BOOK REVIEWS


The most important recent advance in the problem of hypertension is the demonstration that most of its complications can be prevented by adequate treatment. The new approach deriving from this contrasts markedly with the old, which concentrated on the non-cost effective search for the few patients with curable hypertension. This volume aims to present the bedrock of this new approach in a practical way which can be applied by the physician in practice — and it succeeds very well.

As the first in a new series intended to present a working view of modern therapeutic practice in those clinical areas where important changes are occurring, it is ideal and augers well for later volumes. Chapters by leading authorities are devoted to: the effectiveness of medical treatment; screening and community control; evaluation of the hypertensive patient; haemodynamic effects of the antihypertensive agents; how to treat essential hypertension; treatment of special forms of hypertension: the compliance problem in hypertension. The practical approach inherent in these headings is lived up to in the text and each section is followed by a good list of references.

It is a small book, nicely presented for the physician who wants to knuckle down to it and review the basis of his practice in this important field. He should not expect any dogmatic answers on the question of when and how to treat so-called mild hypertension; it is clear that further evidence is necessary to solve that problem.

The absence of contributions by British authors is surprisingly unobtrusive, and it is a tribute to the new approach to hypertension which rests more on established fact than on entrenched fashion.

D M ROBERTS


When one talks of amputation one must associate prosthesis for the two terms are complementary. To most doctors in the United Kingdom there is a natural, third association — that of Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. Historically this is appropriate although now there are over 20 other Limb Fitting Centres, that is why it is a pleasure to welcome this book. It represents the 'state of the art' in amputations and prostheses and is the distillation of the vast experience of the Limb Fitting Centre.

The book is comprehensive and the illustrations clear. I particularly like the chapter on Trauma which quite clearly reflects the close association between the RAMC and Roehampton.

This book should be in every medical library for reference by surgical consultants and it is compulsory reading for surgeons in training for FRCS.

M S OWEN-SMITH


Dr Jopling's book, first published in 1971, is an authoritative account of a disease that is no longer confined to endemic areas. There was, at that time, no shortage of literature on the subject but there was no up to date monograph suitable for student, general physician and Leprosy para-medical worker to turn to. Handbook of Leprosy filled this need and has continued to do so.

Since 1971 there have been great advances in Leprosy research and Dr Jopling has again brought those findings of clinical significance together in a revised second edition of this excellent book.

The colour plates have remained essentially unchanged but most have been reproduced with greater magnification and therefore better definition. The illustrations have been indexed and expanded and some have been changed to give better examples of the features described.

There is a new chapter on Immunological aspects of the disease which has, thanks to WHO support and stimulation, been the area of greatest development in the past few years. The chapter is remarkable in that the fundamentals of Immunology and their appli-
cations to Leprosy are put across in such a manner as to enable the reader to understand the most dramatic and difficult aspect of Leprosy management: that of reactional states. A new table complements this chapter but will be of little practical help to the majority of Leprosy workers as the tests described are mainly research tools and the significance of results obtained when they are applied is still debated in the literature.

Therapeutic advances and setbacks have emerged and these are documented in an expanded and very thorough chapter on management. Dapsone continues to take its place as the treatment of choice and Dr Jopling devotes much of the chapter to this drug and its various formulations. The emergence of Dapsone resistance in Lepromatous patients is discussed in detail along with suggestions as to how it can be dealt with.

With this characteristic attention to detail, Dr. Jopling documents details of management of iritis, rhinitis, neuritis and chronic leg ulceration, all of which, if not attended to with competence and vigour, result in great morbidity.

To ensure that cases of Leprosy are not missed in these times of human migration and jet travel, this small, inexpensive, well illustrated and extensively used reference book should be read by all doctors. For Leprosy field workers, this second edition will, I am certain, be warmly and gratefully received.

D S JOLLIFFE


In the preface to the first edition of this book the author states that it is written for medical students but hoped that it might benefit many doctors who may read it from interest in paediatrics. While including the broad essential facts of paediatrics to introduce the student to the subject, Dr Apley also stimulates the more experienced paediatrician to reflect on his approach to the care of the child. The writer’s style makes for easy reading.

While all the common diseases are discussed the book includes several chapters on growth and development and the interaction of disease and growth. Behavioural problems are discussed and the problems of the neonate are dealt with concisely. The new chapter in this second edition, Ecology and the Child in the Community, looks at the effects of environment on the child and outlines the role of the Social and Community Services to meet children’s needs.

J R MARSHALL