

Reviews

ANAESTHESIA

General Anaesthesia. Edited by Frankis T. Evans, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A., and Cecil Gray, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Volume I: *Basic Principles.* Volume II: *Techniques, Special Fields, and Hazards.* (Pp. Vol. I; 531 + 29 + xi; Vol. II: 431 + 29 + xiii; illustrated. £7 7s. per set.) London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1959.

It is some thirty years since Dr. Boyle wrote his book on anaesthesia, and the manner in which the specialty has grown and the increasing importance of the role of the anaesthetist is clearly shown by the range and variety of the material included in this book.

General Anaesthesia has been compiled by no fewer than 39 contributors and is a textbook which surpasses *Modern Practice in Anaesthesia*, first published in 1949 by the same firm of Butterworth.

The first volume covers basic principles and includes anatomy, physiology, neurophysiology, and pharmacology; in particular the chapters on water and electrolyte balance, the relaxants, and the pharmacology of volatile and gaseous anaesthetics are excellently written and full of information. The second volume deals with the special fields of anaesthesia, its techniques, and hazards. The methods of measurement in anaesthesia are of interest to everyone and must surely be enlarged in a later edition. It is surprising, however, that in such a comprehensive book no mention is made of anaesthesia for ear, nose, and throat surgery, plastic surgery, or in the management of burns.

The decision of the editors, that spinal and local anaesthetic techniques should be excluded is perhaps unfortunate, as their inclusion would have made these volumes a complete survey of modern anaesthetic practice. They are, nevertheless, to be congratulated on their work in producing what will certainly become a standard textbook. A high standard of writing has been achieved and the volumes will surely be indispensable to the student as well as providing a useful source of reference for both teachers and research workers.

The production of the book is excellent, but for the price more illustrations and diagrams might have been provided.

H. WOODFIELD-DAVIES.

TOP PEOPLE TALKING

Ciba Foundation Tenth Anniversary Symposium on Significant Trends in Medical Research. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., Cecilia M. O'Connor, B.Sc., and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. (Pp. 356 + xii; illustrated. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. 1959.

This volume reports a symposium which was held at the Ciba Foundation in June, 1959, in celebration of its tenth anniversary. The first impulse of a reviewer is to wish the Ciba Foundation many happy returns and to congratulate Dr. Wolstenholme and the trustees on their magnificent service to British and international medicine.

Thirty medical scientists of great distinction—seven of them Nobel prize-winners—attended. Twelve scientific papers were presented, varying from "Fluorimetric Studies on Pyridine-nucleotide Enzyme Complexes," by Professor Theorell, to "Population Dynamics of Body Cells," by Sir Macfarlane Burnet. This book gives us an opportunity to follow, and to seek to understand, the new dimension in medicine. Though some of it is difficult to comprehend, at least by one ignorant reader, yet the ageing may sustain themselves by the thought that they would have read

it with almost total lack of understanding 20 years ago. No doubt the distinguished audience found it not too difficult, but a study of the discussions shows that no clinician was intrepid enough to discuss molecular structure or the chemical basis of virus multiplication, that the physiologists were foremost in debating physiological problems, and the chemists most fertile in chemical controversy. Yet the cheerful conclusion from this symposium is that communication is practicable between top scientists, and Sir Harold Himsworth in his closing remarks suggested that medicine is again becoming one "intellectual continuum." One distinguished physiologist took part in a discussion, although he was not amongst those who attended. Such psychic phenomena may find a place in the programme of the symposium in 1969.

D. V. HUBBLE.

THE PRINCIPLES OF ORTHOPAEDICS

Orthopaedics: Principles and their Application. By Samuel L. Turek, M.D. (Pp. 906 + xix; illustrated. £8.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd. 1959.

During this century many books on fractures have been published, whereas orthopaedics, as we now recognize it, was included in the textbooks of general surgery. In recent years, since the appearance of specialist works suitable for students, the two outstanding books on deformities and orthopaedic surgery, written thirty or more years ago, have been little read.

Dr. Turek has here written a work of considerable merit—scientific and comprehensive. Basic principles, such as embryology and the physiology of bones and joints, including histology of the structures of the locomotor system, are well stated; and interesting subjects, including the role of the adrenals in new bone formation and the functions of parathormone, are discussed. The greater part of the volume is arranged in a standard textbook manner, and the nomenclature of disease used is that taught in British medical schools. Up-to-date information is provided on metabolic bone disease and developmental conditions. Affections of the spinal cord, peripheral nerves, muscles, and blood vessels are described systematically. Half the book is given to regional conditions, but congenital abnormalities are described elsewhere. Adequate and not excessive information is given on flat foot, scoliosis, and the surgery of the intervertebral disc. There are a few pages on radioactive isotopes in orthopaedics.

It is somewhat disappointing that little is written of the reasons for alternative procedures and of the prognosis. Possibly this results from the increasing tendency in North America for the patient to come into the hands of those responsible for rehabilitation very soon after operation.

The choice and the reproduction of the 600 illustrations are good and will help every reader. This book will be useful to many, particularly during years of intensive study with a view to work in this field.

St. J. D. BUXTON.

AORTO-ILIAC OBSTRUCTION

L'Arteriopatia Ostruttiva Aorto-iliaca. Motivi Clinici, Spunti Patogenetici. By Ennio Muntoni. Contributions by J. Del Moro, R. Liscia, and F. Pizzetti. Preface by Pietro Valdoni. (Pp. 195; illustrated. L. 3,000.) *Giornale di Gerontologia*, Supplement No. XV. Fidenza: Tito Mattioli. 1959.

This book dealing with obstructive aorto-iliac disease begins with a consideration of the syndrome of Leriche, which the author considers to occur relatively infrequently. This condition, of course, is the complete