

THE POSTGRADUATE

Book Review Supplement

PHYSICAL FOUNDATIONS OF RADIOLOGY

By OTTO GLASSER, EDITH H. QUIMBY, LAURISTON S. TAYLOR and J. L. WEATHERWAX. 2nd Edition. Pp. xiii + 581, illustrated. London: Cassell & Co. Ltd. 1952. 50s.

After eight printings of the first edition of this popular textbook, the second edition incorporates considerable changes and extensions. These have been necessitated by the rapid advances in the past ten years in radiation physics and its application to medical radiology. The chapters on radiation measurements and on protection have been completely rewritten and chapters on radioactive isotopes and high energy accelerators have been added. Although ranked as a textbook of basic physical principles, a considerable amount of reference material of great value to the radiotherapist is incorporated.

In spite of the title the book remains essentially a textbook for the student radiotherapist. It may still be regarded as unfortunate that the physical principles of radiodiagnosis are covered in one chapter.

J.E.R.

A HANDBOOK OF RADIOTHERAPY

For Senior Students and Postgraduate Students

By WALTER M. LEVITT, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.E. Pp. xii + 232, with 53 illustrations. London: Harvey & Blythe Ltd. 1952. 30s.

This book should appeal to a wide circle of readers. It will repay perusal by the student for higher degrees. It is deceptive to the radiotherapist since it contains more information than is at first apparent.

The main attractions of the book are two. One is the straightforward and concise style in which it is written. The other is that reasoned arguments are given for what is said.

The postgraduate student will find that two functions are subserved. The first half of the book gives a good general explanation of the nature of radiotherapy. The second half gives a more detailed account of its application to specific problems of medicine, surgery and gynaecology.

The radiotherapist will find this a worth-while book. It is full of interest and summarizes controversial matters succinctly.

L.C.R.

REASON AND UNREASON IN PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE

By E. B. STRAUSS, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 55. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1953. 8s. 6d.

This volume contains the Presidential Address to the Medical Section of the British Psychological Society for 1946, and the two Croonian Lectures delivered before the Royal College of Physicians in 1952. In these addresses Dr. Strauss examines the rational framework of psychological medicine and considers the principles of causality, with particular reference to psychoanalysis. Sir Russell Brain in his foreword emphasizes the importance of present-day concern with criticism of scientific method, and the present volume is a most stimulating addition to thought in this field.

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

By F. A. ELLIOTT, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P., BRODIE HUGHES, Ch.M., F.R.C.S., and J. W. ALDREY TURNER, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. xxii + 751, with 30 illustrations. London: Cassell & Co. Ltd. 1952. 42s.

This book is intended for those who are undergoing postgraduate training in medicine rather than for the junior student or the professed neurologist. It may be said at once without qualification that this is a most excellent book for the postgraduate, and it is to be hoped that this extract quoted from the preface will not deter the medical student from reading it. The book is kept within reasonable compass by excluding detailed anatomical and physiological considerations in the introduction, and by omitting rare disorders and the brief and inadequate account of the psychoneuroses that is traditionally included in a neurological textbook. There is a brief and well chosen list of references at the end of each section. The parts of the book dealing with those problems attacked by the neurosurgeon are written from the neurological point of view, in keeping with the senior author's description of the neurosurgeon as a neurologist who practices surgery. A gratifying advance is the practice of giving dosages in the metric system, with brackets the more conventional form of dosage for old-established drugs.

The writing is clear and concise, yet lively. This book will find a ready welcome.