

BOOK REVIEWS

Physicians Handbook. Fourteenth Edition. M. A. KRUPP, N. J. SWEET, E. JAWETZ and E. G. BIGLIERI. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., 1966. Pp. 616. Illustrated. 37s. 6d.

This is the fourteenth edition of this well known, concise and practical handbook. It differs from its predecessors not only by being brought up to date but also in the addition of a new chapter on 'Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures'. This latter contains detailed accounts of many practical techniques from the commonplace intra-muscular injection to the less common liver biopsy. Tonometry is also included reflecting American authorship.

The addition of this chapter does even more to making this a houseman's delight, for the remainder is already famed for its wealth of fact and ease of reference. It is therefore recommended unreservedly for the young hospital doctor—indeed it has been written for him even as far as producing a soft cover to fit into the pockets of his white coat. I myself always feel that a hard cover protects a book more, but this is a niggardly criticism in the face of the many other virtues of this excellent manual. P. J. BEALE.

Manson's Tropical Diseases. 16th Edition. SIR PHILIP MANSON-BAHR. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cassell Ltd., 1966. Pp. xiv + 1131. Illustrated. £5 10s.

For nearly 70 years this book has held pride of place in the English literature of tropical diseases and the appearance of the sixteenth edition will undoubtedly confirm it in this position. The text has been extensively revised and several chapters have been almost completely re-written. The author has enlisted the aid of recognised experts in the preparation of the text. Mr. A. McKie Reid has contributed an excellent section on ophthalmology. This could possibly be improved by dealing with the numerous causes of blindness in the tropics under a separate heading. Dr. John H. Walters writes with authority on tropical anaemias and Dr. H. A. Reid's section on snake bite reflects considerable personal experience. The chapters on the haemoglobinopathies and on the arthropod borne viruses, never adequately dealt with in previous editions, are now adequately covered and contain much recent work. There is a specially welcome section on the application of fluorescent antibody tests to tropical diseases. Dr. Charles Wilcocks has assisted the author in pruning away outdated material and incorporating the newer information which the rapid progress in tropical research has made mandatory. He has also undertaken the considerable task of reading the proofs and of seeing the whole work through the press. The result is a fine and comprehensive book which deals fully with the clinical aspects of the diseases of torrid climates and contains not a little information on medical parasitology and entomology. No serious student of medicine of the tropics can afford to be without this book on his shelves. R. J. G. MORRISON.

Compendium of Emergencies. 2nd Edition. H. GARDINER-HILL. London: Butterworth & Co., Ltd., 1965. Pp. xiii + 374. 60s.

This book covers a multitude of common emergencies, and despite the size of the project a reasonable degree of success can be claimed. Each section is written by specialists in the field, for other specialists or general practitioners and consideration is given to variations in conditions and equipment.

It does not purport to be a complete treatise on any one subject but it does clarify what to do and what not to do. Although essentially the care of medical emergencies is an exercise in common sense, it is comforting to have ready access to expert opinion. Where therefore library facilities are limited or where it is difficult to summon a further opinion, the presence of this little book at the bottom of the black bag would often be a tranquillising thought to both doctor and patient.

I. MICHIE.

Anatomy of the Human Body. 2nd Edition. R. D. LOCKHART, G. F. HAMILTON and F. W. FYFE. London: Faber & Faber Ltd., 1966. Pp. ix + 697. Illustrated. 6 gns.

This second is the first revised edition of a textbook, already well established since it appeared in 1959, not the least for the uniqueness of its presentation of the subject and the profusion of its pictures. Although the price has inevitably increased, the number of its pages has not, a comforting thing in these days of swelling textbooks. The content of the book is the same and there are only minor alterations in some figures and text, and re-arrangement of a few pages. The important feature is the insertion of the newest of the Anatomical Nomenclatures, and let our earnest cry and prayer be that this may be unchanging and lasting.

This textbook is mainly for student use and is not to be regarded as a book of reference in the manner of the large systematic texts. Its success will continue. A. G. D. WHYTE.

Principles of Medical Statistics. Eighth Edition. A. BRADFORD HILL. London: The Lancet Ltd., 1966. Pp. ix + 381. 15s.

