to “the most English of all national heroes” according to the Earl of Birkenhead, reviewing Sir Arthur Bryant’s biography ‘The Great Duke’ (Daily Telegraph 4 Oct. 71).

Let any Irish squeals of protest be silenced by the Great Duke’s own typically curt comment.“Because a man is born in a stable that does not make him a horse”.

In my early days of service in the Corps (like the unhappy Army today) was “much exposed” to the Irish—another expression borrowed from Wellington. I even heard them claim as an Irishman that great Scottish General Sir John Moore, son of a Glasgow doctor who had himself served in the Army.

Johnny, or sometimes Jock, Moore was educated at the Glasgow High School until he went with his father to the Continent, accompanying the young Duke of Hamilton, to whom Dr. John Moore was acting as ‘bear-leader’. Writing home from London to a younger brother, he began “Papa took me to see the King hurling in his Gold Coach going to the Parliament House and the Trumpets playing before him”. Hurrrling what would a wee Irish boy have meant by that?—certainly nothing which could be done in a Gold Coach.

It may interest readers to be reminded that another of the doctor’s fine sons became an Admiral—Sir Graham Moore. He features, as Captain Graham Moore, in some of ‘Hornblower’ series.

I am, etc.,

F. M. RICHARDSON

10 Barnton Avenue West,
Edinburgh EH4 6DE
Undated.

EDITOR’S NOTE—A small quantity of reprints of Sir Neil Cantlies’ article and Alastair Whyte’s series are held in the Historical Library, Royal Army Medical College.

BOOK REVIEWS


This book consists of a collection of articles on gynaecological topics which were originally published in the Current Practice section of the British Medical Journal during 1971. The aim of their publication again in book form is to present the up-to-date management of common gynaecological problems in a concise fashion.

Service general practitioners spend a great deal of time dealing with gynaecological disorders, as a large proportion of their patients are fertile and sexually active females. A book such as this which reviews current knowledge on the subject is obviously a useful addition to one’s library.

In gynaecology as in other aspects of general medical practice there is often no definitive management of common and recurring conditions. Most doctors have evolved their own individual approach based on what was taught at Medical School and tempered by experience. Thus not everyone will agree with everything that is said in this book.

The suggestion by Dr. Henderson that a chaperone may be unnecessary during gynaecological examination has been criticized by the Medical Defence Union in its annual report. The Union advise
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that when consulting with a female patient another woman should be present, or at least within ear shot at all times.

It is stated, without reference, in the chapter on Dysmenorrhoea that examination under anaesthesia and cervical dilatation will cure 60% and improve a further 20% of patients. The text book by "Ten Teachers " on gynaecology which many of us use states that this treatment is of little value in this condition.

*There is a very sensible article on cervical cytology in which the difficulty of getting high risk patients to attend cervical smear clinics is restated. In a Service context, the high risk patient is, typically, the thirty-five year old, multigravid, private soldier's wife. It is not usual for this sort of patient to attend clinics of any kind and it is good practice to do a cervical smear routinely on all patients where a vaginal examination for any reason is carried out.

Venereal disease is the subject of a separate article by Dr. C. S. Nichol of St. Thomas' Hospital. Army doctors frequently see soldiers with gonorrhoea and usually the diagnosis is straightforward. In women, however, gonorrhoea is a most insidious disease and may easily be overlooked. Dr. Nichol's article describes the diagnosis and treatment of the common sexually transmitted diseases, including vaginal moniliasis and trichomoniasis in a straightforward and especially practical fashion.

I would have liked to see a separate chapter on oral contraception. Dr. Law in her article on "Fecundity " reviews the whole spectrum of family planning techniques and necessarily has had to curtail her discussion of the pill and its problems.

In conclusion, I believe that this is a useful book for the general practitioner who wishes to ensure that the management of his patients is consistent with the highest standards of contemporary gynaecological practice.

B. D. Bonar


The book is now into a third edition and the earlier standard has been ably maintained.

The first and third sections of the book, those dealing with the general principles of anatomy and physiology, and regional anatomy and physiology are particularly valuable to the student nurse as the material is presented in clear logical sequence which makes it simple to comprehend and follow when studying with specimens and models to supplement the textual information.

The middle section of the book, systematic anatomy and physiology provides a useful basis for learning; however the diagrams in the whole book with very few exceptions are too small, even fiddly, and colour is very sparingly used, thus they lack impact and fail to encourage the reader to study them closely and the benefit of so doing is missed, except for the few readers who are prepared to 'decipher' the diagrams and their keys.

The general presentation of the book is pleasing and the contents undoubtedly have a value for the student, it is a book which has a place on the shelves of all Schools of Nursing and is not beyond the means of the student who find it particularly serves their needs, as it is moderately priced by present day standards.

