

BOOK REVIEWS

Current Problems in Clinical Virology. Ed. by J. E. BANATVALA. Edinburgh & London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. viii + 194. £2.50. Illustrated.

If you are looking for a birthday present or a seasonal gift to give to a medical colleague this handsomely produced book in green 'morocco' binding and gilt lettering is the answer to your quest.

At a time when bacterial diseases have been vanquished (well—almost) considerably more attention is being directed towards the smallest self-reproducible entities which plague mankind; and 'it is now possible to advance the field a great deal further *but* to do so the *physicians*, surgeons and microbiologists must work closely together' (my italics).

There are ten chapters in this volume, which is edited by Banatvala (St. Thomas's) who contributes a chapter on Virus Infections during Pregnancy—a subject which has been neglected in the past, and offers scope for future study.

Each of the other chapters are contributed by individual authors who between them cover the field remarkably well from Taylor's (Central Middlesex and Public Health) informative chapter on The Use of the Virology Laboratory to chapters on the Respiratory, Central Nervous System, Skin and Mucous Membrane Virus Infections, and in this day and age the *de rigueur* chapter on Australia Antigen and Hepatitis (well written by Yvonne Cossart, Central Public Health Virus Reference Library).

There is also included a stimulating chapter on Virology in General Practice (GROB, Surrey) which should whet the appetite of some of our more forward looking aspirants to general practice; and an excellent chapter on Viral Vaccines (Griffith, Wellcome Research Laboratories) very appropriately rounds up the subject with a suitable flourish.

Two final chapters remain to be mentioned, whose inclusion at first sight I find rather odd like a miscast actor in a play, but as a service medical officer I am not going to cavil at the choice of either the chapter on Gastro-Enteritis, with minimal viral coverage, considering how often our patients and indeed members of our own families are afflicted by this malady, and even less so in these days of the Jumbo-Jet, am I going to decry the inclusion of the tenth chapter on 'Laboratory Diagnosis of Tropical Infections which may Present in Temperate Climates' by Draper (Ross Institute, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

I hope I shall be a recipient of this book.

E. E. VELLA

Ophthalmology. I. M. DUGUID and ANNE A. BERRY. London. The English Universities Press Ltd. 1971. Pp. x + 144. £1.95 net Boards. £1.15 net Unibook. Illustrated.

Mr. I. M. Duguid and Miss A. E. Berry have written an excellent book on ophthalmology which is written specially for students of nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, speech training and medical social work. It is written by an ophthalmic surgeon in conjunction with a nursing tutor.

It gives a well set out explanation of the practice of ophthalmic medicine and surgery and is very easy to read and understand. The chapter on glaucoma is especially worthy of high praise.

This book is strongly recommended for students preparing for the State Registration Examinations conducted by The General Nursing Council. It is also of great value to the doctor who wishes to refresh and extend his knowledge of ophthalmology, especially the practical aspects.

R. K. PILCHER.

Postgraduate Medicine. Second ed. I. J. T. DAVIES. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1971. Pp. x + 443. £4.00.

This new edition of Postgraduate Medicine by Mr. Davies is welcome. Like its predecessor it is one of the few books on general medicine written for the postgraduate student and should be particularly useful for the M.R.C.P. candidate nearing the end of his course of studies. Numerous references are given so that the original papers can be readily consulted.

The author has been successful in giving the reasons for and mechanisms underlying many clinical phenomenon. The book still retains its convenient size without sacrificing ease of reading. W. O'BRIEN

Drugs and Pharmacology for Nurses. Fifth ed. Edinburgh & London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. ix + 339. £1.50.

In this present day when the misappropriation of drugs is causing widespread concern the importance of Nurses having a sound knowledge of the therapeutic uses and value of these substances has become more urgent. This book by S. J. Hopkins now into a fifth edition presents those concerned both with the prescribing and the administration of drugs with an excellent source of information and guidance. The Approved names are used throughout but Appendix 1 lists these and the brand names also used.

The book provides for the nurse as a student and when qualified, the introduction provides the key to the remainder of the book's content and beginning with a definition continues with a taste of history, and hints at the complexity of the subject and the problems confronting the modern medical practitioner. The material is presented in an easy, straightforward style, drugs being grouped for ease of understanding and the various tables and diagrams all having a high degree of relevance to the text.

The Chapter—Chemotherapy and Antibiotics—in part explains the need for frequent revision of the text as does that concerned with hormones—the student will appreciate the interactions of the systems of the body and acquire considerable knowledge of physiology as a by product from giving attention to this book, and the nature of drug actions, interactions and reactions are clearly explained so that with or without a knowledge of chemistry the reader can appreciate what effect a drug is required to have, what it may manifest in a patient and learn always to be ready for the unexpected.

The publishers have served their author well and produced the book in pleasing format at a very reasonable cost. This is a book which should be on the library shelves of all places concerned with medicine and nursing, and students would serve themselves well if they elected to buy, for it is one of the best of its kind available today.

