

BOOK REVIEWS

Electrocardiograms. A Systematic Method of Reading Them. M. L. ARMSTRONG. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd., 1965. Pp. 64. Illustrated. 17s. 6d.

The author has set out to describe a logical and systematic routine for the interpretation of E.C.G. readings.

In doing so he has avoided all but the simplest theory and has kept the whole brief, but complete, within his intentional limits.

The test is clear and concise, but some of the illustrations are small and difficult to read. Selected illustrative tracings would have been better than a small reproduction of all 12 leads.

With this reservation the book should prove useful to the newly qualified houseman for whom it is primarily intended.

J. CARSON.

The Casualty Officers Handbook. Second Edition. Maurice Ellis. London. Butterworth & Co., Ltd. 1966. Pp. vii + 250. Illustrated. 48s.

This pocket-size handbook is written for the relatively inexperienced Casualty Officer who all too frequently has no senior immediately available to help him with his problems. It first appeared in 1962 and deservedly received wide acclaim. In the second edition besides minor revision there are new or improved accounts of facial injuries, tetanus prophylaxis and the management of the severely ill patient with multiple injuries.

In the interests of brevity and easy reference the advice tends to be dogmatic. The rationale is stated when the recommended treatment is unorthodox, for example incision, curettage and primary suture under antibiotic cover as an out-patient for acute breast and ano-rectal abscesses. The author's results are impressive, achieved by careful attention to detail. Nevertheless the text is clear and there should be no difficulty for anyone wishing to adopt the methods. The rewards will be reduced morbidity and loss of earnings to the patient and reduced expenditure on drugs, dressings and staff to the hospital.

Every Regimental Medical Officer should have a copy of this book for not only does it provide sound guidance on the management of minor injuries, but there are also useful chapters on poisoning and the differential diagnosis of the acute abdomen.

D. A. W. HOPKINSON.

Military Drawings and Paintings in the Collection of H.M. The Queen. Vol. 1. A. E. HASWELL MILLER & N. P. DAWNAY, London. Phaidon Press. 95s.

This superbly produced volume is the gift of the Ogilby Trust and now lies in the muniment room of the R.A.M.C. Historical Museum.

It is the first of two volumes and contains nearly 500 plates, many in colour, of British, Dominion and Colonial, and foreign armies from the seventeenth century to Queen Victoria's day.

It is not, however, just a book for connoisseurs. Few of the young soldiers taking part today in the "Advance in Review order" at the end of a ceremonial parade may realize that this was originally a test to show that the troops could steadily advance shoulder to shoulder in the face of musketry fire less than 200 yards away or that "Trooping the Colour" had an eminently practical application. The colour as very slowly taken round the lines so that it would be readily recognised when it was waved to indicate the rallying point in the midst of the turmoil and confusion of battle.

In a short review it is obviously not possible to classify and describe the pictures which go to make up this fascinating volume. On closing the book one cannot help wondering at the outlook of those who would send the troops to face long marches and all the rigours of war half choked with high leather stocks, wearing tight belts constricting the waist and chest and long gaiters stretching up to the thigh. Was it not Sir George Bell who described how he lay in a ditch full of muddy water wearing an old pair of flannel trousers, no shirt and a scarlet tunic the epaulettes of which had cost him ten pounds from a London tailor?

The medical services seem to have been able to look after themselves rather better. Patrick Heron Watson writing home during the Crimean War tells how before embarking he provided himself with a racoon skin coat, a fur cap, seal skin boots and a lynx skin coat. He also took a "regulation blue jacket and trousers" and, at a funeral of a brother officer, wore his "scarlet". During May he wore a waist-coat and trousers of grey brown or blue linen cloth and carried a large umbrella which cost him five shillings!

There are many battle scenes in the book shewing the ground strewn with dead and wounded but nobody seems to be doing anything about it except in one plate shewing a wounded man being carried off on a stretcher outside "La Belle Alliance" at Waterloo.

This is in no way remarkable, as, in Wellington's day, the medical services were just a "civil department".

When the Duke mentioned his P.M.O. in his despatches he does not describe Sir James McGrigor as an officer but as an industrious, able and successful *public servant*.

The study of the changes and development of military uniforms through the ages is a wholly absorbing and delightful occupation which has many thousands of devotees throughout the world. For them this monumental work will always be a classic, but the flamboyant, uncomfortable and ornate uniforms depicted will also have a wide appeal to the casual reader who, perhaps, cannot help being left with the impression that to consign troops into battle thus handicapped might be compared with sending a team to take part in a strenuous game of rugby football clad in top hats and morning coats!

R. E. BARNESLEY.

Development of the Lung. Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by A. V. S. DE REUCK and RUTH PORTER. London, J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1967. Pp. xv + 408. Illustrated 65s.

