

Reviews

MANUAL OF UROLOGY

Manual of Urology. By A. W. Badenoch, M.A., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 555; 343 figures. £5 5s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1953.

This book is a most important contribution to genito-urinary surgery. The author describes in great detail the whole of this specialty—the embryology and anatomy as well as all the diseases which affect the genital and urinary tracts—and yet it is so well written and concisely laid out that it is very easy to read. All the recent advances in research on the aetiology, pathology, investigation, and treatment have been included to make it the most up-to-date textbook of this branch of surgery. A book on urology depends a great deal on its illustrations, and it is in this respect that this manual is outstanding. The importance of radiology in the diagnosis of diseases of the urinary tract is made evident by the large number of radiographs which are reproduced, each being specially chosen for the clear way in which it shows some particular feature in the diagnosis. The cystoscopic appearances of all those lesions which are likely to be discovered in the course of investigating the lower urinary tract are depicted in beautifully coloured paintings. Excellent photographs illustrate pathological specimens and good line drawings show points of anatomy and surgical procedures.

But the special importance of this book lies in the fact that it is written by one surgeon, who from a very wide experience of urology records his opinions of the theory and practice of his subject. He gives a detailed description of all the operations which may be required in genito-urinary surgery in the latter part of the book, so that it may be looked on as a combined textbook of urology and operative surgery. It will be found a most comprehensive source of information and reference for those carrying out postgraduate work or reading for higher degrees, and will be indispensable to genito-urinary surgeons. It should become a standard work on this specialty.

J. E. SEMPLE.

PEPTIC ULCER

Peptic Ulcer. By Professor C. F. W. Illingworth, C.B.E., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.F.P.S.Glas. (Pp. 287; 89 figures. 42s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone. 1953.

There has been a spate of books, monographs, and symposia on peptic ulcer in recent years, mainly from across the Atlantic, the outstanding one being by Ivy, Grossmith, and Bachrach, a monumental publication bringing together the literature on peptic ulcer.

Illingworth's book, though much shorter, is in the same class, and indeed for the general medical public it is now probably the best book available on the subject. The book is exceptionally easy to read and gives a very fair summary of current opinions. Opposing views are well presented, with some indication of the author's views, based on his exceptionally wide professional and also his own personal experience. Although the literature is extensively quoted, the reader is never conscious of being lost in a sea of references, which is so often the case with modern monographs.

The book starts, as it should do, with an informative section on gastric secretion and an assessment of the value of gastric analysis in health and disease. The pathology, experimental production of ulcer, incidence, clinical features, pain, complications, and medical and surgical treatment are among the subjects of 21 chapters. The sections on pain and surgical treatment are particularly notable for their clarity of thought and fairness of presentation.

This book will be invaluable to all sections of the profession. The teacher of medicine or surgery will find it an excellent presentation of modern views, general practitioners

will find the book will stimulate a considerable interest in the dyspeptic section of their practice, and postgraduate students will appreciate that their examiners will have read it.

F. AVERY JONES.

E.N.T. EXAMINATION

Methods of Examination in Ear, Nose, and Throat. By W. G. Scott-Brown, C.V.O., M.D., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 110; 94 figures. 18s. 6d.) London: Butterworth & Company Ltd. 1954.

In his preface the author states that methods of examination of nose, throat, and ear can be mastered only by practice, and from this statement there can be no dissentient. Whether this important subject can be imparted in the space of 100 pages is open to doubt. The author has had the hard task of deciding what to include and what to exclude, and inevitably some errors of omission and commission have crept in. In the earlier chapters on the nose, mouth, pharynx, and nasopharynx the author should have emphasized the importance of the number of erupted teeth so that unerupted molars may be noted, and discussed movements of the tongue, soft palate, and posterior pharyngeal wall so that paralysis may be understood. To allow more space the description of the positions of the head for x-raying the various sinuses could well have been omitted, since the radiologist has all that knowledge. The chapter on the larynx is most instructive, with good sketches; indirect and direct laryngoscopy are clearly described, and the pictures of the latter will help the expert as well as the student. It is perhaps a pity that the right cord is chosen to show abnormal positions, for the left is more often affected.

