

FILM REVIEWS

"The Healing of Wounds." 16mm Colour and Sound. Running time 18 minutes. Smith and Nephew Ltd. Medical Information Department, Welwyn Garden City, 1965.

On 14th January, 1965, Smith and Nephew Ltd., gave a preview of their latest film "The Healing of Wounds" which was made at the Mount Vernon Centre for Plastic Surgery, Northwood. The film gives a description of the natural process of wound repair and of the principles of treatment to facilitate healing. Stress is laid on the importance of gentleness in handling wound edges and on meticulous care in suturing. The method of removing skin sutures and of achieving skin cover by grafting are also shown.

The producers and the surgeons are to be congratulated on their straightforward presentation. The film will be an excellent teaching aid for surgical and nursing tutors. A handy booklet of explanatory notes accompanies the film, to help both teacher and student. It can be obtained on loan.

J. M. MATHESON

"Hypertension—The Selection of Patients for Treatment." 16mm Black and White and Sound. Running time 23 minutes. The Pfizer Group, Sandwich, December, 1964.

The film takes the form of a patient presenting to his General Practitioner and then following him to hospital. The question of investigation and treatment is portrayed as a sequence of teaching ward rounds and discussions between the consultant, registrar and General Practitioner.

A difficult subject is put over very well and the sponsor avoids advertising any particular form of treatment. The recommended investigations are given in full including aortography, but the impression is left that this particular test is an inescapable one, despite the lack of facilities in most hospitals.

In discussion after the film was over, it was pointed out that it was designed for showing to General Practitioners, but investigation and treatment would be moderated according to the opinion of the local Consultant Physicians dealing with hypertension and that they would be able to put their views at the time this film was shown.

Generally my impression was that the film would perform a good service to those to whom it was directed, from the point of view of refreshing the mind on diagnosis and the grades of essential hypertension requiring treatment.

A. K. DAVIES

BOOK REVIEWS

An Outline of Pulmonary Function and Pulmonary Emphysema. E. ROSENMAN. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas, 1964. Pp. xii + 137. \$6.50.

The author of this book presents his material in three parts, Part I contains the principles of pulmonary physiology with their application in pulmonary function and function tests. Part II devotes itself to the abnormal pulmonary physiology of emphysema with a short account of the treatment of the condition. Part III a review of the whole subject material contained in Parts I and II.

There is no doubt that this field is a difficult one but the author does not achieve his object of producing a readily assimilable outline of modern pulmonary function tests for the general physician.

I. MICHIE

The Temporo-Mandibular Joint. 2nd Edition. B. G. SARNAT. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas, 1964. Pp. xxi + 260. Illustrated. \$12.50.

The 2nd Edition of the original monograph under the same title has been considerably enlarged in scope, and of course brought up to date. It now represents the combined efforts of nine eminent American teachers and clinicians, and presents a comprehensive account of modern thinking on the pathology and treatment of temporo-mandibular joint disorders, as well as giving a clear picture, in the newly included chapters of the evolution and embryological development of this complicated structure.

It might well be thought that a publication running to 260 pages concerned only with one joint must contain considerable "padding," but this is not so, largely because the various authors have treated their subject in its proper perspective, not as a single joint, but as a system of joints, teeth and other structures concerned with the functions of mastication and speech.

It is well written, copiously illustrated and indexed and has more than the usual number of references to British publications than many American works. Naturally of greater interest to surgeons and dentists, it would repay reading by any medical practitioner in view of the increasing number of patients presenting with temporo-mandibular joint symptoms.

D. V. TAYLOR

Nutrition, Exercise and Body Composition. E. JOKL. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas, 1964. Pp. vii + 115. Illustrated. \$5.75.

This small book is a precis of previous publications by the author who, for the last 30 years, has been concerned with various facets of sports physiology and medicine.

The first chapter deals with the relationship of nutrition to athletic performance. Fat rather than carbohydrate is now believed to be the "prime fuel" of muscle. By the diminution of post-prandial lipaemia, exercise has an effect on blood coagulation and fibrinolysis, and may in this way minimise the "atherogenic" properties of a high fat diet in sedentary individuals.

In the second and third chapters the effect of physical training on lean and obese subjects is dealt with. Reference is made to the value of mensuration, body weight, skin fold thickness and body specific gravity in the assessment of lean and fat, body tissue. Intensive physical training causes a depletion of excess body fat and an increase in body specific gravity. This is borne out by the author's work ("Kentucky Physical Fitness Experiment") on the effect of intensive physical training on adolescent girls which is dealt with in Chapters 4, 5 and 6. The effect of training on the measurement of "physical fitness" itself is, however, not dealt with.

The author makes a case for the value of studies on the correlation of physique to performance in both trained and untrained individuals and for the development of a system of staff notation for human movements.

There are numerous references in this well printed book, but the presence of some 60 tables, graphs and diagrams, in a slender volume with small pages and short sub-chapters (*e.g.* 9 lines), breaks up the text and may not make for easy reading.

Although in no way a text book on either nutrition, exercise or body composition, Dr. Jokl's small monograph will be of some interest to all serving medical officers particularly those concerned with the physical fitness of the soldier.

E. T. RENBOURN

W.H.O. Expert Committee on Smallpox. First Report. W.H.O. Technical Report Series No. 283. Geneva: W.H.O., 1964. Pp. 37. Available throughout H.M.S.O. 5s.

This report examines and discusses the problems of smallpox throughout the World.

The only source of the smallpox virus is man, and since successful vaccination protects for several years, eradication would seem to be a comparatively easy task. The report points out the many reasons why eradication has not yet been achieved.

Also noted in the report is a recent major advance—the use of chemotherapy in the prevention of the disease in contacts.