This symposium presents a volume of value to physicians, surgeons, physiologists and others, whose interests lie in the phylogeny and ontogeny of the lung. The papers and discussions on intrauterine gas exchange and the start of breathing, taking up just under half the volume, present authoritative detail of value to obstetricians. There are many references. This is an esoteric work which will not be of general interest.

R. G. MACFARLANE.

Bio-Electronic Detection of Cancer and other Diseases. H. A. MORTON WHITBY. London, Crosby Lockwood & Son Ltd., 1967. Pp. xiii + 152. Illustrated. 42s.

This book describes a method for the early detection of disease based upon alterations in the electro-chemical activity of tissues. The theories upon which the method is based are, to say the least, debatable, as they postulate that malignant and non-malignant toxæmias are the cause of most illness; that inflammation is a premonitory sign of all disease and that chemical and microbial carcinogens are only effective when chronic inflammation is already present. Although the author obviously believes in bio-electronics as a method for detecting altered cellular activity and has assembled numerous case histories to prove its worth, to the orthodox, the book seems full of quasi-medical jargon and statements of doubtful veracity. The publishers describe the author's work as being twenty years ahead of its time but to the reviewer it seems that most of it is well behind the times.

It can only be recommended to those particularly interested in bio-electronics.

J. C. CROOK.

A Nurse's Guide to Anaesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care. Third Edition. W. NORRIS and D. CAMPBELL, Edinbrugh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1967. Pp. viii + 151. Illustrated. 22s. 6d.

This seems to me an excellent book. It is clearly written, and full of good advice on practical and theoretical points concerning the care of the unconscious patient. It is comprehensive, yet concise and easy to read, and the three editions which have been necessary in four years attest to the book's popularity, as well as to the rapid changes which are occurring in the subject matter. The intensive care unit is well covered, and a special chapter is devoted to anaesthetic machines and other apparatus. Many anaesthetists would quarrel with the emphasis given to the back of the hand for intravenous induction of anaesthesia with thiopentone, but this is a small objection in a book meant for nurses. The authors are to be congratulated on a valuable contribution to nursing literature.

D. S. HUTTON.

Foundations of Thoracic Surgery. F. RONALD EDWARDS, Edinbrugh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. vii + 180. Illustrated. 50s.

This slim volume contains a great deal of valuable information for those studying for the Fellowship Examinations and for young surgeons wishing to have a basic understanding of Thoracic Surgery. The descriptions of anatomy, physiology and disorders are short and precise but extremely clear and readable. There are many fine line drawings and excellently reproduced radiographs to supplement the text.

The chapters on chest injuries, cardiac surgery and oesophageal disorders I found especially interesting and informative. I did regret, however, the complete omission of an account of the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. Although this omission is understandable on account of the declining importance of this condition in this country, florid examples are only too common in the East and therefore the subject is of considerable interest to the military surgeon. The author has deliberately restricted his information on the details of operations but his chapters on Principles and Techniques in Operations on the Respiratory System and on the Heart and Great Vessels are filled with valuable points for the embryo surgeon. I found this altogether an excellent book.

F. T. MACVICAR.

Demonstrations of Operative Surgery. Third Edition. HAMILTON BAILEY. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. Pp. xii + 431. Illustrated. 50s.

The late Mr. Hamilton Bailey's work in medical authorship is well known and has been of great benefit to two generations of house surgeons and registrars in their training.

It can be very well recommended to all students of surgical nursing, operating theatre technicians in the services, and medical students. However, a teaching manual such as this would be of little value to general practitioners. The price, i.e. 50s., is quite reasonable.

It contains a series of eighty verbatim demonstrations, some of which are by the late author and others by contributors who are experts in their own specialised field of surgery. Section I on General Principles includes demonstrations on operating theatre organisation, equipment techniques, etc. The operations described in the other sections include a wide variety of general surgical, genito-urinary, gynaecological and orthopaedic types and also some of the more specialised operations, e.g. heart, lung, head and vascular. Seven orthopaedic operations of which three are amputations are demonstrated. It would have been preferable to have omitted two of these latter operations and to have included several other more common orthopaedic operations, e.g. arthroplasty of hip joint and Kuntscher nailing of the femur.

Before each operation is described, the surgeon comments briefly on the patient's symptoms and signs, and on the completion of the operation, he gives a resume of the post-operative care of the patient. The reader is made to feel as if he was actually present at the demonstration. The style of the language used is very conversational, simple and easy. The student consequently should have very little difficulty in reading and understanding this manual. The numerous illustrations are clear and uncomplicated, and the historical footnotes are appropriate and interesting.

