Books received


Book reviews

Clinical Cardiac Radiology

This is the second edition of a book by cardiac radiologists, revised by Dr Simon Rees. As with the first edition, the main aim of the book is to define the place of the chest X-ray in heart disease and to illustrate the cardiac anatomy and physiology as exemplified by angiography in the diagnosis of the chest X-ray. The book is separated into 7 parts dealing with the various vascular connections of the heart; the skeletal changes which may be encountered in patients with heart disease; cyanotic and non-cyanotic congenital heart disease; diseases of the myocardium and pericardium. The second edition has been revised with particular reference to the sections on complex congenital heart disease and coronary artery disease. Although this book is mainly intended for the practising radiologist and the clinician who use the chest X-ray as part of their clinical assessment, it is restricted in its application to adult cardiologists by the limited section on coronary artery disease and more importantly, the results of bypass surgery on the coronary arteries.

The revised edition contains the contents of the work by the late Dr Keith Jefferson on the skeleton in heart disease and therefore is a fitting memorial to his outstanding work in cardiac radiology.

The quality of the illustrations are high and the figure illustrations are most educational.

There is a limited bibliography at the end of the book.

This book can be warmly recommended for all practising radiologists and clinicians requiring a working knowledge of the chest X-ray. However, at £35.00 the changes from the first edition may not warrant the purchase of the updated second edition.

Clinical Tests of Gastric Secretion. History, Methodology and Interpretation.

In 1824, Prout demonstrated and measured hydrochloric acid in human gastric juice and the first gastric secretion test was devised by von Leube over 100 years ago. Since then large numbers of gastric secretion tests have been devised of all sorts of complexity, and many millions of patients have probably been submitted to their greater or lesser discomfort. Dr Baron, who is Senior Lecturer at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, has performed a considerable service by producing this excellent monograph, which gives a critical account of modern gastric secretion tests. The volume is based on his review of the topic which he gave at the World Congress of Gastroenterology in Copenhagen in 1970. After discussing the regulation of gastric secretion, he goes on to describe the various types of studies (including tubeless tests), their diagnostic value in different diseases and, finally, their role after gastrectomy and vagotomy. The text is easy to read, nicely produced, and there is a bibliography of over 1200 references. This is a source-book on this specialized subject that gastroenterologists and physiologists will find of considerable value.