BOOKS RECEIVED

NEW EDITIONS


BOOK REVIEWS

Anaesthesia in Clinical Ophthalmology

With the increasing use of a wide variety of medicaments for anaesthesia in ophthalmology there is room for special liaison between Ophthalmic Surgeon and Anaesthetist. This book will serve a useful purpose if it interests further anaesthetists in problems of eye surgery, the numerous different methods employed in various centres suggests that no ideal technique has been evolved for any specific operation.

Commencing with a review of the physiology of intraocular pressure the authors note the results of raised pressure and the effect of various agents used in anaesthesia. The danger of a transient rise immediately following Succinylcholine is given a balanced consideration. It is pointed out that the risk still exists with the patient under light Pentothal anaesthesia and therefore this relaxant is contra-indicated in perforating injuries of the eye, but that it is safe if five minutes are allowed to elapse before the eye is opened.

The oculo-cardiac reflex is described as a cause of arrhythmias during eye operations and the relative value of Atropine or retrobulbar anaesthesia for prevention assessed. The incidence of cardiac arrest is given as 1/3,500 eye operations.

In the choice between local and general anaesthesia, little consideration is given to the variations on the “lytic cocktail” which are in common use in this country, a critical survey of these mixtures would have been most valuable.

A separate chapter is devoted to a post-operation vomiting which can be a hazard of any eye operation and is often difficult to prevent. There is a substantial section on regional nerve blocks, the value of this detail is reduced by the considerable degree of overlap in innervation.

In the section on general anaesthetic procedures stress is laid on the prevention of gagging or coughing after removal of intubation tube by the proper choice and use of relaxants.

Alteration in the effect of relaxants occur with low cholinesterase levels due to heredity, disease of various organs, or local use of anti-cholinesterase drops.

An interesting though slightly alarming chapter on the ocular complications of general anaesthesia completes the book.

Genetics Today, Volume 1. Abstracts


The book contains nearly 2,000 abstracts grouped in 18 sections, only two of these sections dealing with human genetics.

There is a very wide range of subjects covered in this book—most of them comprehensible only to the expert. The abstracts that deal with human genetics, cover many important advancing fields of knowledge, particularly chromosome abnormalities.

The speed with which these abstracts have been published is commendable. The second and third volumes to be published later, will deal in full with other parts of the conference.

Chest Diseases

A book which sets out to be “a comprehensive text book of Chest Diseases” entitles its readers to expect that it will provide encyclopedic answers to any questions posed.

The two volumes of Perry and Holmes Sellors “Chest Diseases”, comprise 59 separate essays by 24 authorities on matters relating to the trachea, lungs and diaphragm. A treatise on the medical and surgical problems of thoracic disease must cover the anatomy and physiology, the bacteriology, immunology, chemistry, pathology, radiology, and the patho-anatomy of the pleuro-pulmonary system. The common and the rarer diseases should be dealt with thoroughly. Esoteric aspects and historical side
tracks would be welcome additions and if the book is addressed to a world-wide medical audience it must also include diseases peculiar to tropical countries. How does Perry and Holmes Sellar's book measure up to these demands? The chapters on Anatomy, Physiology and Radiology are good. Asthma and the commoner acute inflammatory diseases of the trachea, bronchi, lungs and pleura are adequately covered. There is no separate mention of laryngeal affections. It is only in the chapter on tuberculosis that a long chapter on fungal diseases is excellent. Pulmonary tuberculosis is dealt with very fully in all of its aspects. Pulmonary sarcoidosis is covered in five pages, slightly flawed by the erroneous statement that in the Kveim test, the antigen is injected subcutaneously. Intradermal injection is much more likely to yield satisfactory results. Ten essays on lesions of the pleura are particularly well done. The chapters on tumours of the lungs and bronchi are very full and well illustrated. Tropical lung diseases are represented by leprosy (tracheal lesions only, and described, whereas in fact laryngeal affection is much commoner and more serious), pulmonary eosinophilia, paragonimiasis, roundworm infestation, amebiasis, hydatid disease and schistosomiasis.

