Reviews.


Since the first appearance of this book, forty years ago, it has been through several editions and reprints, and it speaks well for the original edition that it has been possible to keep it up to date without undue expansion.

The present issue has been thoroughly revised, and many of the modern diagnostic methods have been introduced.

Since the introduction of skiography, cystoscopy, Wassermann's reaction, complement deviation tests, and a host of other aids to diagnosis, the medical man has lost much of the art of clinical diagnosis. This little book shows clearly that by careful bedside examination a large majority of cases can be correctly diagnosed without these aids, and it should help to revive the lost art which is so important to the general practitioner who may not have these special means at his disposal, or whose patients are unable to meet the cost of special investigation.

If the methods of investigation described are faithfully followed out the more specialized tests will only be required for a minority of cases.

It is, however, to the student while acting as dresser or clinical clerk that it should prove most useful.

Like all books of this class it is at times very dogmatic and the impressions conveyed to the student will require to be corrected by reference to larger systematic works on surgery, but this feature can hardly be looked on as a fault.

While by no means covering the whole field of surgical diagnosis it most successfully fulfils the claim made in its title.

The volume is excellently produced and printed, a special feature being the beautiful reproduction of skiagrams. No typographical errors were detected and a good index is supplied.


The Edinburgh Medical School have always excelled in the production of small manuals to assist the student in preparing for examination.

This handbook is a valuable addition to this series and is a well written and illustrated volume crammed with information. The student who has mastered its contents should be in a safe position when he confronts the examiners.
Reviews

The difficulties involved in writing a book of this nature are very great, for to include all that should be included, and to omit what can with safety be omitted, requires much skill and judgment.

The author is to be congratulated both on his choice of subject matter and also on the interesting manner in which it has been presented, showing that not only is he a master of his art, but that he is in close touch with the medical student and understands his difficulties.

This volume is not intended to take the place of larger systematic works on surgery, but is really meant to be used for rapid revision before examination.

Realizing the limitations of such a book it is rather unfair to offer any criticism, but the author may welcome some hints for the future editions which are certain to be called for.

In the treatment of tetanus it is rather surprising to see the magnesium sulphate treatment still advocated. The report of the Tetanus Committee which considered the whole subject showed clearly that this method had no place in the treatment of the disease.

We would have liked to see gas gangrene mentioned if only to put the student on his guard against this serious condition.

In the discussion of syphilis, the chapter would be improved by giving the treatment at the end and not as it is, mixed up in the description of the clinical manifestations of the disease. Something more definite as to the doses and duration of treatment is also desirable.

It is curious to find gonorrhoea included under a large type heading Calculi in the Urethra. The disease is important enough to warrant a heading to itself. The description of the treatment of the disease is so condensed as to be of little value.

The section on abdominal surgery is particularly good, and in the short space devoted to it gives a mass of sound information and advice.

The method adopted for cerebral topography is new and very ingenious and is designed to avoid the necessity of remembering measurements, but we doubt if it will ease the student's burden very much.

There are other minor points which no doubt will be improved in future editions, but they do not seriously detract from the real value of the book as a work of revision for the student.

It is one of the few short manuals that are written in such a manner that they can be read with pleasure.

The book is of handy size, excellently printed and the illustrations are on the whole good.

We can predict a successful career for this latest addition to the student's library.

J. W. W.

This is the most complete work on the subject that has appeared in the English language. It deals only with urethroscopy as applied to diagnosis and treatment, and a careful perusal of its 120 pages will amply repay the time and trouble taken by one who wishes to treat gonorrhoea on modern scientific lines.

The book is divided into three parts: the first deals with anterior urethroscopes and the examination of the anterior urethra, the second with posterior urethroscopes and the examination of the posterior urethra, and the third with the examination of the female urethra. All the principal urethroscopes, both of British and Continental manufacture, are described in detail, so that anyone possessing one of these instruments can know at once the good, and bad, points of the instrument he possesses. A marked advance in urethroscopy is made by a device of the author which enables the posterior urethra to be examined without water distension. This consists of a long tube elbowed so as to fit into the posterior urethra and a longer lamp bracket to illuminate the opening which lies in the posterior urethra when the instrument is in position. This device is manufactured by the Holborn Surgical Instrument Company and can be fitted to the anterior urethroscope. Anyone who uses this instrument once will be convinced of its efficacy.

The book is well illustrated both by drawings of the instruments and coloured plates of the commoner lesions of the urethra. The latter are clearly and shortly described in the text as are also the procedures best calculated to remedy them.

Although chronic gonorrhoea has been treated for many centuries without the aid of the urethroscope it cannot be said that the treatment has left nothing to be desired or that it has been crowned with much success, but it stands to reason that it will be better treated when the various conditions causing the continuance of the discharge are seen and appropriately dealt with. This can be done only by the constant and systematic employment of the urethroscope in all cases of chronic gonorrhoea; and no one can consider himself competent to treat chronic gonorrhoea until he has mastered the urethroscope. Captain Doble has had a very large experience of urethrosopic work and his results are presented in this book. Provided one has a urethroscope, then with the exercise of a little patience and care and the aid of this book there is no reason why one should not become quite efficient in the treatment of chronic gonorrhoea.
Reviews


The contents of this booklet originally appeared in a series of articles published during the last thirteen years. The author, while aiming at no great literary style, endeavoured to cover a large field in a bright and breezy manner, and in doing so has managed to convey a good deal of useful information, without waste of words, and in an agreeable fashion.

Common sense is the keynote throughout, and several apt illustrations are quoted to emphasize its importance. It is rather difficult in a booklet arranged in small paragraphs as this is, to select any particular one for special mention or criticism, but those headed “Don’ts in General,” “Scapegoats,” “Intra-abdominal Adhesions,” and “The Operating Theatre,” are about the best.

The letterpress and paper are good, and the booklet is presented in an attractive style. Most surgeons will derive benefit from a perusal of this moderately-priced production.

J. F. W.


In this compact volume the author deals first with anatomy and the examination of patients, then discusses the chief genito-urinary symptoms and diseases, and concludes with a chapter on pathological conditions of the prostate. The book is concise and well written, and the author has succeeded in compiling a useful treatise which will appeal both to the practitioner and the student.

M. B. H. R.


This little book of only 135 pages covers a very wide field of Surgery. It is admittedly for the use of those medical men who are not in the way of operative surgery, and who may find themselves called upon to do emergency operations when at sea or in remote places. The first part dealing with anaesthetics is excellent, especially the account of spinal anaesthesia, in which the essential anatomical points are clearly brought out; the rest of the book is not up to the same standard, as the author has wandered from his objective of providing a vade mecum for the general practitioner, and described, in many cases, complicated operative procedures with very little detail; for instance, in the operation for acute mastoid abscess, which is discussed in half a page, and in which the operator is told to open up the mastoid antrum if no sinus is found, there is no mention of the facial nerve or of the anatomical traps which are so easy to fall into in this operation. Again, nerve union is surely not a surgical emergency,
but it is here described, and without any detail of the very special technique which those who have any experience in this work know to be so essential to success. There are several very obvious anatomical mistakes, as on page 81, where it is stated that the radial nerve is internal to the radial artery, and on page 118 where the flexor carpi radialis "longior" is mentioned. In the main this book fails in its object for two reasons: (1) It pre-supposes in the general practitioner a knowledge of anatomy and of operative technique which he unquestionably does not possess; and (2) it covers too wide a field in too short a space. The book is well got up and admirably illustrated

E.L.F.
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