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angiography one can predict not only the localization of lesions, but also their pathology. This is often true, but by no means always so. One has seen gliomas giving appearances indistinguishable from meningiomas, and other malignant gliomas failing to reveal pathological vessels at any stage from early arteriography to late phlebography. Attractive though it may be to hope that the radiograph will substitute for the microscope in the pathological diagnosis of many brain tumours, that stage has been reached in only a minority of cases. None the less no one interested in neurology can afford to disregard the very useful information provided by angiography, which has become an essential diagnostic tool, in large measure thanks to the author of the book. It is to be strongly recommended.

J.W.D.B.

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SURGERY OF CATARACT


It may seem strange to an outsider that a book of nearly 700 pages can be written about one operation which frequently takes less than 15 minutes to perform, but it must be remembered that the cataract operation occupies a very special place in the life and heart of the ophthalmic surgeon, often being the yardstick by which his competence is measured.

Albeit, this is a monumental work, touching on a wide variety of subjects concerned, some of them rather remotely, with cataract surgery. History, anatomy, physiology, the training of a cataract surgeon and his approach not only to his patient but even to his Maker are not neglected. There is a good deal of rather fulsome repetition in this part of the book, which might have been more severely edited.

The main emphasis is naturally on the intracapsular operation, to which Dr. Kirby has made important contributions, and this, the largest section of the book, is very well done and fascinating to read. Dr. Kirby reviews the work of other surgeons, usually in their own words, by means of long extracts from their writings, and then explains his own conclusions not in the form of a rigid 'method,' but in an elastic 'system' by which he can adapt himself to the varying conditions found both before and during the operation. He believes that the cataract surgeon should have at his command a large variety of manoeuvres and should be able to choose, use and alter them at will. He is thus no bigot and has obviously been receptive of new ideas during 30 years of operating experience. He frequently puts forward his own innovations, particularly his cylindrical-handled instruments, not suggesting that all surgeons should adopt them but that they should try them if their own technique is not yielding the results that they expect.

The book is admirably produced and the coloured illustrations are excellent. Inevitably no one of his readers will agree with all that Dr. Kirby says, but this, so far from being a drawback, will stimulate them to re-examine their own technique and see what can be learnt from this very lively mind. Many may without loss take father's advice for reading Scott's novels and skip the first few chapters.

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WHEELER AND JACK'S HANDBOOK OF MEDICINE


The student who holds that it is inadvisable to see patients for a period of three months preceding the final examination, on the grounds that they tend to confuse the clear picture of disease required for this hurdle, would do well to digest the foreword to this handbook. 'Our art is not to be learned save by its exercise and use,' and this book, of a size to be admitted into a capacious pocket, is an ideal practical companion for the period of clinical clerking.

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THE BRITISH ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MEDICAL PRACTICE (Vol. 2)


The high standard of the first volume has been maintained in the present work, which has been expanded by the introduction of two new chapters on atomic energy and blast injuries. These new sections, excellently written by Dr. J. F. Loutit and Sir Cecil Wakeley respectively, together with the greatly expanded chapter on aviation medicine by Sir Harold Whittingham, are not only an index of the perilous times in which we live, but also a sharp reminder of the increasingly important part that doctors would be expected to play in any future war. All three chapters, therefore, will repay close study.

New contributors will be welcomed amongst the authors of the first edition. In this regard, Dr. W. Tegner's excellent accounts of ankylosing spondylitis and backache should be mentioned. The section on ascites has been rewritten with advantage by Dr. G. E. Beaumont, who recognizes the fact that some doctors may have had a classical education, and, perhaps, have not forgotten all their Greek. Mr. V. Zachary Cope, our doyen amongst
the experts on the acute abdomen, has given a
masterly account on appendicitis—the commonest
of all abdominal emergencies.

These scattered remarks should be regarded as
an indication of the reviewer's most favourable
impressions, rather than as an invidious distinction
between varying degrees of excellence of important
contributions. He must, however, express some
disappointment with the chapter on rheumatoid
arthritis. If it had been written by a lesser
authority than Dr. W. S. C. Copeman it might,
perhaps, have been satisfying.