The amount of teaching on the subject of statistical methods received by medical undergraduates is, in several medical schools in the United Kingdom, regrettably meagre. One of the results of this common defect in our system of medical education is the presence in our community of registered medical practitioners who know little or nothing of statistical technique as applied to therapeutic and other clinical trials, surveys in the field of preventive medicine, the presentation of statistical data in articles for publication and the interpretation of figures generally. To remedy this situation a book is required with

which medical practitioners can educate themselves and, for this purpose, Bradford Hill's book is ideal. It is expressly written for those who are not mathematically minded and who therefore need simple "step-by-step" explanations; very few medical men will deny that they are in this category. The fact that it has been subject to seven new editions and six additional reprints since it was first published in 1937 testifies to its well-deserved popularity. The new edition is better than ever, additional material having been added on the subject of controlled trials and on research into the environmental factors associated with chronic diseases.

Every medical student and every medical practitioner should possess a copy of this book.

M. M. LEWIS.

The Pharmacologic Principles of Medical Practice. 6th Edition. J. C. KRANTZ, Jr. and C. J. CARR. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1965. Pp. viii + 994. Illustrated. £5 18s.

This excellent text-book belies its title. It contains much more than the pharmacological principles of medical practice. From the time of the appearance of its first edition in 1949 it has been deservedly popular. It is out of keeping with the times for two authors to grapple with such a large subject but this arrangement makes for uniformity of style and evenness of presentation. The authors have, however, safeguarded against too narrow an outlook by sending sections of the text to some twenty experts in specialised fields for criticism and review. The book is arranged in nine parts in relation to the various bodily systems. Each is prefaced by an introductory section on the physiology and pathology of the system considered so that the actions of a particular drug are not seen in isolation but in relationship to a dynamic organism. There are photographs of the great men of pharmacology and beneath them the authors have printed short but apposite quotations from their works. Over 100 new drugs are discussed and the subject matter is thoroughly up-to-date. In a book of this size a few mistakes will creep in. For example the illustration on page 183 shows hookworms in intestinal mucosa, not in muscle. This book will take an honoured place in the literature of pharmacology and should be at hand for all who deal with drugs and patients.

R. J. G. MORRISON.

A Guide to Cardiology. 2nd Edition. J. C. LEONARD and E. G. GALEA. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. xii + 306. Illustrated. 35s.

The second edition of this guide to cardiology has been extensively re-written and greater emphasis has been placed on the principles of electrocardiography and cardiac catheterisation. But aside from modern techniques the authors, as in their first edition, have stressed the fundamentals of cardiology: history, clinical features, diagnosis at the bedside, and treatment. For the undergraduate student, house physician and general practitioner, this emphasis will be welcome. There are many excellent x-ray pictures. Some of the electrocardiograms illustrated have a somewhat old-fashioned look but they are, nevertheless, clear and do not detract from the general excellence of the book.

R. G. MACFARLANE

Calling the Laboratory. 2nd Edition. Edited by W. A. R. THOMSON. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. ix + 126. 17s. 6d.

That a second edition of this book should be called for is an indication of its value. It originally consisted of brief articles on laboratory investigations and their results, written by pathologists for general practitioners and published in "The Practitioner". It has now been re-written. With 28 different authors differences in style are inevitable but no subject is allowed to assume undue importance. Most of the common laboratory investigations are covered and there are notes about some which are needed less often. These are included either because they are topical (there are new chapters on sputum cytology and on blood alcohol), or because they are required for completeness (hormone investigations in infertility studies).

The intention of this inexpensive little book is "to supply general practitioners with the information which will enable them to take ever-increasing advantage of the laboratory services now at their disposal". It could, with advantage, be read and discussed by all pathologists and clinicians, a process which would lead to better use of the laboratory for the benefit not only of out-patients but of in-patients as well.

R. J. C. HART.

Towards Earlier Diagnosis. Second edition. K. HODGKIN. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. xvi + 459. 30s.

This is the second edition of a book first published in 1963 and, on this account alone, speaks for itself. The first edition was reviewed in the *Journal* in 1964 (Vol 110, No. 1).

The present book differs from the original to the extent of some dozen minor amendments. It is a book by a general practitioner for general practitioners and, as such, stands pre-eminent in its own field. It can be gainfully read by clinicians at all levels.

A. D. YOUNG.

Foundations of Nursing and First Aid. 4th Edition. J. S. ROSS and K. J. W. WILSON. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1965. P.p viii + 382. Illustrated. 24s.

