

The authors are to be congratulated on their infinite hard work under exacting conditions, and their monument is this Memoir. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine must be congratulated on rescuing a valuable monograph on anophelids which would otherwise have remained buried in the archives of the War Office.

T.C.M.

THE SEX HORMONES

(Ciba Handbook No. 4)

4th Edition. Pp. 186, with 12 illustrations.
Horsham: Ciba Laboratories Ltd. 1950. Gratis.

Few pharmaceutical firms seem to realize that a cold objective assessment of their products carries much more weight with the practising doctor than the most exalted praises which they themselves may use. Ciba have assembled a readable and attractive summary of the literature which relates to the sex hormones which they manufacture. The account is not so objective as it appears on first inspection, as all mention of the gonadotropins and even of stilboestrol and the other synthetic oestrogens is omitted. With these limitations the book gives a good account of the relevant literature on the oestrogens, androgens and progestogens. The facts are arranged in orderly sequence, sections being devoted to chemistry, biological activity and treatment.

J.D.B.

INJURIES TO THE ANKLE

By J. GRANT BONNIN, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. xvi + 402, with 399 illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1950. 63s.

Injuries in the region of the ankle have always been difficult to understand fully. Some daylight came with the classification of Ashurst and Bromer, but there remained a feeling that the full story had not been told. In this volume a very full story is told. To many it may prove a little too full.

The historical background is exhaustive and signifies hours of painstaking research on the part of the author. Even Herodotus is quoted and our old friends Dupuytren and Maisonneuve become very real figures, burning with discovery.

The accounts of the various mechanisms of injury may not prove too easy to follow and perhaps the various classifications are a little kaleidoscopic. 'Diastasis' has been simple enough in the past; now there are three degrees and they are applied to every type of fracture-dislocation. There is even a list of standards, radiological and clinical, by which the various degrees can be recognized. Perhaps, too, the subject of acute ligamentous sprain has been over-elaborated; there are 34 pages on it, including no small paragraph on treatment by leeches.

Yet epiphyseal injuries are only given seven pages and there is no mention in them of the problems that arise from premature fusion.

The common types of fracture-dislocation are clearly described, but one looks in vain for really clear guidance on principles of treatment. Surely the importance of early reduction should be stressed as being the best means of dispersing swelling. Further, in such a large book as this surely the reader should be allowed fuller instructions on plaster technique, manipulative methods and above all, after-treatment.

On the whole this must be regarded mainly as a valuable book of reference and, as the first complete treatise on this subject, a most important contribution to orthopaedic literature.

RECENT ADVANCES IN CHEMOTHERAPY

Vol. 2

By G. M. FINDLAY, C.B.E., Sc.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.
3rd Edition. Pp. ix + 597. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1950. 36s.

The second volume of this work is entirely devoted to malaria. Research on chemotherapy of malaria was given a tremendous stimulus during the war by the loss of quinine-producing areas to the Japanese. Search for other effective anti-malaria compounds was intensified in all the allied countries. The demonstration of the exoerythrocytic phases of the life cycle of the plasmodium in the liver of the monkey. Shortt and his associates shed new light on the causes of relapses and failure of cure with certain remedies previously thought, on theoretical grounds, to be reasonably efficacious. Fowls, canaries, monkeys and the like were used for screening and testing new compounds, but always the final trials of promising substances have to be done in man. The excellent work done in man by Fairley and his collaborators played an important part, particularly in the New Guinea war zone.

One cannot read this book without being impressed by the immensity of the problems involved. Every strain of malaria in animals and man reacts somewhat differently to different compounds and each compound has a different type of action on each phase of the life cycle of the parasite. The magnitude of the task involved in producing a complete account of the modern chemotherapy of malaria has been achieved by the tremendous intellectual sweep of the author of this book. He seems to take in his stride chemistry, biology, pathology, physiology and clinical therapeutics. No significant detail in the enormous field covered seems to be omitted. Interesting sections on the history of malaria and its treatment are included. This book will become a standard work of reference to all who aim at further progress in the battle against an enemy which immobilizes armies in war and causes untold suffering and devastating epidemics in peace.

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