D.S.L.

STEROID HORMONES AND TUMOURS
By ALEXANDER LIPSCHUTZ, M.D. Pp. xi + 309,
with 111 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall
& Cox. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins
Co. 1950. £2 6s. 6d.

This book, although apparently designed for a
wider public, will be of interest only to laboratory
research workers in the comparatively narrow field
which it covers. It consists largely of an account of
experiments performed by the author and his asso-
ciates over a period of some 15 years. The ex-
periments comprised the production of abdominal
fibromyomata in guinea-pigs by oestrogens, natu-
urally occurring and synthetic, and the inhibition of
this action by progesterone, androgens and adreno-
cortical steroids. Much allied literature is referred
to but, for the most part, is not discussed in a critical
fashion. There are about 800 references which
should be of assistance to the research worker.

Where the author applies himself to describing
his own experimental work he can be understood,
but when discussing the wider significance of re-
results and developing arguments in the sphere of
speculation he frequently fails to make his meaning
clear. This alone makes the book difficult to read
and, in addition, there are numerous typographical
errors, some of the tables are not clear, some figure
legends are confusing or are divorced from the
figures to which they refer, and at least one has
neither legend nor text reference. One important
error of fact was noticed by the reviewer on p. 113;
the author states that 'One will remember the
work of McIntosh who reported in 1933 production
of filtrable tumours by the administration of tar to
rats, and later on also in fowls (McIntosh and Selbie,
1939).' To the reviewer's knowledge no one has
ever claimed to produce filtrable tumours in rats
with chemical carcinogens and quite certainly the
cited author did not.

Those who read this book should approach it
critically.

METHODS OF TISSUE CULTURE
By RAYMOND C. PARKER, Ph.D. 2nd Edition
London: Cassell and Co. 1950. 57s. 6d.

The first edition of this book described exactly
the tissue culture practice of Alexis Carrel, one of
the author's teachers and one of the most eminent
and authoritative workers responsible for the first
great strides in this branch of study. This second
edition has appeared 12 years after the first and
the author, with the advantage of mature judgment
and long experience, is obviously master of his
subject. Also the author's exposition is good and
the book is well written in simple language and is a
pleasure to read.

Many laboratory workers, even if not engaged in
tissue culture, should read this book, for tissue
culture has a wide variety of applications which in-
clude the study of antibody formation, bacterial in-
fec tion, hormonal action, nutrient requirements of
living cells, cancer research, blood diseases, em-
byology and organ growth, cell metabolism, the
action of drugs upon cells, the growth and attenua-
tion of viruses for vaccines and other purposes, the
preparation of specimens for the electron microscope
and the diagnosis of doubtful tumours.

The book begins with an historical introduction
which immediately captures the reader's interest.
Subsequent chapters deal with laboratory design,
cleaning and sterilization, and the preparation of
media (this includes an excellent chapter by J. F.
Morgan on the 'Development of Synthetic Media')
in great, but interesting, detail reminiscent of
the ritual demanded by Carrel in his laboratories.
However, such detailed description is no disad-
antage, for it leads to clarity and comprehensiv-
ness. The chapters which follow are concerned
with the different types of tissue cultures, illustrated
and made interesting by relevant experimental
findings. Finally, methods of study of tissue cultures
are described; growth measurements by simple
mensuration and by metabolic and biochemical
studies; histological procedures, which have to be
modified for tissue culture and lastly photomicro-
graphy and microcinematography. There are
numerous illustrations all of which are excellent;
the bibliography is adequate, well selected, and does
not reach those excesses which usually result from
attempts to be uncritically comprehensive.

There are but few adverse criticisms which could
be made and these are of no importance in view of
the fact that this book achieves its object so success-
fully, save one. However, Chapter IV on cleansing
and sterilization seems to be largely unnecessary.
It could be shortened with profit as most of such
information can be found in standard texts on bac-
teriological technique. In addition the author does
not appear to be so much at ease when discussing
the first principles of sterilization as he is elsewhere
in his otherwise excellent book.