A. K. M. WISDOM

Notes on Medical Virology. Third ed. M. C. TIMBURY. Edinburgh & London, Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. ix + 129. £0.75. Illustrated.

In recent years we have seen a paper-back book explosion which has extended even to the medical world. This is a good thing in so far as medical publications can now be produced inexpensively, but more important still frequent up-to-date revised editions have become a feasible proposition for both author and publisher.

This is one such booklet, first published in 1969 it is now in its 3rd Edition (1971). It is a pocket-sized paper-back, with eye-catching red covers featuring an electron micrograph of influenza viruses; I have seldom seen so much information presented in so orderly a manner and arranged so lucidly.

The booklet consists intrinsically of a summarised version of the lectures given to medical students at Glasgow University; the subject matter is covered in 17 chapters including, as in the fashion of virologists, a chapter each on Bedsonia and Rickettsia. The first two introductory chapters cover the general properties of viruses and the laboratory diagnosis of virus infections respectively, while the rest of the chapters deal with influenza and respiratory tract infections, smallpox, enteroviruses, arboviruses, herpes viruses, rabies and viral hepatitis, mumps, measles and rubella; describing briefly the clinical features and epidemiology of the disease, the characteristics of the virus, method for its laboratory diagnosis and its prophylaxis.

The chapter on bacteriophages which appeared in the previous editions has been deleted—this is to be deplored; instead a new chapter on Slow Viruses has been inserted. Finally there is a chapter which deals briefly with the drug therapy of virus infections, (entitled Virus Inhibitors) and another chapter on tumour viruses which includes a brief reference to Burkett's Lymphoma and the E B virus.

The booklet is recommended to medical cadets, to all non-pathologist medical officers preparing for examinations, as well as to all clinicians in need of an instant answer to a virology question.

E. E. VELLA

Basic Skills for Surgical Housemen. A Guide to Ward Procedures for Students and House Officers. K. C. CALMAN. Edinburgh & London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. Pp. vii + 124. £1.00. Illustrated.

This inexpensive paperback is written for the medical student and the newly qualified doctor and sets out, in succinct in economical style, information and explanation of most of the ward procedures likely to be undertaken in General Surgical Units. It is well illustrated with clear line drawings.

This book should be immensely valuable to the student in his early clinical time and new House Surgeons could spend an hour or so most profitably in a careful perusal of its pages. There are indeed very few surgeons who know so much that they would not find in this little book something to interest and instruct them.

There is value here also for the nurse, whose assistance at ward procedures is so greatly enhanced by a full understanding of the nature and importance of the job in hand.

Perhaps this book should not be in the medical library—it should be in Sister's cupboard, next to the coffee.

W. C. MOFFAT

Handbook of Orthoptic Principles. Second ed. G. T. W. CASHELL and I. M. DURRON. Edinburgh & London. Churchill Livingstone. 1971. P. 130. £1.50. Illustrated.

Strabismus in children is associated with loss of normal binocular function, and frequently with loss of useful vision in an eye for life.

This book describes in simple terms the principles involved in the management of cases of strabismus with special emphasis on orthoptic investigation and treatment. It is written primarily for ophthalmologists and is not a reference to the technicalities of the orthoptist.

It is a most clearly written and informative book, and not surprising that a second edition should be published. It is a book which should be in every ophthalmologists library.

R. K. PILCHER

Medical and Dental Hypnosis & its Clinical Applications. Second ed. J. HARTLAND. London. Balliere Tindall. 1971. Pp. xviii + 382. £4.00.

This is the second edition of a book first published in 1966. It contains a readable and interesting account of the history of hypnosis and its theoretical basis with a good bibliography. The account of its indications and therapeutic expectations is a reasonably balanced one and in general avoids overstatement. A brief and clear account of many conditions which the author considers may be assisted by hypnosis is included and will be of particular interest to general practitioners. A number of accounts of fairly detailed methods of hypnosis of individual patients are included. In view of the many variations between practitioners and the selection of differences in approach to particular patients these seem to be of limited value.

The book deals with aspects of the subject which are of relevance to general practice and reflects the considerable knowledge which the author possesses of this branch of medicine.

R. A. DUNBAR-MILLER

An Army of People. S. SHARMAN. London & New York. Regency Press. 1971. Pp. 194. £1.80.

This is a book based on the author's experience both as a serving and as a retired but re-employed Army psychiatrist during the two immediate post World War II decades. These were interesting times with the special problems of National Service, the post war social difficulties of the serviceman and his family, and the inevitable changes in a wartime organisation readjusting itself to peacetime conditions.

Dr. Sydney Sharman brings a wide range of experience and contacts to bear on these many facets of Army life and he records them with the insight of a practising psychiatrist. Thus his book contains valuable material especially in those chapters dealing with National Service, behaviour and motivation, disciplinary matters and some interesting problems concerning the W.R.A.C.