This book, which sets out to establish for the first year nurse, foundations on which her subsequent knowledge of nursing can be built, certainly achieves its objective. The line drawings are explicit and the text excellent and easy to read. All students should find it a most useful and valuable book.

H. P. K. BRETT.

Textbook of Medical Treatment. Tenth edition. SIR DERRICK DUNLOP and PROFESSOR STANLEY ALSTEAD. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. xvii + 1003. 70s.

The notable advances in medical treatment have required ten editions of this book in twenty-seven years. The editors deserve high praise for producing a text, completely up to date, which is as fresh, lucid and authoritative as that of the first edition. Perhaps its outstanding feature is the clear description of total management of the patient, therefore the medical student, general practitioner or specialist physician can read or consult with equal ease. Not only diseases but also important symptoms and situations are dealt with in special sections, for example "the relief of pain", "insomnia", "the care of old people", "the doctor-patient relationship", to mention only a few. In the chapter on psychiatry in general practice guidance is given on which patients require a specialist opinion and which psychiatric tasks are within the scope of the general practitioner. It is difficult to find fault except on some minor points. Possibly the advice that "the majority of cases (of bacillary dysentery) due to Sonne and Flexner infections . . . call for little medicinal treatment" could be misleading to the inexperienced doctor dealing with children (p.15). Oral streptomycin and neomycin do not appear in the treatment of bacillary dysentery but oral streptomycin is recommended for this condition on p.74. It is remarkable how few such slips have escaped the vigilance of the editors when there are some thirty-two contributors of various sections.

The textbook is recommended with confidence for medical students, for postgraduates studying for higher degrees and for general practitioners and specialist physicians in their daily work. J. P. BAIRD.

Elementary Textbook of Anatomy and Physiology Applied to Nursing. Second Edition. JANET J. E. RIDDLE. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. vii + 151. Illustrated. 14s.

The authors are to be congratulated in accomplishing their objective, the presentation of anatomy and physiology in an interesting form for juniors and students, and pupil nurses. The diagrams and line drawings are simple and explicit, and the application of sound nursing principles throughout, most helpful. I particularly like the chapter on "Posture" which all too often is neglected, and the questions at the end of each chapter are a valuable addition to this excellent little book. H. P. K. BRETT.

Having a Baby. 3rd Edition. J. F. ROBINSON. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1965. Pp. viii + 108. Illustrated. 8s. 6d.

The purpose of this little book is to give to young married couples the plain facts of married life. The title suggests it is written for couples expecting a baby, but it does in fact include chapters on contraception and infertility. It is doubtful whether couples seeking information about the latter aspects of married life would do so in a book with this title. Perhaps the author who has already written booklets on family planning and the contraceptive pill will later produce a companion booklet for the enlightenment of the infertile couple. The chapters on the anatomy and physiology of the female reproductive system are clear and concise and well illustrated, as are those on pregnancy, labour, and the care of the new born. The writer has a general practitioner bias in favour of domiciliary midwifery. As a large number of his readers will have their confinements in hospital it would seem a pity to suggest they will not find a comparable personal touch there. Labour does not always take a predictable course and a normal delivery is a retrospective conclusion. With this exception the author avoids controversial subjects even to the extent of appearing evasive. The statement "smoking in moderation is no more harmful in pregnancy than at other times" will not satisfy those of our colleagues who actively discourage smoking with the fervour of a crusade. N. G. G. TALBOT.

Springboard to Victory. C. E. LUCAS PHILLIPS. London: William Heinemann Ltd., 1966. Pp. vii + 241. Illustrated. 30s.

A clear and compelling account is given of the events which lead during April, 1944, to that remarkable fortnight's siege, set in the wild green hills of the Central Burma Front. As the title implies Kohima was the turning-point in this bitter campaign and even today, with the confrontation in Borneo, many of its lessons—air supply, improvisation of equipment and the will to overcome apparently insurmountable difficulties—are remarkably apposite. As the author writes, order and counter-order due to lack of information of this unexpected Japanese advance delayed vital decisions. But fortunately Kohima had been given time by the stand of the 50th Parachute Brigade at Sangshak. The record should however be corrected as neither was this brigade flown in as reinforcements, nor was it apparent that this advance had been anticipated as, at the time the Japanese crossed the Chindwin on 7th March, the 49th Brigade guarding this flank had already been withdrawn and the two battalions of the 50th Brigade were quietly jungle-training at opposite ends of the line Ukhrul-Chakabama. It was not until ten days later, coincidental with the arrival of the Japanese, that parts of these two battalions were concentrated at Sangshak. Before Kohima's siege was raised, the garrison had been forced into a hillside perimeter some 380 yards in length and width. Lying exposed in the open trenches of the ADS were several hundred wounded, always under small arms fire and often directly under shell and mortar fire. In the operating pits Colonel John Young, now a very senior officer with the Canadian Medical Services, and his British and Indian medical officers, three to be killed and two wounded, worked around the clock and carried out amputations under the most primitive conditions. Once again we learn of the inestimable importance to morale that the medical presence can give and of the work that devoted men will carry out in the direst of circumstances. F. G. NEILD.