There are some criticisms that can be made. A patient during the operation of colectomy is given an

infusion of a litre of blood because he is rather old and the operation has been extensive. A grid-iron incision is employed for laparotomy in a case of acute intussusception. The removal of nine tenths of the lateral lobe of the thyroid gland is carried out with the diathermy knife being used to create haemostasis, whilst no mention has been made of ligation of the inferior thyroid arteries. The use of diathermy so near the vicinity of the recurrent laryngeal nerves could cause injury to these latter nerves or even perhaps to the parathyroid glands. In the demonstration of strangulated femoral hernia, having described the repair of the hernia by Lotheisen's method, it is stated that the inguinal canal must now be repaired. Fig. 105, used to illustrate the latter repair, shows the internal oblique muscle being sutured to the inguinal ligament, which of course is not feasible as the latter muscle has already been used in the repair of the femoral hernia. In Mayo's operation for umbilical hernia the peritoneum is stated to have been closed with continuous catgut. The suture is not necessary, or possible to insert. In demonstration XVI, although over a litre of fluid has been aspirated from the stomach of a patient with a strangulated inguinal hernia, before his operation commences, it is not considered necessary to commence intravenous fluid therapy until his return to the ward. It is a pity that these criticisms of an otherwise very sound teaching manual on operative surgery have to be made.

A. P. DIGNAN.

Laboratory Techniques in Rabies. 2nd Edition. Various Authors. Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1966. Pp. 178. Available through H.M.S.O. Illustrated. 26s. 8d.

This excellent monograph was written by experts and will be a valuable work of reference for all who are concerned with the diagnosis or prophylaxis of rabies. The illustrations provide clear guides to diagnostic techniques, and the advances made in diagnosis by experts using fluorescent antibodies are stated authoritatively. There are sections on the production and testing of vaccines and sera; though duck-embryo vaccines are mentioned, it is surprising to find no mention of the method of preparing them. The final chapter on the propagation of rabies virus in tissue cultures gives hope of important future developments.

R. J. C. HART.

Trends in the Study of Morbidity and Mortality. Public Health Papers No. 27. Various authors. Geneva: W.H.O., 1965. Pp. 196. Available through H.M.S.O. 13s. 4d.

The patterns of health and disease in the more developed countries have changed considerably, and, in order to meet the needs of the day, these countries have found it necessary to modify extensively their established statistical services. For instance, with the decline in the number of deaths due to communicable diseases and the increase in the incidence of cardiovascular and other chronic diseases, mortality has given way to morbidity as a more appropriate index of illness and health. This is in contrast to the position in developing countries where communicable diseases and mortality rates are still of major significance.

The ten papers of this book, written by specialists in health statistics from various parts of the world, provide an instructive survey of current methods used by both developed and developing countries in gathering statistics relating to mortality and morbidity.

This is essentially a book for the specialist in medical statistics, although anyone who has to make a study of the subject would find it useful. Army health specialists would be particularly interested in the chapter by Ian Taylor on the notification of infectious diseases in various countries.

M. M. LEWIS.

Equipment For Vector Control. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1964. Pp. 200. Available through H.M.S.O. 26s. 8d.

This W.H.O. paperback has been designed to meet a requirement as a companion volume to the W.H.O. manual "Specification for Pesticides" (2nd Edition 1961) and which for practical reasons could only devote a small section of its text to specifications and descriptions of equipment.

It has achieved this aim admirably and also its additional intention to serve as a guide to officials, both medical and administrative, who may be called upon to undertake pest eradication programmes on a large regional or national scale.

The manual has five main sections; the first consists of a detailed guide to the various types of spraying equipment and ranges from the smaller man carried hand operated, or small power operated equipment, to larger vehicle carried power equipment, and thence to aircraft carried and operated equipment for fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.

Dispersing equipment used for the production of droplets, the dispersal of dusts, and granule and pellet applicators are described, and in many instances well illustrated in diagrammatic form.

The second section deals with the recommended equipment for vector control in relation to seventeen specific pests and includes insects, crustacea, arachnids and rodents. This section is in tabulated form and provides a quick guide for reference.

The third section deals with equipment specifications in considerable detail; the description of the component parts stressing their importance in respect of operational technique and maintenance, is well arranged and clearly described.

The fourth section is entitled "Use Descriptions" and is comprehensive in its elaboration of optimum usages, accessory provisions, and user hints, and covers the entire range of sprayers and their spraying content.

The fifth and final section comprises an outline of field tests of equipment, which is of interest and practical value to users, and exhibits considerable ingenuity.

In addition specimen "History" and "Maintenance" cards have been described. Such records are important and considered essential to both civilian and service users.

Two of the three appendices describing methods of droplet size determination and guide sampling procedures are also of value.

In conclusion the manual would appear to meet the long felt need for a Catalogue of spraying equipment, and also provides information to enable testing and adequate sprayer maintenance to be carried out without partaking in dangerous "trial and error" methods which have, in the past led to unnecessary damage and non-availability of vital equipment.