The W.H.O. Expert Committee are of the opinion that, given energetic action by countries in which the disease is endemic, together with practical assistance from countries free from the disease, smallpox could rapidly be brought under control and eventually eradicated.

H. F. McELLIGOTT

Care of Children in Day Centres. By various authors. Public Health Papers No. 24. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1964. Pp. 189. Available through H.M.S.O. 10s.

Day care centres for young children are being established all over the world to meet the requirements of the increasing number of mothers working outside their own homes. Such centres are not, or should not be, places where untrained persons are employed merely to see that the children are fed and do not get into trouble. They should be based on the physical, social, intellectual, and emotional needs of children, and therefore, call for enlightened planning and organization of the group care provided.

This volume describes the administrative, health, and psychological aspects of day centres in various countries, as well as the effects these services have on the child and his family. Comparisons are made between children brought up entirely at home and partly in day centres. The specific problems of centres are discussed, relating, for example, to the facilities provided, the siting in relation to the mother's place of work, the daily programme, and educational play activities.

M. M. LEWIS

The Practical Management of Head Injuries. 2nd Edition. J. M. POTTER. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., 1964. Pp. xviii + 92. 15s.

This little book, which so easily fits in the pocket, is essential reading for all who are concerned with the care of the injured. In beautifully clear terms without undue brevity Mr. Potter has covered the care of head injuries in 80 pages without a wasted word and yet without any omission of consequence and no one could fail to benefit from reading this again and again. In the opinion of the reviewer a bacteriostatic antibiotic concentration in a scalp wound is better achieved by systemic penicillin than by the use of penicillin-sulphamezathine powder (page 24) and the latter carries with it a risk of sensitization which is best avoided but this is a very minor criticism. One feels that the operation mentioned on page 47 should be a simple craniotomy and not a craniectomy, which would be far from simple. Although this book is short and pithy without wasted words, it is still eminently readable and phrased delightfully; the occasional quotation from Percivall Pott is both apt and telling, for instance (page 60) "For the rest of the fractures, we may join Pott in dismissing the practice of dividing them into different sorts: "These are to be found in most of the old books, but as they merely load the

memory, without informing the understanding, or assisting the practitioner, modern authors have generally laid them aside." This was written 200 years or so ago but modern surgical examinations appear still to require that the memory be loaded in this way.

In dealing with the examination of the cranial nerves, the relative unimportance of the involvement of the greater palatine is beautifully expressed when Mr. Potter says: "Those who wish to exercise further their knowledge of the anatomy of the facial nerve may discover whether the injury is proximal or distal to the chorda tympani on testing the sense of taste on the anterior 2/3rd of the tongue."

Occasionally Mr. Potter's magnificent phraseology takes on almost lapidary excellence, as in dealing with personality changes (page 69): "The marriage vows take on a new significance, and the gear wheels of mutual adjustment may creak ominously, for this is not the individual she married."

And again, in the paragraph on rehabilitation (page 72): "The personality of the occupational therapist is all-important, and a pretty face may succeed in persuading normally indolent men into the most surprising pastimes." On this latter subject of rehabilitation, Mr. Potter makes a strong plea for special centres for head injuries and quotes the example of the rehabilitation centres which the Armed Services used during the war.

This is a book which is impossible to praise too much, and its attractive price should prevent no one allowing themselves the possession of it for financial reasons.

J. C. WATTS

Textbook on Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses. 2nd Edition. R. R. WILLCOX. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd., 1964. Pp. 492. Illustrated. 70s.

Many good textbooks on venereal diseases have been published in the last decade, but this work by R. R. Wilcox contains certain differences which should make it appealing to the reader.

The first edition, published in 1950, was one of the first books to correlate the experience of antibiotic therapy and enjoyed a lasting popularity. Sixteen years of further experience with new drugs—new trends and new diagnostic tests have made certain revisions overdue. The global outlook of the first edition has been given added emphasis by considerable expansion of the pages devoted to endemic treponematoses, non-venereal syphilis, yaws, pinta, and the word "Treponematoses" has been included in the title.

The "lay-out" is conventional. Part I deals adequately with the gonococcal and non-gonococcal discharges of both sexes. The reader, however, may still remain somewhat confused as to the significance of true gonococcal arthritis and the polyarthritis associated with Reiters Syndrome. It is thought that the writer would be justified to state categorically that true gonococcal arthritis is a very rare condition to-day, and will usually respond to antibiotic therapy, whereas the polyarthritis following non-gonococcal urethritis is quite often seen, is probably due to an allergic response in a susceptible individual, is often difficult to treat, and is subject to relapse. In the writer's experience it is impossible to differentiate the abacterial pyurias from the non-gonococcal urethral infections which are usually abacterial anyway, the aetiology of which must await eventual elucidation.

A most pleasing feature of the book is the time and space allotted to the history of individual diseases. The historical description of syphilis being particularly most interesting and informative.

Part II which deals with the treponemal diseases includes an excellent chapter on the serological diagnosis of syphilis and gives a clear description of the more important conventional tests as well as the more recent specific ones. The choice of tests and interpretation of the results of these tests is discussed fully. Other valuable features include guidance on the assessment of cure of syphilis after treatment, the important questions of syphilis and marriage and syphilis and life assurance. The detailed description of the use and danger of antibiotics used in V.D. therapy should be of immense value to the inexperienced practitioner.

The remaining venereal and allied diseases are dealt with in Part III which is concluded by chapters on the aspects of venereal disease control and details of technique.

The book is easy to read, is well produced, and is amply illustrated with clear descriptive photographs. At its price, however, it could have included more coloured prints. It is strongly recommended to all workers in this special field, and will be of immense value to students and those intending to take up venereology as a speciality.

B. LEVY