

Book reviews

Cancer of the Head and Neck

Papers presented at the International Workshop on Cancer of the Head and Neck, New York City, May 10th–14th 1965. Edited by JOHN CONLEY. Pp. xxii + 650, illustrated. Washington and London: Butterworths. 1967. £10 15s.

The management of malignant disease in the head and neck, perhaps more than in any other region, calls for team work involving a wide range of disciplines. Clinical diagnosis must be supported by expert pathology and specialist radiology. The selection of treatment method calls for close consultation between Surgeon, Radiotherapist and Chemotherapist. The operative aspects of treatment concern the General Surgeon, the Plastic Surgeon, the Otolaryngologist and the Oral Surgeon.

In this volume Dr Conley has, through his wide choice of contributors from the above specialties, compiled what is virtually an advanced text-book on the subject. There are more than eighty papers grouped into headings which cover the various anatomical regions, followed by sections on radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Varying and sometimes conflicting viewpoints on controversial matters are juxtaposed in such a way as to encourage thought and discussion.

The range of subject matter is too wide for individual mention but throughout the book it is interesting to note how the advent of super-voltage radiotherapy has influenced the management of tumours in many sites. Several papers deal with the special considerations of this form of therapy in relation to operative procedures.

The proceedings of a symposium such as this must inevitably contain gaps, but this is more than compensated for by the up-to-dateness of the material and the expression of personal views by acknowledged experts. The book as a whole is beautifully produced, as one would expect from this publisher. It is amply illustrated and well supplied with references.

Scoliosis

By J. I. P. JAMES with additional chapters by P. A. ZORAB and RUTH WYNNE-DAVIES. Pp. vii + 248, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967. 55s.

This is the book we have been waiting for—a clear authoritative account by an acknowledged master. Professor James has studied every aspect of scoliosis for many years; his researches and writings have given him a justly international reputation. This book sums up his views and incorporates those of other distinguished workers in the same field.

He systematically describes the anatomy, pathology, diagnosis and management; then the various causes (insofar as they are known) with a careful analysis of the patterns of idiopathic scoliosis; then he considers kyphoscoliosis (which he was the first to describe), experimental scoliosis, and finally, in some detail, the available methods of treatment. The language is factual and commendably free from jargon. The text is clear, the references generous and the advice unambiguous.

Two chapters have been contributed by other authors. Dr Zorab's contribution on medical aspects is wise and welcome; its presence underlines the importance of the multi-disciplinary approach. Miss Wynne-Davies' chapter is a gem; her work on the inheritance of scoliosis is of great importance to our understanding of the deformity and she

has crammed a mass of valuable information into a mere five pages.

Every orthopaedic trainee will find this book of immense value, and even the fully fledged orthopaedic surgeon familiar with scoliosis ought to have a copy. The author is to be congratulated on his masterly survey and the publishers on keeping an excellent production down to such a reasonable price.

Urology—Medical Outline Series

By ROGER W. BARNES, R. THEODORE BERGMAN and HENRY L. HADLEY. Pp. 582, illustrated. London: Heinemann Medical Books. 1967. 55s.

This book is designed to be a practical reference aid in the management of urogenital diseases. The first part is an index of symptoms outlined for use in diagnosis, listing urogenital symptoms and findings alphabetically and giving a brief outline of possible causes and immediate symptomatic treatment. Throughout this section there is reference to the second part of the book which is written more formally as a text-book in thirty chapters. The subject matter of these is conventional, starting with diagnostic procedures and then infections of the urogenital tract and stones; thereafter diseases and their treatment are considered on a regional basis proceeding from the lower urinary tract up towards the kidneys.

At first glance, particularly at Part 1, one may be forgiven for thinking that this is just the sort of text-book one does not approve with its list of signs and symptoms and didactic presentation of immediate treatment. I am bound to say, however, that on longer acquaintance, my opinion changed completely. If one regards the first part as a very full index to the subject matter of the main text it does serve a useful purpose in what is designed to be a work of reference. Moreover, this first section offers the opportunity of quick consultation with the authors for their opinion and advice on a specific clinical problem whilst being given references for further reading in the second part of the volume and I think that is a logical way of presenting material. With advancing years I find text-books increasingly difficult to digest, but having got over my initial disapproval I found this one stimulated the appetite. Looking up a number of the old chestnuts among urological problems to get an idea of how they are handled, I was led on to read more and more, particularly because the style of writing is a simple and direct one conveying the impression of a seminar conducted by a first-rate teacher with the gift of lucid expression. Indeed, it must be observed that here is a book written by senior and distinguished authors drawing upon a lifetime of experience. The senior author, Roger Barnes, must be regarded as an elder statesman of American urology and there must be few urologists who practice endoscopic surgery who have not been grateful for his publications in that field. An outstanding result of this experience is the wealth of practical detail and advice in this book both in diagnostic procedures and in treatment. For what it contains, this book is produced at a most reasonable price. It is a paperback edition and certainly greater care could have been taken with the proof reading—an eye-catching example is the incorrect Christian name given to the internationally known senior author on the cover. Such unimportant blemishes, however, do not seriously detract from the value of this work which can be thoroughly recommended to the postgraduate student in surgery.