A. K. M. Wisdom


The seventh edition of this well known short textbook of clinical psychiatry will continue to fill a very useful place. With "Clinical Psychiatry" by Slater and Roth established as the standard textbook of British general psychiatry, this book provides an invaluable much shorter account for non-specialists and as an introduction for junior psychiatrists. With the increasing psychiatric content of the AMRGP curriculum it should be a subject for the examinations and necessarily has had to curtail her discussion of the pill and its problems.

In conclusion, I believe that this is a useful book for the general practitioner who wishes to ensure that the management of his patients is consistent with the highest standards of contemporary gynaecological practice.

R. A. Dunbar-Miller


This new edition of this book has been expanded to include sections on glaucoma and anomalies of ocular movement. The sections concerned with anterior and posterior uveitis have been completely revised and the remainder of the text has been brought up to date. Many of the illustrations in the previous edition have been replaced by better examples.

It is a book of absorbing interest and thoroughly recommended for inclusion in a library.

A set of 33 mm slides of this second edition is obtainable from the publishers. R. K. Pilcher


This textbook provides a reasonable, if expensive, introduction to the subject for Student Nurses in their Introductory Course.

Its best respect is the excellent explanation and illustration of cross-infection in hospitals—presented in a manner which can be easily understood by a junior student.

There are short, but adequate, descriptions of the common pathogenic organisms which the Student Nurse needs to understand. The chapters on Immunity and Immunization are muddled and confusing from the Student Nurses' viewpoint.

This is a useful book for a School of Nursing Library, but not one for recommending Student Nurses to buy in view of its expense and the availability of paperbacks in this subject.

J. K. Norbury

This book is based on the experiences of The Albany Medical Centre Hospital (New York) emergency room and includes chapters on every conceivable speciality. It makes a good attempt at being encyclopaedic, but suffers some loss of balance as a result of its multiplicity of authors (twenty-six in all). For example, it recommends repeated blood gas determinations in chest injuries (in the emergency room?), whereas dislocations of the elbow are simply reduced (technique omitted) and admitted. Thirty pages are devoted to the hand, but all the other orthopaedic injuries together merited only thirty-eight. Some of the tabulated data are well put together.

It is a useful addition to the library but is unlikely to become the standard text for Casualty Officers in this country.

N. H. Peters


Jamieson's "Plates" have been for many years of inestimable value to students of human anatomy whether at undergraduate or postgraduate level. The fact that this is the ninth edition of the series since 1934 speaks for itself. The price of £1.00 per section for a book which is virtually all illustration is remarkably cheap. The "spring-spine" paper-back format makes each section very light and easy to handle and allows the non-glare pages to lie conveniently flat. The illustrations are clear and profusely annotated. In this section of the central nervous system there are many large scale drawings and many "cut-aways" which will be of immense help to the student in the understanding of the anatomy of this system where a three-dimensional concept is of the highest importance.

For the postgraduate student who has restricted access to cadaver material this book is almost essential.

W. C. Moffat


One is inclined to feel that Anatomy, like the truth, never alters. Whilst that may be so one should not infer that anatomical knowledge remains static, or that the needs of the student and the requirements of the examiners do not change.

In these days of increasing emphasis on the value of the basic sciences and their ever closer integration with practical Medicine and Surgery this new edition of Grant's "Method" will make a contribution of real worth. This is a most refreshing book with an exciting and lively approach to the study of regional anatomy. It is profusely illustrated with black and white line and shade drawings of the most commendable clarity and originality.

Those who know this book will be delighted with this new edition. Those who do not should pick it up and open it and they may, possibly for the first time, begin to understand just what anatomy is all about.

W. C. Moffat


This book fulfills a real need. Medicine as practiced in the tropics is not mainly concerned with tropical protozoal and parasitic infections but is of a much more general nature being modified only by environmental and social conditions.

This is not a textbook of "Tropical Medicine" but a series of chapters written by different authors on aspects of medicine in the tropics in which they are particularly interested. As one might expect in these circumstances the standard is very high. The book is well produced, well illustrated and yet easily portable. It will be of great value to anybody practicing medicine in East Africa.

W. O'Brien


This book is not a treatise on the use of dental materials, but rather a compilation of a large number of facts on their physical properties, in what is essentially note form. Consequently little discussion of the significances of the data has been presented. Relative assessments are not always given and little detailed discussion is offered, even on the most important and widely used materials. The sections on metallic properties, and corrosion and tarnish, are considered to be rather weak.

The conciseness of the volume will commend it to all who require a brief resumé of facts, with guidance in the selection and appraisal of recent literature. Those who seek deep knowledge of the subject will not find it wholly satisfactory as a standard test, for many of the topics covered, require expansion and discussion. As a supplement to lecture notes it would be very valuable, for it is much more accurate and up to date than at least one established standard textbook. For pre-examination revision it would be difficult to better.

The low price and compact form of Dr. Combe's book, should ensure its success amongst undergraduates and technicians.

R. Doucherty