societies. Much work has never been published and information concerning many techniques in regular use has often been obtainable only by visiting centres personally. A general or traumatic surgeon, therefore, who was not especially committed to prosthetics, but who was anxious for his patients to have full advantage of modern limbs, was unable to keep up-to-date and even surgeons especially interested in prosthetics found themselves ignorant of important work in distant centres simply because they could not cover the whole range of conferences and local journals.

A modern survey of prosthetic technology has been badly needed for several years and this report has been produced to fill that need. Any such work published at this time would be certain of a good reception since it stands alone and this careful precis on the work at some 180 centres in North West Europe and America, visited in 1965-'66, compressed by eliminations of overlapping and redundant detail into a little more than 100 pages, is welcome indeed. It provides a report on the state of prosthetics today under the headings of: (1) Organisation of the Profession; (2) Surgery, and Prosthetic Construction and Fitting, of the upper and lower limbs respectively, followed by a section of (3) Comment and one of (4) Recommendations under similar headings—There are certain omissions. The lower limb is excellently covered, but the upper limb not so well. The report on this latter section is confined entirely to a discussion of powered limbs, with no mention of conventional upper-limb prostheses, or of prosthetic surgery of the upper limb. A surgical section would have been welcome if only to assure us that traditional methods of upper-limb amputation are still standard. Surely there should have

been some mention of amputation-arthrodesis of the paralytic arm? One also missed any mention of cosmetic and functional prostheses for the Partially Mutilated Hand, or the modern use of total-contact sockets for prostheses with short below elbow stumps.

The index is not sufficiently extensive or prolix. Even major subsections are not listed, in either the contents or the index and although there is an excellent summary at the beginning of each major section, the lack of indexing makes it difficult to find any particular detail of the report. There are, however, excellent references to individual centres and surgeons and prostheticians to enable those interested to obtain further information.

This is however not a manual of prosthetics, or even a Recent Advances, and must not be judged as such. It is not intended for the pre-graduate even post-graduate student. The prosthetic sections are highly technical and the report is intended chiefly to be of use to the prosthetic specialist. Individual sections, however, especially that on surgery of the lower limb, the Immediate Post-Operative Fitting of Prostheses, the Patella-Tendon-Bearing Limb and, to some extent the total-contact socket, will be of interest to general and traumatic surgeons and will enable them to bring their amputation techniques up-to-date. The authors in any case must be congratulated on the difficult task of compressing the enormous amount of data obtained in their 18 months tour into such a short and readable report.

There is still a need for a more general survey, including centres not mentioned in this report, e.g., Russia and Israel, and even more urgently, perhaps, of a short manual of prosthetics tailored to the needs of post-graduate students and general surgeons. Even a good chapter in a standard surgical work would be of value. Perhaps one or both of the present authors may provide us with this at a later date.

WILLIAM de WYTT.

*Living with the Pill, and other Methods of Contraception.* Edited by SUSAN RAVEN. Times Newspapers Ltd., London. 5/-.

This concise paper-back will provide an invaluable addition to the library of every doctor who wishes to be well-informed on the subject.

The names of the contributing specialists automatically commend the work. They include Dugald Baird, Peter Bishop, Alfred Byrne, Hilary Hill, and John Marshall. With other colleagues they have briefly covered the whole spectrum of contraception in an authoritative manner, calculated to resolve the problems facing doctor and patient when the question arises concerning which contraceptive method should be used.

MICHAEL SOLOMONS.

*Modern Motherhood.* By H. M. I. LILEY and BETH DAY. Heinemann, London. 35/-.

This is a book which doctors can confidently recommend to patients who are sufficiently interested in their pregnancy to want to know what is going on within the uterus.

The authors provide an easily readable account of foetal physiology and labour, and continue with an explanation of the new-born's behaviour during its early months of existence. Many practical hints are given, and, if phraseology becomes at times a trifle histrionic, this does not lessen the book's value as a welcome gust of fresh air for motherhood, which most women will find entertaining and instructive.

