

BOOK REVIEWS

ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAPHY

A Symposium of its Various Aspects

Edited by DENIS HILL, M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., and G. PARR, M.I.E.E. Pp. vii + 438. London: Macdonald & Co. 1950. £3 18s.

This is a useful and thorough book, covering the most important aspects of electro-encephalography.

Grey Walter has written the chapters on equipment, technique, interpretation, normal rhythm and epilepsy. His presentation is lively and personal; his wide experience and knowledge of the literature makes for stimulating reading. Occasionally one is surprised by statements of a rather dogmatic nature.

Whitteridge is the author of the chapter on physiology. It deals with the more fundamental problems. It is not strictly confined to electro-encephalography, but goes into questions of the synapse, pace-makers and electrical activity in the cortex.

Heppenstall and Greville present a complete review of the literature as it affects biochemical and pharmacological problems, whilst Cobb deals in a comprehensive way with intracranial tumours and cerebral trauma, giving a well-balanced survey.

Hill's subject is the field of psychiatry; he discusses general psychopathology as well as individual diagnoses.

The book ends with some appendices dealing with technical and administrative details, and a glossary.

The book is one of which British electro-encephalographers can well be proud. One's only regret is that it contains hardly any references to work published since 1946 and, therefore, the more recent developments are wanting. It is hoped that in its next edition the editors will succeed in including more up-to-date information and references. Even as it is, the book is a *must* for every worker in the field.

S.L.L.

ENDOCRINE DIAGNOSIS

By H. UCKO, M.D. Pp. xvi + 513, with 84 illustrations. London: Staples Press Ltd. 1951. 42s.

The recent spate of books on endocrinology testifies to the extraordinary growth of interest in the subject. This book, which is readable and well produced, presents the facts from a slightly different angle, the emphasis being on differential diagnosis. It may, therefore, be read as an introduction to the subject, but it is not sufficiently precise to be more than that.

GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY FOR THE PRACTITIONER

By P. M. F. BISHOP, D.M. 2nd Edition. Pp. ix + 132. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1951. 12s.

This pocket-sized book gives the reader a very fair appreciation of the place of hormones in the diagnosis and treatment of the more common gynaecological disorders met in everyday practice. It has been largely re-written and in place of the appendix on commercial preparations, a therapeutic schedule based on the author's clinical experience has been introduced. The theme of the original text has been maintained and a new chapter on steroid chemistry has been added.

In describing the value of animal pregnancy tests in the diagnosis of the acute case of ruptured tubal ectopic pregnancy, the author mentions the value of the male toad test which is rapid, but in truly acute cases the diagnosis must, of course, be made clinically as prompt surgical treatment is imperative.

Students and doctors will thank Dr. Bishop for this short but most valuable book.

A.C.P.

MODERN PRACTICE IN INFECTIOUS FEVERS. Vols. 1 and 2

Edited by H. Stanley Banks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H. Pp. xxiv + 1054, with 214 illustrations, three in colour. London: Butterworth and Co. 1951. £5 for two volumes.

This is the latest addition to Butterworth's Modern Practice Series. Like previous volumes, these two are beautifully printed, illustrated and bound. Fifty-two distinguished authors have collaborated in producing the work, including authorities in Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, Canada, India, the United States, France and Egypt. Its scope is equally wide, as there are chapters on tropical fevers and conditions such as rheumatic fever and infective hepatitis which are not usually included in this type of book. There are other valuable chapters on laboratory aids to diagnosis and treatment, immunization and epidemiology.

In providing a complete and authoritative survey of modern practice, the authors have everywhere emphasized specific methods of diagnosis and treatment, so that much of the familiar matter in older textbooks has been omitted; older books have, in fact, been supplemented rather than replaced. Consequently its future usefulness will depend largely on the frequency with which it is revised.