Though whooping cough is dealt with adequately, measles is dismissed in a few lines without guidance on the treatment of pulmonary complications.

On the whole, this well-produced book is a valuable acquisition to the general physician and to the chest specialist who will particularly enjoy such uncommon little extras as the essays on "Sputum", "Respiratory difficulty in the newborn", "Irradiation pneumonia", and "Anaesthesia in chest disease".

### Diagnosis and Treatment of Blood Diseases

**M. C. G. Israels, M.D., F.R.C.P.**

*Diagnosis and Treatment of Blood Diseases* (by William Heinemann, 1963, 35s.)

The author states in his introduction that his aim in writing this book is to provide the busy practising physician with modern guidance on diagnosis and treatment without involving the reader in search through much, interesting but impractical, detail as may be found in the larger textbooks of haematology. He has drawn on his large clinical experience to distil this information neatly into 200 pages of relatively easy reading.

The author constantly demonstrates his appreciation of day to day clinical problems and gives good clear accounts of the various diseases. The sections on bleeding diseases, reticuloses and diseases of the white cells are specially helpful, but the chapters on the anaemias are perhaps a little pedestrian. There is an interesting section on laboratory investigations with their normal and abnormal ranges, but it is doubtful whether many physicians will gain anything from the short, rather sketchy chapter on clinical examination. The last chapter deals with laboratory techniques but in a book of this sort it is uncertain whether anything is gained by inclusion of these details which can be of use to only a small minority of readers. On the other hand, the inclusion of eleven colour plates illustrating bone marrow disorders is of considerable help and interest. References are few but well selected. There are one or two statements which may not be widely acceptable, such as the suggestion that iron deficiency is common in hemolytic anemia and the normal range of serum bilirubin is given as 1 to 3 mgms/100mls. The book as a whole, however, serves its purpose well; it provides a comprehensive and up-to-date account of diagnostic methods and treatment and can be recommended for the non-specialist.

### Advances in Biology of Skin Vol. IV

**The Sebaceous Glands**


The Brown Symposia are now fixed stars. They function as a sort of instalment plan encyclopedia of the skin, ancillary to Rothman's classic, which, alas, has not been kept up to date. Reviewed in this light their main weakness is the uneasy disportion between the space taken by the various contributors' own work and the space given by them to other, often earlier works. This defect will be highlighted by the staying power of some of the papers. The Symposia are, of course, not intended to be reviews, but they are patently not accounts only of recent work. In the latest volume for example the mean age of the references at the time of printing was 16 years. My other general criticism is the price: 80s. is too much for 260 pages of text. I am sure most of us would be pleased to dispense with the gold embossing, glossy paper and half the price.

The latest volume in the series is on "The Sebaceous Glands". The form, now set by honourable precedent, consists of a skirmish in the foothills of function and gross and chemical structure, with an occasional glimpse of the pathological ranges in the distance. But, let us say now (I am putting my conclusions here for weary compulsives who read straight from the beginning to end), that this book, and indeed the rest of the series, are essential to the student of the skin, for nowhere else will he find the subject covered so thoroughly. The first six chapters are anatomical and cover development and comparative anatomy with detailed accounts of the human sebaceous gland including ultra-structure. There is an interesting chapter by A. E. W. Miles on sebaceous glands in human mucosa, and then a chapter on ectopic glands in which fact, after a brave attack, succumbs to a mysterious hypothesis. This is followed by a delightful paper by Kilgman who makes a blindfold of functions disappear before your very eyes. There are four chapters covering aspects of the metabolism of sebaceous glands and the chemistry of sebum. This includes an extremely full account of analytical methods by V. R. Wheatley. Functionists (pure and disturbed) will find the last three chapters (by Lorinez, Ebling, Strauss and Pochi) particularly useful, since they are a comprehensive review of what is reliably known of the effects of hormones on the sebaceous glands.

**The London—A Study in the Voluntary Hospital System**


As in the first volume of his history, Dr. Clark-Kennedy has managed to review not just a century's progress in one large hospital in the East End of...