‘It is not sensational presentation of the romantic aspects of medicine, though the romance is there for a sympathetic eye to discern. It is not a history of the achievements of medical science, though these form its background. It is not a popular medical encyclopaedia or even a domestic medical manual. No one will learn from it how to treat illness, though he will learn how illness is treated’ (our italics).

We doubt whether any review can adequately convey the charm and the value of this work. Of their reality we are certain, and we congratulate Mr. Hollis on his achievement and his publishers on their vision and courage in this fine educational experiment.

Q.F.C.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS


This is not a symposium on pulmonary tuberculosis, it is a small, short, yet perfectly adequate, survey of the clinical problems and the treatment of this disease. It includes also chapters on bacteriology, pathology and some sound words on the factors influencing the patient’s resistance to the tubercle bacillus. The place of each of the various forms of treatment including collapse therapy and resection is clearly stated and a nice balance maintained throughout this part of the book. It can be recommended for the undergraduate student as it is just this sized volume which will meet his needs. The general practitioner also will find it of very great value.

L.L.B.

MONOGRAPHS OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 1. Sympathetic Control of Human Blood Vessels


In this valuable monograph the authors have assembled their observations and conclusions drawn from investigations in a field of clinical research which is of much more than academic interest. No animal experiment could have yielded the type of information which is presented here. Direct evidence of the nervous mechanisms of vascular control in man is presented, with examples of the changes produced in the muscle and skin of the extremities by such factors as fainting, the intravenous infusion of adrenalin, exercise and sympathetic denervation. The functional disturbance produced by a phaeochromocytoma is explained and a rational basis for diagnosis is put forward. A useful chapter on plethysmography is included.

The book is filled with information which equally concerns the physiologist, physician or surgeon.

H.H.G.E.

ROSE AND CARLESS’ MANUAL OF SURGERY

Vols. 1 and 2


This is certainly a new Rose and Carless. It has been extensively revised and many of the sections have been rewritten, a large number of them by well known authorities. It is very pleasing to see so much prominence given to fluid and electrolyte therapy and there are excellent chapters on otorhinolaryngology, plastic surgery and burns. As, however, with all textbooks written by a number of contributors, balance is not entirely satisfactory as exemplified in this case by an unusually long and complicated chapter on blood grouping. Whilst the book is up to date in nearly all its parts it is felt that there are one or two exceptions. No mention, for instance, is made of the operation of rectosigmoidectomy as a treatment for Hirschspring’s disease. The first operation described for duodenal ulceration is gastro-enterostomy; it is felt that in a textbook for students partial gastrectomy should be given pride of place. Vagotomy alone is rightly dismissed in the treatment of this condition but the operation of vagotomy combined with a gastric decompression such as pyloroplasty or gastrojejunostomy ought to be discussed in this context.

This book is very long. In this way it contrasts with some of the other standard textbooks and its appeal will be to the student who prefers such a type of writing. This in no way implies that the work will not become popular.

D.L.B.F.

THE MANAGEMENT OF ABDOMINAL OPERATIONS


Mr. Rodney Maingot’s reputation as a surgical writer and editor is such that any new work appearing under his name excites feelings of the liveliest anticipation. These are further increased when it is seen that among his 33 contributors are many distinguished names in British medicine, such as Gordon Gordon-Taylor, Cecil Wakeley, L. J. Witts, Avery Jones, Ian Aird and Norman Tanner. It may be said at once that the book lives up to these expectations. Its title would imply a work devoted essentially to pre- and post-operative care, and approximately half the chapters do deal with general considerations of this kind. Mr. Maingot
has seen fit, however, to include many other more specialized articles on the different subdivisions of abdominal surgery. For example Borrje writes on cancer of the proximal stomach and oesophagus, Aird on the care of the jaundiced patient, Tanner on ulcer haemorrhage, Daintree Johnon on vagotomy and Denis Browne on abdominal operations in childhood, to mention but a few. Naturally these chapters do not cover the whole field of abdominal surgery and the book is certainly no substitute for standard texts, but it does provide a series of very interesting and readable essays on some of the most important and controversial topics in the surgery of the abdomen. As such it represents a most valuable addition to the surgeon's library, and it will undoubtedly be widely read.

It is set in easily read type, on good paper and is well illustrated and elegantly bound. But it makes a heavy tome and for convenience in handling it might with advantage have been split into two separate volumes dealing with general and special considerations respectively.

J.C.G.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

By E. NOBLE CHAMBERLAIN, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.

The latest edition of this popular book, while retaining its previous size and 'shape,' introduces several small improvements. Many of the figures are better, some notably. To an already profusely illustrated book more photographs have been added.

This book does not claim to replace either the contact between the patient and his observer or the conventional 'Textbook of Medicine.' To the student who has just entered the wards, this book stands in the same relation to his work as did his illustrated manual of anatomy; just as he had to perform the dissection to expose the underlying parts, so he has to perform the physical examination to disclose the underlying signs, and it is only by assiduously practising the techniques of physical examination that he can with confidence display them.

This book gives his valuable help, not only in describing clearly the techniques of physical examination, but in giving him forewarning of what he should expect to find.

Two criticisms should be made. The remarks on the significance of changes in the gastric acidity on page 417 are interpreted with some difficulty; and the student who frequently listens for the third heart sound in vain will not be a whit impressed or encouraged by the remark on page 120 that it is sometimes inaudible. Inaudible sounds lie near the limits of credulity.

For all this, as a compendium of facts, thoughtfully assembled and tastefully displayed, this book has few rivals and no peers.

CANCER IN GENERAL PRACTICE


This book is a short systematic account of cancer. There is no doubt that it contains a great number of useful facts and the pathology is very well described. Treatment is fully up to date and therapeutic methods are lucidly portrayed.

It is felt, however, that this book does not live up to its title in that it does not approach the subject of cancer from a general practitioner's angle. A chapter on the difficulties of diagnosis in general practice would be useful and also a section on the treatment of pre-cancerous conditions would not be out of place. In the chapter on carcinoma of the colon even there is no mention of malignant change developing in patients with ulcerative colitis, nor is polyposis coli discussed.

This book is carefully written and should prove useful as a reference book to general practitioners who wish to remain up to date with regard to treatment.

D.L.B.F.

Garrod, Batten & Thursfield's
DISEASES OF CHILDREN
(Vols. I and II)


Although the new edition of this well-known textbook is published only six years after the first volume of the previous edition, there is a great deal of new material and revision of old material in its pages. Happily both volumes of the present edition have been published simultaneously, thus avoiding a defect in the fourth edition.

Several entirely new chapters have been included in this edition; there are those on the causes of congenital malformations, on growth and development, drug treatment, Kwashiorkor, endocrine disorders, the alimentary tract and on congenital heart disease. The general layout of the book has not been materially altered in this edition, but the inclusion of new articles and the expansion of existing ones has considerably increased its size.

In a work of this size, with 50 contributors, the level of each chapter obviously cannot be uniform. The following chapters appeared to the reviewer to warrant particular mention. That on the causes of congenital malformations, by J. P. M. Tizard introduces several recent observations on this subject and seems particularly worthy of merit for its critical survey of the problem of maternal rubella and congenital deformities in the newborn. The new section on growth and development, by R. S. Illingworth is excellent, and that on water
The Management of Abdominal Operations

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