

The Operations of Surgery

Volume I. A. J. GARDHAM, M.S., F.R.C.S. and D. R. DAVIES, M.B., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 664 with 389 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1963. 100s.

This book retains the original title of W. H. A. Jacobson and its immediate predecessor, edited by R. P. Rowlands and P. Turner and it maintains the same high standard. Produced in the form of two columns to the page with similar clear illustrations Volume I contains information regarding the non-specialised branches of surgery. As before each section is produced in three parts. First an introduction, concerning the indications for performing various operations. This introduction is compressed into a surprisingly small space and yet contains a large amount of information including physiology, surgical pathology and a full discussion of controversial points. This clearly reflects the care in editing that has gone into the production of this book. Secondly a section on technique which sets out the steps of an operation and these are well illustrated by line drawings. Where a choice of operation exists the authors leave little doubt as to which they consider to be the safest operation compatible with palliating the patients symptoms. Thirdly a section on after care, with separate chapters on infection and fluid balance. A contribution by R. L. G. Dawson on plastic surgery is a useful addition, particularly as it is based on general surgical principles. The authors explain their reason for including a chapter on anaesthesia.

This book is easily readable and will be of particular value to Registrars and those involved in reading for higher qualifications, and because of its technical detail, as a reference book for the undergraduate. While many books have been published on similar lines this volume is outstanding and the many who enjoyed the old Rowlands and Turner will welcome an up-to-date edition of this work.

Radical Vaginal Hysterectomy

Schauta-Amreich's Radical Vaginal Operation of Cancer of the Cervix. HANS HÖGLER, M.D., F.I.C.S. Pp. ix + 86 illustrated. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963. 6 dollars 50 cents.

This is an authoritative monograph based on 337 cases describing a simplified surgical technique for the Schauta operation, as performed in Vienna.

It is well produced and the illustrations adequately illustrate the steps of the operation. The English translation is poor, containing many grammatical inaccuracies and errors in spelling, but the descriptions are basically clear.

The recommended indication for the operation is carcinoma of the cervix in stages I and II, a condition for which an abdominal resection is widely preferred in this country. There is no mention of its use in the treatment of carcinoma of the body of the uterus in which it would find greater favour here. None of the patients were treated with pre-operative radium which would almost certainly make the operation more hazardous. Dissection of the lymph nodes generally considered an essential part of radical pelvic surgery is impossible by the vaginal route.

Nevertheless, the results are comparable with those treated by more standard methods. A primary mortality of 2.37% and five years survival cure rate of 76.27% for stage I and 35.65% for stage II are claimed. Injury to the rectum, bladder and ureters were very infrequent and caused no residual disability.

The book should be of use to gynaecological surgeons learning to master the technique of this operation.

NEW EDITIONS

An Introduction to Medical Genetics

J. A. FRASER ROBERTS. Third edition. Pp. xii + 283, illustrated. London: Oxford University Press. 1963. 35s.

The new edition includes additional material on the biochemical aspects of genetics, the genetics of blood grouping and chromosome abnormalities. A reasonably priced book with clear and well-chosen diagrams and illustrations.

Sick Children. Diagnosis and Treatment

REGINALD LIGHTWOOD and F. S. W. BRIMBLE-COMBE. 6th edition. Pp. 724 illustrated. London: Cassell. 1963. 50s.

One of the best single volume paediatric manuals available. New edition includes chapter on accidents in childhood including treatment of poisoning. Detailed and workable index.

Drugs, Medicines and Man

HAROLD BURN. Pp. 235. Second edition. London: Unwin University Books. 1963. 18s.

Presents a technical subject to the general public without losing the essentials which attract the professional reader. Describes the action of a wide range of familiar drugs and includes topics such as alcohol and the motorist, obesity, 'the pill', and the thalidomide disaster.

The Newly Born Infant

ANDREW BOGDAN. Second edition. Pp. 42. Leeds: Austick's Medical Bookshop. 1963. 5s.

A well-conceived book but not entirely suitable for the student as it stands as it contains some misleading statements.

Diseases of the Liver

Edited by LEON SCHIFF. Second edition. xix + 916, illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lipincott. London: Pitman Medical. 1964. £8 8s.

There are now over 30 contributors to this well known book and new chapters have been added on ascites, splenic venography and bilirubin metabolism. Contributors from this country include Professor Sheila Sherlock, Dr. Barbara Billing and Professor N. F. Maclagan. A wealth of practical detail is given for the management of ascites and hepatic coma and in the investigatory procedures now necessary in the treatment of liver disease. Highlights are the description by Drs. Rousselot and Burchell of their personal experience of 627 splenic venograms done since 1952, and the review by Dr. D. Seligson of the different but interrelated metabolic processes sited in the liver.

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