It is not an easy book to read, the style being over anecdotal and sometimes diffuse, while the reader must bear with the too frequent irritations of blocks and apostrophes. None the less an *Army of People* should make a useful addition to the library of the young Army Psychiatrist. J. F. D. MURPHY

40 Years of Tropical Medicine Research. A History of the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, Inc. and the Gorgas Memorial Library. W. H. WRIGHT. Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 73-171590. Washington. 1970. Pp. xii + 408. \$9.50.

History teaches us that man never learns from History—thus how many times must our surgical colleagues remind us that with each new conflict that comes along surgeons have to re-learn the hard way the wealth of experience previously already gathered by their predecessors in the immediately preceding war.

With the shrinking of our Army outposts a danger exists that similar lessons, gained by our forbears, as applied to army health, army medicine and army pathology, may be allowed to be forgotten by short-sighted apathy and lack of long-sighted preparedness, with the foreseeable and inevitable result that the next Armageddon will find the armed forces medical services unprepared for emergency work anywhere except in the pleasant and green lands of the EEC. I could not help but give expression to this apocalyptic outburst on reading through this book, recording for the benefit of medical historians the fortunes, vicissitudes and achievements of a famous international institution for the study and prevention of tropical diseases, which was founded as a memorial (and well deserved) tribute to the memory of GORGAS (himself an army man, and son of an army man) and noting with especial interest the active part taken and still being undertaken by service medical officers of the U.S. Armed Forces.

To those R.A.M.C. officers who maintain a personal interest in things tropical I need offer no recommendation; the others who may see no future in keeping our heritage of the knowledge of tropical conditions at its past acme are referred to Appendix 9 (and the following Appendix 10) wherein are listed the outstanding pioneer achievements of the institution in the fields of malaria, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis and other protozoal and helminthic diseases, of viral, rickettsial and bacterial diseases; and medical entomology. A copy of this book is being obtained for our College Library.

Moreover, we in the R.A.M.C. have an additional interest in matters relating to GORGAS; thus the very first opening sentence in Chapter 1 of this book reads, "*The death of General Gorgas on July 4, 1920 in the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital at Millbank, England . . .*"

See also this *Journal* Vol. 116, No. 3, 1970, Page 164 "*The Death of General Gorgas—at Millbank*".
E. E. VELLA

JOURNALS RECEIVED

The following Journals/Publications have been received and are available in the Royal Army Medical College Library.

Anais Da Escola Nacional De Saude Publica E De Medicina Tropical; Annales Chirurgiae Et Gynaecologiae Fenniae; Annals of Clinical Research; Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology; Archives of Surgery; Australian & N.Zealand Journal of Surgery; Acta Belgica Militari; Annales Academiae Medicae Stetinensis.

Boletin De La Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana; British Medical Bulletin; British Journal of Surgery; British Medical Journal; British Army Review; Broadway.

Canadian Journal of Public Health; Central African Journal of Medicine, The; East African Medical Journal, The; Fire:Giornale Di Medicina Militare; Hellenic Armed Forces Medical Review; Investigacion Clinica; Indian Journal of Medical Research.

Journal of the Egyptian Medical Association, The; Journal of the Irish Medical Association; Journal of the Oslo City Hospitals; Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Services; Lancet, The; Journal of the American Institute of Homeopathy for Physicians & Surgeons; Lancet, The; Leprosy Review; London Hospital Gazette, The.

Medical Digest; Medical Journal of Australia, The; Medical News—Tribune; Medicine Today; Medicine Tropicale; Midland Medical Review; Militarmedizin; Military Medicine; Military Review; National Defence Medical Journal; Newcastle Medical Journal; North Wing.

On Call; Oxford Medical School Gazette; Practitioner, The; Polich Medical Science & History Bulletin; Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine; Quarterly Journal of Medicine, The.

Revista De La Asociacion Medica Argentina; Revista De La Sanidad Militar Argentina; Revista Portuguesa De Medicina Militar; Revue Des Corps De Sante Des Armees; Revue Internationale Des Service De Sante; Royal Engineers Journal, The; Royal Society of Health Journal; Royal Society of Tropical Health & Hygiene; Revista Del Ejercito.

Scottish Medical Journal; St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal; South African Medical Journal; South African Journal of Medical Sciences; Star & Garter Magazine.

Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Transactions of the Royal Society of Medicine and Hygiene; Tropical Diseases Bulletin; Tropical Health; Ulster Medical Journal, The; Wehrmedizinische Monatsschrift; WHO Chronicle; World Medicinæ.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Annual Report of the City Medical Officer of Health (Durban); British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research; Bulletin of the WHO; Bulletin of Endemic Diseases; Central Treaty Organization, Military Medical News Letter; Illinois Biological Monographs; World Health Organisation Technical Report Series.

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