BOOK REVIEWS


Readers will recall the well merited praise which we gave to Mr. Arthur Wakey when we reviewed his "Last Post at Mhow" which was an account of the squabbles amongst the officers of the 6th Dragoons in India a 100 years ago and of the unhappy chain of events which resulted.

In "The Crawley Affair" Mr. Haley deals with the same subject but as he has a quite fresh approach his account is complementary to that of Mr. Wakey and may be read with interest and pleasure irrespective of whether one has previously read "Last Post at Mhow". We are at pains to emphasise this as otherwise readers may feel that a second account would be tedious.

Mr. Haley threads his way through the tangled path of events and shows with skill and clarity how one set of actions produced another and led to the unhappy results he covers. He notes how little adverse effect the strictures made on many of the participants had on their careers. This is equally true of the medical officers involved - Turnbull was promoted to Surgeon Major in due course and served until his death in 1876 while Barnett died a Surgeon General in 1885.

The book is well produced and printed but the absence of illustrations is to be regretted.

A. MACLENNAN


This synopsis classifies all the important aspects of African schistosomiasis and adds details of many new developments to our existing knowledge of this important disease which in this "Wormy World" afflicts some 150 millions of the world's population. As well as the classical forms, S. mansoni and S. haematobium, the book contains a wealth of detail about the lesser known species, many of which produce disease in man and animals. Only brief mention is made of Asian schistosomiasis for comparison purposes. The book contains many excellent diagrams and photographs and a comprehensive and relevant bibliography also increases the value of this volume which is highly recommended to physicians, teachers and all workers with a special interest in parasitic diseases.

J. B. STEWART


A short, pocket sized, paperback, at a modest price. Primarily intended for undergraduates: it presents a brief account of surgical and medical disorders of the kidneys, and of the urinary and male genital tracts.

It is well illustrated with line drawings, and suggestions for further reading are present at the end of each chapter. It is concisely but clearly written and is well laid out in an easy to follow manner.

The authors, one a surgeon, the other a physician have, within the limits of the text, been able to present an up to date account of their subject, which, although in no way replacing longer standard works on the subject, should prove useful as a revision text for those working for Higher Examinations as well as for Undergraduates.

C. REES


In the words of General Baird "it is probably true to say that the discipline of immunology, with new information, ideas and techniques arising from research, has been one of the fastest growing sciences in the past decade".

So if you are an undergraduate, or are sitting an examination in medicine, surgery, gynaecology, community medicine, pathology, paediatrics and all subjects east and west, then this book offers an excellent introduction to the subject (innate immunity: acquired immunity: auto-immunity). Summarises the essentials (gut and immunoglobulins, thymus and cells). Covers all the basic material for a quick resume (tissue transplantation: Bruton and di George!).

You simply cannot afford to be amongst your peers nowadays without a book on immunology (dare I say Allergology). Buy this one and watch your interest grow!

E. E. VELLA


This 146 page book provides an excellent, concise review of cytogenetic methods, karyotype interpretation and its application to numerous diseases. The book may be faulted for its title which suggests a narrower scope than it actually contains. The book is quite useful for the student as it deals with elements of this expanding field and then develops current concepts for numerous diseases. It provides up to date useful references in myelo and lympho proliferative disease, myeloma, macro-globulinemia and leukemoid reactions.

G. C. GLENN


The changes which appear in this tenth edition are not numerous but are nevertheless important. In a textbook which has offered ten new editions in 18 years no more could be expected or is, indeed, necessary.
Everything about this well established textbook is as good as ever. The paper, typescript, illustrations, layout and especially the diagrammatic presentations of the salient points of many nursing and medical problems, without which the textbook would not be recognisable.

The sections on drug addiction, the contraceptive pill, and cardiac treatment in intensive care units are all to be recommended. It is a valuable addition to any School or Nursing Library.  G. A. MANNING


This volume dwells, often repetitively and usually anecdotally, on sudden cardiac death in physical exertion. James suggests that the athlete's sinus bradycardia may, in the presence of disease of the conducting system, increase the incidence of arrhythmias (as is postulated in myocardial infarction) and he is hopeful as regards resuscitation.

Such stimulation is rare in this book, for articles by Pugh on exposure deaths and by Schrier on Exercise Neophropathy while of considerable value, especially to Service doctors, have little relevance to the announced theme.  B. SIMPSON


This is the seventh edition of the midwives' "bible" efficiently brought up to date with 135 new photographs, new material on antenatal and neonatal foetal physiology, vasectomy and new drugs which may be administered by the midwife. Extensive coverage is given to all aspects of midwifery, amply illustrated with photographs and excellent line drawings. The style of presentation in headings, subheadings and lists makes the book principally one of reference and revision, and for pupil midwives can only be read in conjunction with lectures and tutorials which will provide the fuller explanation required for teaching purposes. Nevertheless, "Textbook for Midwives" remains unrivalled in its field.  L. W. PADGETT


Medical treatment has become increasingly complex in recent years and a reference book is essential in order to keep abreast of knowledge. This volume is a most useful contribution. The chapter on antibiotics and other antibacterial drugs is of particular value, nearly 40 antibiotics being described in detail. The treatment of certain other diseases of military medical importance such as typhoid fever, brucellosis, tetanus, smallpox, toxoplasmosis, meningitis and epilepsy is well done. The book is of a convenient size and easily read.  W. O'BRIEN


The above volume is the latest to be issued by Penguin in their series of History of Science Readings. The readings have been selected and edited by Lester S. King together with an introduction. I find it difficult to overpraise this book. The introduction is the best of its kind I have read and shows an outstanding sense of historical understanding and feeling. The readings are taken almost exclusively from the pens of physicians and are each introduced with a short biographical sketch and appraisal of the writer's accomplishments which adds greatly to the reader's understanding and enjoyment. The individual writers range from Hippocrates to Banting and Best. I was gratified to see Cullen, Lind and Hunter worthily representing Scotland! The book is excellently printed and produced as a paperback at 60p represents remarkable value. It can be most strongly recommended.  A. MACLENNAN


This book has become the classical introduction to neurology for students and general practitioners and its success is shown by eleven editions and five reprints over thirty years. The incisive, lucid and succinct style of the author remain undimmed and as refreshing as ever, even to the seasoned neurologist. While retaining all that experience, wisdom and intellect have shown to be the underlying truths of neurology, the author has selected and accepted many advances that clinical and academic research has justified, and this is particularly obvious in the chapter on cerebrovascular disease. The author's known and correct view that biochemistry is the important research tool of the future is exemplified by the contributions from Dr. John Walsh on the relationship of the liver to metabolic disturbances of the central nervous system and on lead poisoning of the nervous system. The illustrations are mostly clear and always apt, and the printing easy to read, although closer proof-reading would have avoided spelling mistakes which can be irritating when the style is so excellent. One delightful piece of evidence of the author's known difficulty in accepting that most nocturnal hand paraesthesiae are due to the carpal tunnel syndrome is that the index gives p.311 as devoted to this, when in fact this page describes sciatica. Perhaps it also would have been worth while to mention the usefulness of imipramine in nocturnal enuresis, but in spite of these small points this book is unhesitatingly recommended as a "best buy".  A. BARHAM CARTER


This book makes no attempt to cover the field of clinical surgery in a comprehensive way but rather focuses the reader's attention on matters of common and every-day clinical importance. Many of the
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