The chapters on the ear are of a high standard. The description of that important and often difficult manoeuvre, the passage of the eustachian catheter, is excellent, showing how to achieve the correct position of the beak and how to appreciate the normal noise on inflation. There are several radiographs to show the cells in the mastoid and details of the temporal bone. Tests for hearing are all well described, and the tuning-fork tests are clear, with helpful diagrams. Speech and pure-tone audiometry are given prominence, with admirable diagrams to explain recruitment and loudness balance. The author favours the admirable Stenger's test for malingering, and a simple diagram clearly shows its performance. The last chapter is devoted to the functional examination of the vestibular apparatus. The author draws attention to the caloric test, both qualitative and quantitative. Lastly, he explains the fistula test. Perhaps it would have been wiser to omit the dogmatic advice on labyrinthine drainage.

W. M. MOLLISON.

TOXIC SOLVENTS

Toxic Solvents. By Ethel Browning, M.D. Foreword by J. Davidson Pratt, C.B.E., M.A., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 168. 18s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1953.

Dr. Ethel Browning has already collected much information on this subject in *The Toxicity of Industrial Organic Solvents*,¹ recently revised and brought up to date. This much smaller book sets out simply and briefly the facts such as the preparation, properties, industrial uses, toxicity, and maximum allowable concentrations of those solvents which are hazardous to health unless handled and used with due precautions. The book has been written primarily for works managers, chemists, engineers, safety officers, and others who have responsibilities for the safe and efficient operation of industrial processes. One chapter is on the physiological effects of exposures, of normal and abnormal blood counts, and the immediate treatment of acute intoxication. Another outlines the precautions to be taken to prevent poisoning from solvents. Although written primarily for non-medical readers, some doctors may prefer this to Dr. Browning's fuller treatise on toxic solvents. It will certainly be useful for those who want to know only the bare facts; and

¹ *Med. Res. Council. Ind. Hlth Res. Board Rep. No. 80.* (Revised edition 1952.)

medical officers in industry who wish to encourage others to appreciate the potential dangers of solvents might well have this book available. Simplicity and brevity make it readable and thus attractive to those who have to deal with the more practical aspects of health risks at work. If it leads to the wider recognition of the dangerous nature of some solvents, it will have made a useful contribution to industrial health.

R. S. F. SCHILLING.

ELECTROLYTES

Water, Electrolyte and Acid-base Balance: Normal and Pathologic Physiology as a Basis for Therapy. By Harry F. Weisberg, M.D. (Pp. 250; 29 tables. 38s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1953.

The writer of a book on this subject is not to be envied. If he develops the theoretical aspects of the subject, his book will be dismissed as academic and unpractical. If he plunges into practical detail, he is likely to be bogged down in a bewildering confusion of different recipes for "electrolyte repair," many of which are designed for patients who may be ideal but are certainly non-existent. On the whole Dr. Weisberg emerges with credit, if not with particular distinction; his book is a compilation, but a good one. It is pleasantly free from dogmatism, and is easy to read, apart from an occasional tortured sentence, such as "In addition to treating the cause of the oedema, certain procedures may apply" (p. 190).

The first two sections, on "Normal Physiology" and on "Pathologic Physiology," are clear, comprehensive, and well supplied with useful tables; they constitute a satisfactory brief review. The third section, "Therapeutic Guideposts," is not quite so good. For instance, the chapter on electrolyte repair solutions gives 23 solutions, with little indication of their relative merits; this chapter is a precious catalogue for the connoisseur of electrolyte solutions, but it rather complicates the subject, and the reader with a patient to treat might be stranded, like Buridan's ass, between commensurate bales of hay. Apart from this unfortunate chapter, however, the clinical advice is sound. More emphasis could have been laid on the metabolic response to surgery, on the risks of excessive treatment, and on water intoxication; the sections on calcium and phosphorus are sketchy, divorced from the main theme of the book, and might be better omitted. There are many references, and a good index.

D. A. K. BLACK.

MODERN DERMATOLOGY

Modern Trends in Dermatology. (Second Series.) Edited by R. M. B. MacKenna, M.A., M.D.(Camb.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.) (Pp. 338; 58 figures. 63s.) London: Butterworth and Company Ltd. 1954.