Plastic Surgery for Nurses. IAN A. MCGREGOR and WM. HENRY REID. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. 120. Illustrated. 15s.

In their preface the authors state their aim as being to provide a background knowledge of basic plastic surgical techniques, by a broad survey of the ways in which these techniques are applied, and they state, it is not a book on plastic surgical nursing. Nevertheless, it gives a clear description of the principles involved, which no nurse can fail to find extremely helpful. The simple text and clear line drawings make it a book that is easy and interesting to read; it should find a place in every school of nursing.

H. P. K. BRETT.

JOURNALS RECEIVED

The following Journals/Publications have been received and are available in the R.A.M. College Library:

Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology; Archives of Surgery; Annales Academiae Medicae Stetinensis; Annales Chirurgiae at Gynaecologiae Fenniae; Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery; Arquivos Brasileiros de Endocrinologia e Metabologia; Annales Medicinæ Internæ Fenniae; Anais do Instituto de Medicina Tropical; Alfred Hospital Clinical Reports.

British Medical Journal; British Journal of Surgery; Broadway; Bulletin of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine; Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital; Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana; Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

Canadian Journal of Public Health; Central African Journal of Medicine.

Dublin Medical Students' Journal.

East African Medical Journal.

Giornale di Medicina Militare.

Indian Journal of Medical Research; International Review of the Army, Navy and Air Force Medical Services; International Civil Defence Bulletin; International Journal of Psychiatry.

Journal of the Oslo City Hospital; Journal of the Irish Medical Association; Journal of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps; Journal of the Egyptian Medical Association; Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service.

King's College Hospital Gazette.

Lancet; Le Medecin de Reserve; London Hospital Gazette; Leprosy Review; Leech.

Medical News; Medical Officer; Medical Digest; Medical Bulletin of the U.S. Army; Medical Journal of Australia; Military Review; Military Medicine; Medecine Tropicale; Midland Medical Review; Medicine Today and Tomorrow; Medicine, Science and the Law; Medico-Legal Journal; Manchester Medical Gazette; Medicina y Cirugia de Guerra.

National Defense Medical Journal; New Zealand Medical Journal; North Wing; National Library of Medicine News; Newcastle Medical Journal.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine; Practitioner; Polish Medical Science and History Bulletin; Pakistan Armed Forces Medical Journal.

Quarterly Journal of Medicine.

Revista del Viernes Medico; Revue des Corps de Sante des Armees; Royal Society of Health Journal; Revista de la Asociacion Medica Argentina; Revue Internationale des Services de Sante.

South African Journal of Radiology; Scottish Medical Journal; South African Medical Journal; St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal; South African Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; South African Journal of Medical Sciences.

Tropical Diseases Bulletin; Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Vierteljahrsschrift für Schweizerische Sanitäts-offiziere.

Wehrmedizin; W.H.O. Chronicle; Wehrmedizinische Monatsschrift.

Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Annual Report of City Medical Officer of Health, Durban 1963-1964; Bibliography of Hookworm Disease, 1920-1962; British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research—Forty-third Annual Report, 1965; Fellowship Examination Papers for the Diplomas of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, 1960-1965; International Work in Tuberculosis, 1949-1964; International Register No. 8; Shandon instrument Applications; A Series of Monographs on Modern Scientific Techniques; Statistical Methods in Malaria Eradication; W.H.O. Public Health Papers No. 29—Mass Campaigns and General Health Services; W.H.O. Public Health Papers No. 28; W.H.O. Activities in Nutrition, 1948-1964; W.H.O. Technical Report Series—Nos. 312, 313, 314, 315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334 and 335.