

Postgraduate Medical Journal (July 1970) **46**, 458–459.

Books received

Recent Research on the Retina. Edited by E. S. PERKINS. Pp. 184, illustrated. *British Medical Bulletin*, Vol. 26, No. 2, May 1970. London: The British Council, 1970. £2.

Methods in Microbiology, Vol. 3A. Edited by J. R. NORRIS and D. W. RIBBONS. Pp. 505, illustrated. London and New York: Academic Press, 1970. £7.

Errors of Phenylalanine Thyroxine and Testosterone Metabolism. S.S.I.E.M. Symposium No. 7. Edited by W. HAMILTON and F. P. HUDSON. Pp. 113, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £2 5s.

Domiciliary Care of the Patient with Cancer. Edited by R. RAVEN. Pp. 109, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books, 1970. £1 16s.

Recent Results in Cancer Research. Antitumour and Antiviral Substances of Natural Origin. By E. S. MEEK. Editor in chief: P. RENTCHNICK. Pp. 78. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. Berlin etc: Springer Verlag, 1970. £2 8s.

Recent results in Cancer Research. Tumours of the Liver By G. T. PACK and A. H. ISLAMI. Pp. 304, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. Berlin etc: Springer Verlag, 1970. £6 15s.

Recent results in Cancer Research. Bone Mineral Metabolism in Cancer. By J. SZYMENDERA. Pp. 110, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books. Berlin etc: Springer Verlag, 1970. £3 15s.

Progress in Liver Diseases. Edited by H. POPPER and F. SCHAFFNER. Vol. III. Pp. 562, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books, 1970. £11 12s.

New Editions

General Pathology. By J. B. WALER and M. S. ISRAEL. Third edition. Pp. 1116, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1970. £7 10s.

The Practice of Geriatrics. By J. AGATE. Second edition. Pp. 589, illustrated. London: William Heinemann Medical Books, 1970. £3.

Book reviews

Simpson and Syme of Edinburgh

By JOHN A. SHEPHERD. Pp. ix + 288, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969. £2 2s.

Nineteenth century Edinburgh produced many distinguished doctors; none received greater acclaim than James Simpson and his life and work has already been related in a number of biographies. In contrast, the achievements of James Syme, Simpson's contemporary and frequent adversary, have tended to be overshadowed by his son-in-law, Joseph Lister. Now, in a relatively short but scholarly volume, Mr Shepherd has compared the origin, career and attainments of Simpson and Syme.

The differing backgrounds and characters of these men, in part responsible for their frequent professional skirmishes, are clearly drawn. Their achievements and limitations have been analysed both in the context of medical opinion and knowledge in the first half of the nineteenth century and in relation to their respective personalities.

This book makes absorbing and enjoyable reading. It is thoroughly recommended, particularly to those who take an interest in our medical heritage.

Pathology Annual, Vol. 4, 1969

Edited by SHELDON C. SOMMERS. Pp. 344, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1969. £5 15s.

This is the fourth such publication under the general editorship of Sheldon C. Sommers. It consists of fifteen chapters on selected topics, contributed by twenty-five specialists in their respective fields. Those engaged in teaching will be interested in the paper on computer-aided instruction in pathology. A very topical and instructive chapter deals with the intensive care unit and the pathology of progress. McGovern discusses in detail the differential diagnosis of colitis. Saltzstein gives a good account of extranodal lymphomas and pseudolymphomas. His views are well known and one cannot quarrel with his criteria for differential diagnosis, but some workers believe that he has overstated his case by equating a follicular lymphomatous structure with reactive (germinal) centres and hence with benignity. The same fallacy caused Brill, Baehr and Rosenthal to regard the follicular lymphoma as a benign condition almost 40 years ago. Nevertheless this is a good and readable account. The chapter on soft-tissue tumours: aids in differential diagnosis

is somewhat disappointing merely because the title is misleading. The otherwise excellent account deals with selected soft-tissue tumours. An interesting paper on myeloproliferative disorders and disseminated intravascular coagulation is contributed by McKay, and another reviews tumours of the extrahepatic biliary system. But it is invidious to mention some papers rather than others, as this merely reflects the bias of the reviewer. This is an authoritative and up-to-date account of selected topics in pathology and will be especially useful to those studying for higher degrees.

Tetanus

Edited by E. B. ADAMS, D. R. LAURENCE and J. W. G. SMITH. Pp. 165. Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1969. £2 2s.

This monograph is written by three experts with detailed knowledge of the disease and all practising doctors dealing with tetanus should read it.

The monograph has fourteen chapters. The first four deal with the history, bacteriology, the disease process and epidemiology while the next four are devoted to prevention and contain valuable practical hints. The clinical features, cause of death and prognosis each have a chapter and the last three chapters fully and admirably deal with the treatment and management of patients.