The comprehensive range of this manual renders it more suitable for use by planners, administrators, and technical staff of large scale teams rather than the operational technicians of smaller scaled projects.

A. J. MOSS-BLUNDELL.

Snail Control in the Prevention of Bilharziasis. By various authors. W.H.O. Monograph Series No. 50. Geneva: W.H.O., 1965. Pp. 247. Available through H.M.S.O. 30s.

This monograph brings together the information available on the most effective procedures against the snail intermediate hosts of the schistosomes causing bilharziasis. It examines the measures applicable to natural habitats, to irrigation schemes, and to other man-made habitats; discusses the chemicals used as molluscicides and the various ways in which they can be applied, as well as methods not employing molluscicides; and considers such related topics as the life history and bionomics of the snail host, the training of personnel, the evaluation of data, and the factors deciding a control programme. Much research is going on at present into all these subjects, so that any new publication is likely to be out of date in some respects almost before it appears; but this monograph is designed to provide the basic data needed by anyone wishing to embark on a snail control programme. It is thus suited for individuals, organizations, or government agencies concerned with limiting the ravages of bilharziasis. The contributors are all international specialists in their subjects.

An introductory chapter occupies the first 44 pages and is an excellent summary of bilharziasis in the context of public health. This part of the book could be read with profit by everyone concerned with tropical hygiene and medicine. Particularly useful are the Tables and line drawings of the molluscan intermediate hosts. The rest of the book is more specialised and deals with Snail Control Programmes, Environmental Control of Snail Habitats, Chemical Control and Procedures, Technique and Evaluation. This latter part of the book is too specialised for those who are never directly concerned with the eradication of bilharzia. Even Army Health practice is seldom concerned with anti-snail measures except in static "garrison situations"; the book is, however, useful for reference by all who specialise in tropical hygiene.

M. M. LEWIS.

Chemical Carcinogenesis and Cancers. W. C. HUEPER and W. D. CONWAY. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas, 1965. Pp. xx + 744. Illustrated. \$20.00.

Workers in the field of preventive medicine wishing to refer to a book on Chemical Carcinogenesis will probably find all they wish to know, and much more besides, in this one. This book is arranged in fifteen chapters which cover the subject in great detail; the Man-made Chemical Environment; Definition, Properties and Classification of Chemical Carcinogens; Medical and Epidemiological Considerations; separate chapters devoted to Aromatic Hydrocarbons, Aromatic Amines and Related Nitro-Compounds, Aromatic Azo-Compounds and their Heterocyclic Analogues, Heterocyclic Compounds, Aliphatic Compounds and Inorganic Chemicals; then three chapters on various aspects of Bioassay; finally a chapter on Preventive, Legal and Social Aspects.

Although it is mainly of value to those engaged in research and in a special study of Chemical Carcinogenesis, those concerned with occupational health would find much to interest them in this book, e.g. Tables 1, 2 and 3 which list all recognised, suspected and potential carcinogens; Table 5 which lists recognised occupational and environmental cancer hazards in a most exhaustive and detailed manner. Finally, there are over 2,500 references to the literature on the subject, which is comprehensive to say the least.

Although this is a highly specialised book which is not of wide general interest, it is an important addition to any modern armamentarium of medical reference works and, with this valuable asset in mind, the review copy has been placed in the Library of the Royal Army Medical College.

M. M. LEWIS.

Syndromes of Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation: With Special Reference to Shock and Hemorrhage. R. M. HARDAWAY, III. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas, 1966. Pp. xvi + 466. Illustrated. \$17.50.

This interesting book is the outcome of the author's dedicated study of the occurrence of the triad of shock, a bleeding tendency and renal failure in a variety of conditions. The common pathological feature in all these conditions is a widespread capillary clotting, and this has led the author to group them together under the title of "Syndromes of Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation" (DIC). He claims that this syndrome is a feature of traumatic shock, the fibrinogen syndrome of pregnant women, acute renal failure from various causes, the complications of extracorporeal circulation and a host of other conditions in which DIC is either immediate or delayed in its appearance. The book deals mainly with the acute syndromes and gives an account of the author's observations on their aetiology, pathology and management supported by laboratory and animal experiment. The style of writing is good but repetitious and at times observation and fact are intermingled with speculation. While the subject of shock is well treated there is a lack of balance about the book due largely to the author's attempt to wring out of other diseases instances of DIC.

The last chapter, which is intended to be philosophical, inclines instead to be slightly pompous in its reasons why such "common and important" phenomena have not been recognised before. Nevertheless, the author is to be congratulated on a very readable and beautifully illustrated book for the concept is an original one and the development of the theme painstakingly elaborated.

J. M. MATHESON.