This second volume on *Modern Trends in Dermatology* is a fascinating and stimulating work, and not only for the dermatologist. It is different in approach from the ordinary textbook or from the common pattern in "recent advances," and the editor is to be congratulated on its presentation. He has brought together a distinguished group of contributors from various disciplines to discuss dermatological subjects from different points of view.

The work opens with an interesting treatise on human ecology—the relationship of man to his environment—traced from the sixteenth century to modern times and to future trends and problems of an ageing population. It is interesting to learn that Queen Elizabeth I took a bath once a month whether she needed it or not. A review of psychosomatic problems by Ida McAlpine and the general approach and assessment of the field is sound and helpful. Such scientific problems as cutaneous sensibility and functional pathology are discussed by Weddell and Cameron, and the latter also considers the part played by the skin in antibody formation and immunity in general. Professor Danbolt gives a valuable review of sarcoidosis based on his own considerable experience. A stimulating and instructive dissertation on cutaneous bacteriology by Pillsbury and Kligman includes discussion on factors concerned in what

is termed "degerming" the skin. Advice on the management of skin infections is sound, and, taken in conjunction with an admirable article on antibiotics by Shooter, this is an important review of a difficult field of practice. The chapter on A.C.T.H. and cortisone is by Sulzberger, whose experience is unequalled and whose views receive serious consideration. He offers the opinion that "hydrocortisone shows promise of becoming one of the most useful external agents ever developed for dermatological therapy." This is heartening, since results from cortisone therapy have been disappointing. The only disappointment is that of the 22 contributors only one is a British dermatologist. This is perhaps a reflection of the poor facilities afforded the speciality in this country and the Commonwealth generally.

JOHN T. INGRAM.

CYTO-DIAGNOSIS

Applied Cytology. By G. R. Osborn, M.B., B.S.(Melbourne). (Pp. 168; illustrated with photographs by J. S. Fayers. 35s.) Butterworth and Co. Ltd. 1953.

British pathologists do not seem to be able to make up their minds about diagnostic or exfoliative cytology, yet they are fully convinced of the supreme diagnostic value of haematology, which relies upon an almost identical discipline. The cytologists believe that those who disparage the subject have made no serious effort to give it a fair experimental trial, for they say the sceptics would then become ardent converts. The fact is that he who would become a reliable cyto-diagnostician must first be trained as a sound histologist; when so trained, it requires considerable courage and enthusiasm to embark on yet another arduous apprenticeship. For these reasons Dr. Osborn's book deserves serious attention. It is clearly written and copiously illustrated. The general accounts of the subject are cautious and well balanced. He makes no exaggerated claims for diagnostic cytology, as do so many of its supporters, and he repeatedly warns his readers of its limitations, which he defines quite clearly.

The book is almost a monograph on gynaecological cytology, for at least three-quarters of the text is on this aspect of the subject; but, based, as it obviously is, on personal experience, it is valuable and authoritative. The parts on sputum and pleural and peritoneal exudates are by comparison too brief and could well be expanded. The book will be of service to those pathologists who decide to give cyto-diagnosis a fair run for its money.

GEOFFREY HADFIELD.

ATLAS OF ANATOMY

Atlas der Systematischen Anatomie des Menschen. By G. Wolf-Heidegger. Volume 1. (Pp. 218; 347 illustrations. 32 Swiss francs.) Switzerland and New York: S. Karger. 1954.

From time to time new atlases of anatomy make their appearance. Some of these have been excellent, while others have been either too schematic or too poorly reproduced to be of much value. This is the first volume of a series and deals with osteology, arthrology, and myology. The illustrations are the work of an artist and their reproduction is excellent. In a first edition, as might be expected, there are minor details which could be criticized, but the atlas is a credit to the author and the publishers. There need be no hesitation in recommending it to medical students.

W. J. HAMILTON.

The City and University of Liverpool have played an important part in the history of British medicine, as is well shown in Bickerton's *Medical History of Liverpool*, 1936. Mr. H. A. Ormerod has now added a useful supplement to Bickerton's account of medical education in Liverpool. In a booklet of 52 pages, *The Early History of the Liverpool Medical School from 1834 to 1837* (University Press of Liverpool, 1953, 3s. 6d.), Mr. Ormerod describes the origin and early history of the school, chiefly from official records. While his account owes much to Bickerton, he ventures to disagree on several points of detail.