
Book Reviews

PATHOLOGIE UND KLINIK DES SALZ- UND WASSERHAUSHALTES

By EDMUND KERPEL-FRONIUS. Verlag der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Budapest. 1959. Pp. 678. Price not given.

This book is written by one of the pioneers in the scientific investigation of disorders of water and salt metabolism in childhood. Even before Kerpel-Fronius went to the United States of America to work with James Gamble, he had made some significant contributions to the study of dehydration, especially by indicating that dehydration is not necessarily isosmolar, but that the tonicity of the extracellular fluid is variable.

This book, however, is not a mere personal record. The literature of the English speaking world is extensively quoted in a text which is written in simple and clear, but inevitably rather ponderous, German. The book is a fine reflection of the high standard of research work which is the tradition of the medical schools in Hungary.

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

By SIR WALTER MERCER. Fifth edition. Pp. xi + 1,040 + Index and Bibliography. London: Edward Arnold Ltd., 1959. 90s.

The latest edition of this book appears after an interval of nine years, and is slightly increased in size. Several sections have been completely rewritten and the remaining chapters have been revised. The chapters which have been rewritten include one on congenital dislocation of the hip, contributed by G. P. Mitchell. He gives an excellent account of the management of the condition, and discusses the part played by the inverted 'limbus' in preventing complete reduction. The management of excessive anteversion of the femoral neck is also described.

Mitchell has also revised the chapter on poliomyelitis. Active immunization by the use of vaccine is mentioned, and the management of the acute case is described. The treatment of late deformities and paralyses is also considered in some detail.

The section on scoliosis has been revised by Savill. Idiopathic scoliosis is dealt with in detail, and the work of Ponseti and Friedman, and James on the curve pattern in relation to prognosis and treatment is mentioned. Operative correction of severe cases is described briefly.

The chapter on general affections of the skeleton has been extensively revised and several additions have been made to the subject matter, including gargoylism and infantile cortical hyperostosis. Many new illustrations have been added, and this section provides a very useful summary of the subject.

In the chapter on osteomyelitis, the dosage of Penicillin recommended by the author might be considered rather on the low side by many surgeons. Staphylococci do not seem to be as sensitive to Penicillin as they were a decade ago.

The rest of the book contains numerous minor revisions, and a number of new photographs and X-ray reproductions of good quality. The book maintains the high standard of previous editions and provides a very readable account of current orthopaedic thought and practice in this country.

INTERPRETATION OF PAIN IN ORTHOPAEDIC PRACTICE

By ARTHUR STEINDLER, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. xvii + 733, illustrated. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1959. 148s.

The late Arthur Steindler was a profound thinker and a prolific writer. He always sought to penetrate to the heart of a problem, often bringing an unfamiliar and revealing light to play upon it. He was an inspiring teacher, a devoted doctor and a tireless worker. Many of these qualities are exemplified in this present work, whose final corrections were completed only on his death-bed.

Pain is perhaps the most compelling of all symptoms and this book deals with its orthopaedic aspects. After a general discussion of pain, Steindler discusses its origin in the various tissues of the body; finally he considers the body on a topographical basis, describing how pain may arise in each individual part of the locomotor system, and what treatment is required. Each section is characteristically methodical, thorough and illuminated by case histories. The illustrations are well reproduced and those of anatomical dissections (prepared by Dr. Cosentino) have a clarity usually obtained only in colour photographs.

To some the language and style may not appeal. Although Steindler was a fluent polyglot he lacked the gift of smooth facility in his writings. But this has its advantages, for the reader finds himself pausing at frequent intervals; he is encouraged to