MICHAEL SOLOMONS.

*Principles of Surgery: A New Approach.* By D. J. Du PLESSIS. John Wright & Sons Ltd. (1968). Price 27s. 6d.

As explained by the author in his preface, this is not a text book of surgery, but an outline of an approach to surgical diseases which can be used as a skeleton for application to specific conditions. At intervals, exercises are prescribed with the object of inducing the student to write his own 'textbook' of surgery. This is an interesting experiment and the underlying idea is certainly good, but it needs to be worked out much more carefully. The first part of the book, on the general principles of surgery, is very patchy: for example, the chapter on blood transfusion is excellent, but the chapter on disturbances of fluid and electrolytes is confusing and misleading, especially on page 52 which deals with over-hydration and under-hydration without any regard to the vital distinction between extra-cellular and intra-cellular hydration.

The second part of the book on the principles of regional surgery is concerned

entirely with the abdomen, apart from a chapter on the thorax and a chapter on the leg veins.

Although this book can not be recommended strongly to students, it might, paradoxically, provide useful ideas for teachers.

ANTHONY WALSH.

*Surgery of the Adrenal Glands.* By LAWRENCE W. O'NEAL. C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. (1968). Price \$19.50.

Few surgeons have the opportunity to acquire a large personal experience of disorders of the adrenal glands. Consequently there will be a general welcome for this concise and elegant monograph which presents a very reasonable summary of current knowledge about the physiology, pathology, and surgery of the adrenals. The illustrations are very well chosen and are particularly good in the chapter on the radiology of the adrenal glands.

The chapter on anaesthesia, written by Paul Hackett and Henry Cason, is especially valuable: it gives a very well balanced account of the advantages and disadvantages of alpha and beta blockade. This chapter and the chapters on adrenalectomy for breast cancer and on sympathetic tumours must be expected from the general criticism of the bibliography that it is virtually confined to the American literature.

The chapter on operative technique is a little disappointing. Most surgeons would agree with the author that the anterior abdominal approach is preferable in pheochromocytoma, but not everybody would agree that this approach is suitable in Cushing's Diseases.

There are two very useful appendices, a table of normal laboratory values of hormones, and a list of drugs which may interfere with hormone determinations.

This book can be recommended as an excellent work of reference.

ANTHONY WALSH.

*Neuro-Ophthalmology: A Symposium.* (Vol. IV). Edited by J. L. SMITH. 1968. The C. V. Mosby Company. Price \$31.50.

The editor of the proceedings of the symposium of the University of Miami and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute possesses the unusual distinction of holding associate professorships in three subjects, ophthalmology, neurosurgery and neurology which may explain the variation of subject matter in this absorbingly interesting book. It contains a great deal of practical interest: an account of differential section of the facial nerve for blepharospasm; the suggestion that tetregol may diminish lightning pains; a number of chapters on seronegative syphilis a diagnosis so easily overlooked to-day and not easily proven by the average laboratory on this side of the Atlantic.

But if we are left with a feeling of envy for the facilities available in the U.S.A. we may wonder if the use of those facilities does not sometimes constitute a departure from clinical commonsense. Consider the case of a 57 year old negro admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital, in May, 1967, because of a recent hemiplegia—Interrogation about V.D. 'elicited a history of a "haircut" at age 28' and blood and C.S.F. examination confirmed a diagnosis of neurosyphilis. Fasting blood sugar levels on two occasions were 157 mg./100 ml. and 173 mg./100 ml. and the E.C.G. showed L.B.B.B. Was it necessary in the face of a proven diagnosis to subject the unfortunate man to bilateral angiography? Incidentally, the examination was negative.

Dr. Drachman of Chicago contributes an interesting chapter on progressive external ophthalmoplegia but perhaps he does less than justice to Kilogh and Nevin whose classic paper in 1951, re-awakened interest in this condition. They were at pains to show that it was caused by muscle dystrophy and surely this is by far the commonest cause even though it may also occur in a variety of neural degenerations.

