

Book Reviews

Surgery of the Anus, Rectum and Colon

By J. C. GOLIGHER. Third edition, pp. viii + 1164, illustrated, hard cover. London: Baillière Tindall, 1975. £21.00.

This magnificent text book first appeared in 1961 and provided a comprehensive survey of current knowledge of the diseases of the large bowel, together with a detailed guide to the surgical treatment of these conditions. It reflected the encyclopaedic knowledge of its author, who is Professor of Surgery at Leeds University, and was immediately acclaimed as a major contribution to the subject.

In this third edition, extensive revisions have taken place and in particular Crohn's disease has now earned a chapter of its own. Very wisely, Professor Goligher has not confined himself to the strict limits of the colon in this section, but extends well up the alimentary canal into the small intestine. Other new sections include manual dilatation and cryosurgery in the treatment of piles and fiberoptic colonoscopy.

This textbook is a masterpiece. The text is clear, interesting and authoritative, the illustrations are profuse and excellent and the bibliography is extensive. It can be recommended as the standard reference work in this subject.

Lupus Erythematosus. A Review of the Current Status of Discoid and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and their Variants

EDMUND L. DUBOIS (Editor). Second edition, pp. xv + 798, illustrated, hard cover. Los Angeles, California: University of Southern California Press, 1974. \$36.00.

The first edition of this book which appeared in 1965, comprehensive in scope yet contained within 450 beautifully produced pages, established itself as an indispensable reference work for all those whose work included the diagnosis and management of lupus in its many forms. Such a comment may seem out of place in a review of the second edition a decade later but the standard set then was such as to invite comparison with any subsequent work. How does this new edition compare?

Sadly it has grown excessively—by some 300 pages. The increase in girth is mostly the result of a decision to supplement rather than totally to revise the first edition. Thus nearly all the original chapters are reprinted unchanged but are followed in the text by fifteen supplements covering recent advances in knowledge. Although this admittedly allows the reader to follow the history of thought on each topic it is hard to accept the claim that speed of production and reduction in cost have been achieved thereby considering the ten-year interval between editions and the cost, in this country, of £15.00.

Nevertheless this tome is a wondrous mine of information from which each specialist will extract his particular needs. The supplement on immunological phenomena contains a most useful discussion of the several current methods of measuring antibodies to double-stranded DNA and their interpretation as well as a valuable collation of the published data on their occurrence in the drug-induced lupus syndromes. The role of complement studies, and in particular their relevance and practicality of estimation in the CSF in cases of cerebral lupus, is carefully evaluated. A supplement exploring the interrelationships between rheumatoid disease and SLE demonstrates clearly how rarely true overlap is found and contrasts this with the situation obtaining in 'mixed connective tissue disease'. Less happily the editor appears to have permitted his own tastes in treatment to overshadow his assess-

ment of the clinical trials of azathioprine in the management of severe and complicated cases of systemic disease resulting in what some would regard as undue emphasis on the role of corticosteroids in systemic lupus. By contrast, his treatment of the enigma of aetiology is masterly and the three-stage theory of pathogenesis puts much current research into a much needed perspective.

The high cost of this book will mean that many who would value it will not consider buying it and will continue to supplement their reading of the first edition by reference to the relevant original papers published since. However they will hopefully be spared this chore where libraries feel able to purchase the new edition.

Intravenous Anaesthesia

By JOHN W. DUNDEE and GORDON M. WYANT. Pp. x + 341, illustrated, hard cover. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1974. £9.50.

In 1956, Professor Dundee wrote his classic text on 'Thiopentone and other Thiobarbiturates'. Many other intravenous anaesthetic agents have been introduced since then and in this present book, all these agents are dealt with comprehensively.

The greater part of the book has been written by the joint authors who have themselves been involved with much of the original work on these drugs. The presentation is clear and concise and each chapter is followed by a copious list of up-to-date references. The chapter on neuro-lept techniques is written in a slightly different style and the attempt at dealing with this wide subject in a fairly short chapter has posed an almost insoluble problem. The authors have given the widest possible interpretation to the title of the book and it ends with a useful chapter on intravenous regional analgesia. This is preceded by an excellent summary of the earlier chapters entitled 'Comparison of Induction Agents'.

The standard of production and proof-reading is refreshingly high and students will find useful the glossary of drugs and their many proprietary names. This book can be recommended as required reading for all anaesthetists and as an excellent reference book for any doctors who wish to familiarize themselves with the pharmacology and interactions of the seventy-six drugs mentioned in the glossary, not all of them intravenous anaesthetic agents.

Diseases of the Ear

STUART R. MAWSON (Editor). Third edition, pp. viii + 584, illustrated, hard cover. London: Edward Arnold Ltd, 1974. £18.50.

When the first edition of Diseases of the Ear was published in 1963 it rapidly became established as the definitive post-graduate textbook. This reflected the author's remarkably lucid style and his logical, well illustrated, presentation of the theory and practice of otology. The third edition of the book has grown by only thirty pages despite the increasing complexity of microsurgical techniques and the rapid growth of audiology. The author was right to resist the temptation to overexpound the text. The book still fulfils its two most important functions. Firstly, it provides a basic methodology from which to prepare for higher examinations and, secondly, it gives practical guidance in the management of all aspects of diseases of the ear.

The additions which have been made are valuable. I was