When a book is written by experts on a disease with which they are fully conversant, it is difficult to criticise and fault. This is such a book and can be recommended. All hospitals dealing with tetanus should have a copy in their library. A useful list of references appears at the end.

The high price may limit its sale.

Cytology Automation

Edited by D. M. D. EVANS. Proceedings of the Second Tenovus Symposium. Pp. 275, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £3.

This volume presents the proceedings of a symposium on the subject held in Cardiff in October 1968. The conference brought together scientists from diverse disciplines, such as clinicians, cytologists, biologists, physicists and engineers, and was attended by workers from this country, the United States and Germany. After a useful series of papers on cell criteria and parameters the conference discussed mechanical

cell presentation and mechanical cell recognition. The routine cytologist is left in some awe at the ingeniousness and vigour with which the problem of automated screening is tackled in such a variety of ways but, equally, the reader cannot but be discouraged by the appalling complexity of the problem, in some measure due to the overlap of the characteristics of normal and abnormal cells. Indeed, those in charge of routine screening departments will receive no comfort from these proceedings. The day that a mechanical device will be able to relieve the drudgery and monotony of the cytological technician by separating a high proportion of normal smears from those which require individual assessment by the human eye is as far off as ever. Wied of Chicago (p. 47) dashes any hopes one may have entertained: '... there is no currently existing machine, there is no machine in preparation, there is no machine in production at this time and there will be no economically feasible machine in the foreseeable future which will obviate the need for trained cytotechnologists and cytopathologists. We would be better to face reality than to indulge in imaginary daydreams of non-existing machines.'

Aids to Postgraduate Medicine

Edited by J. L. BURTON. Pp. 136. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £1.

The Author, a Senior Registrar in the University Department of Dermatology, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, states that this little book is primarily intended to provide aid to revision for candidates taking the Membership examination in the United Kingdom.

A great number of facts are listed under various headings, some of which are controversial, and a well informed candidate will have to analyse them carefully before answering examination questions. The book does not encourage any rational thinking and may give a wrong impression, especially to overseas candidates, that one can obtain the M.R.C.P. by memorizing certain facts. If such an impression is created many candidates would fail and, therefore, I for one, would not recommend it to my junior colleagues. However, it may prove useful to a clinician who wishes to know a list of possibilities and facts at a glance.

The book has twelve chapters and a useful bibliography of books and journals, from which most of the listed facts are derived, appears at the end. There is no index but instead the author has wisely provided three blank pages for additional information to be added by an individual if he needs it.

Liver Disease

By A. PATON. Pp. 185, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1969. £1 10s.

This book grew out of a series of lectures given to various Postgraduates, not necessarily those specialising in Medicine.

It contains excellent accounts of the management of obstructive jaundice and of the relationship between chronic alcoholism and liver damage. The sections on portal hypertension, ascites and hepatic coma are also sound. There are, however, some inconsistencies as for instance, in discussing the frequency of severe jaundice in metastatic hepatic disease and its relation to enlarged glands *in* the porta hepatis (discussed on pages 50 and 106).

Adequate details of treatment regimes are not always given. The use of antifibrinolytic agents and of heparin in the treatment of increased fibrinolysis and intravascular coagulation in cirrhosis is considered in a few sentences with no mention of the care needed in their use. There are also some errors including one in the first sentence of the book where the liver is said to be one-fifth of the body weight. Some of the views expressed in different sections are not widely accepted, e.g. that narcotics such as opium and marihuana may cause cirrhosis, that there may be at least three distinct viruses in infectious hepatitis and that renal failure is no commoner in patients operated on for obstructive jaundice than in other types of major surgery.

There may indeed be a gap between the sections on liver disease in undergraduate text books and the larger monographs on liver disease, but it would seem a pity to separate liver disease from Gastroenterology at this stage of Postgraduate training.

Virus Diseases of the Liver

By A. J. ZUCKERMANN. Pp. 158, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1970. £4 6s.

It is a pleasure to write a review on 'Virus Diseases of the Liver' for this book brings together much information and literature on an important subject that has previously been scattered through many Journals. The text is clear, the illustrations superb and the net effect is to stimulate interest even more in this rapidly advancing field. Particularly valuable are the chapters describing infections of the liver by viruses other than the hepatitis virus: cytomegalovirus, herpes virus, adenovirus, rubella virus and the recent work concerning E.B. virus in infectious mononucleosis are all well covered. There is a fascinating account of events leading to the outbreak of Green Monkey Disease which in 1967 affected monkey handlers and laboratory workers in three European cities—Marburg, Frankfurt and Belgrade, together with the world wide studies on the possible agent involved which followed this outbreak. The techniques for tissue culture of embryo and adult human liver cells developed in the author's laboratories will be of interest to those concerned in this field. There is also a complete account of all the agents which at one time or another have been incriminated in infectious hepatitis leading up to the present story of Australia Antigen. The general reader as well as those interested in the liver and in viruses will find much of interest.



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