Since the book cannot be too highly praised it is a pity that its price will prevent the average general reader from buying it.

J. B. LYONS.

*Physiology of Connective Tissue.* By MILOŠ CHVAPIL, M.D., D.Sc., Czecho-slovak Medical Press Prague. Butterworths, London. (1967). Price £5 10s. 0d.

We are indebted to Dr. Chvopil for undertaking what is probably the first comprehensive text-book on connective tissue. That the importance of connective tissue should have been overlooked for so long is strange in view of the fact that collagen, its characteristic constituent, is one of the commonest body proteins and that

the huge tanning industry is concerned almost entirely with the preservation of its fibres. Biologists can only excuse their neglect of the subject by pleading that the relatively dramatic contractions and secretions of the muscles and glands enclosed in this tissue have distracted attention from its more subtle, but no less important, activities.

The plan of the book is straightforward and effective. After a brief historical review, the general mechanical properties of connective tissue are studied. Attention is then paid to the modifications of these properties in special organs under normal and abnormal circumstances. The same treatment is then applied to the biochemical and functional aspects of the subject with final chapters on regulation and development. The resultant book is effective and pleasantly arranged—it promises well for easy and useful reading.

Unfortunately things don't turn out so well. The work is all too obviously a translation, careful, meticulous and innocent of idiom. In some important sections the incidence of typographical error is so high that too much time has to be spent on the mere labour of reading. It is a pity, for it could have been—and, in some ways, still is—such a useful book.

FRANK KANE.

*Vascular Diseases.* Authors: M. J. TSAPOGAS, V. V. KAKKAR and E. N. GLEAVE, H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., London. £2 10s. 0.

In 170 pages the authors set out to cover the problems presented by the various vascular diseases and injuries. Though the book has an obvious surgical bias the medical aspects of vascular diseases are covered admirably.

This book is obviously not for the specialist vascular surgeon, but, as the preface explains, is written to help general practitioners, students and junior post-graduates.

As a concise and up-to-date précis of the subject it is an undoubted success and the easy discursive style is deceptively lucid. The aim of the book seems to be primarily to impart an awareness of the scope of treatment rather than to act as a therapeutic manual.

The text is illustrated by line drawings and X-rays which have a pleasing habit of appearing in close proximity to the relative text. There appears to be a mistake in labelling the X-rays illustrated on page 17 and an X-ray plate in Fig. 17 is upside down.

The omission of references in no way detracts from the value of the book for those for whom it is intended. In the latter regard one cannot help feeling that the title of the book is somewhat disappointing.

The last chapter is devoted to techniques in vascular surgery to illustrate to the practitioner in a simple way what may happen to his patient in hospital.

As a concise and up-to-date account of the subject this book is excellent value.

DAVID LANE.

*The Lung and its Disorders in the Newborn Infant.* By MARY ELLEN AVERY. Published by W. B. Saunders Coy, Philadelphia.

This book is one of the series of monographs on Major Problems in Clinical Paediatrics. The first edition was published in 1964 and the demand for it was such and the advances in this particular field so marked that this, the second edition has now been produced.

The author is paediatrician-in-charge of the Newborn Nurseries in The Johns Hopkins Hospital. She gives a very lucid and comprehensive survey of problems connected with the respiratory tract in the newborn and includes descriptions of a number of rare conditions so that the text will be useful for reference purposes.

The first third of the book deals with the development of the lungs and with respiratory physiology in this age group in considerable detail. Part II deals with the clinical conditions affecting the respiratory tract in a systematic and clear manner. There are a considerable number of X-ray films reproduced illustrating the diseases described. Finally there is a short section on artificial respiration which discusses the indications for resuscitation and the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods in use.

Dr. Avery has obviously read very extensively on her subject as shown by the list of references which runs to 31 pages.

This book can be recommended as an excellent survey of a difficult, but vitally important section of paediatrics.

J. P. R. REES.