

The format of the volume is attractive, the text is clear and readable, and the illustrations are well executed and reproduced. The many new illustrations which have been added enhance the value of the book. As might be expected, the addition of new information has made it necessary to increase the size of the book, although the authors have endeavoured to minimize this.

This is a book that all medical and dental students, at the beginning of their study of anatomy, should read. It can be wholeheartedly recommended.

W. J. HAMILTON.

The Perfect Necropsy

Postmortem Examination. Specific Methods and Procedures. By Roger D. Baker, M.D. (Pp. 183+iv; illustrated. £2 19s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1967.

The author of this book is professor of pathology in the Louisiana State University School of Medicine and one of the best known morbid anatomists in the United States. As such he has a very wide knowledge of post-mortem work, and is particularly well qualified to write this book. There are many illustrations and diagrams which undoubtedly assist in the understanding of the text.

The first chapter deals with the importance of obtaining proper authorization to perform a post-mortem examination on a properly identified body, and a catalogue with illustrations of the instruments and protective clothing necessary to do so. The next 56 pages concern the external examination and removal of the organs. The initial thoraco-abdominal incision shown is the one commonly used in America rather than the incision from larynx to pubes commonly used in Britain. The American incision is aimed at assisting the embalmer, and other references to the necessity of preserving the carotid arteries will be found in this chapter—instructions which are unnecessary in Britain. Certain rather specialized techniques are well demonstrated—for example, the dissection of the vertebral arteries throughout their lengths. Chapter III deals with the dissection of viscera and demonstrates some excellent methods of obtaining material for microscopic section, in particular when dealing with the heart. Probably the greatest working variation among pathologists is in their dissection of the heart. It is a technique which is developed by the individual, and of course varies with the problem presented, so that pages devoted to the heart should, I humbly suggest, be taken as a guide rather than a gospel.

Any authoritative book of this class must be largely a counsel of perfection. This is particularly true of the next four chapters, which deal with protocol and subsequent conferences; they are no doubt of value in the United States and in postgraduate education. There are useful chapters on staining methods, photography, and post-mortem microbiology, but advice on the medico-legal necropsy is confined to two and a half pages. The deficiencies in this latter chapter are such that it should not have been written. Chapter XII deals with the taking of necropsy material for grafting, hormone therapy, medico-legal purposes, and teaching; and

there are some useful practical hints on preservation. Information on the minimum requirements for the necropsy suite may make some of us extremely envious of American working conditions, since the last chapter deals with working conditions and is again a counsel of perfection by British standards. Finally, a useful appendix deals with weights and measures.

This book is undoubtedly of great educational value to trainee pathologists and of considerable interest to consultants as a reference book, and would be a useful volume in an undergraduate library. It is well produced and illustrated, and at £2 19s. 6d. is by no means unreasonably priced.

DONALD TEARE.

Abdominal Surgery for the Beginner

A Manual of Abdominal Operations. By R. M. Kirk, M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 208+xvi; illustrated. 30s.) London: Pitman. 1967.

This book has been written to provide a short treatise on operative surgery of the abdomen at low cost, and in this the author has been successful. He is catering for the surgeon of limited experience and describes in detail those operations which such a surgeon is likely to meet. Major operations are described in outline with the recommendation that the original descriptions should be consulted. Each step in an operation is clearly described and the difficulties which may be encountered sensibly discussed. There are plenty of illustrations by the author and most of them are clear and useful. It is very easy to find what is required.

At the price of 30s. this book is good value and can be recommended to someone who is learning his surgery.

EDWARD G. MUIR.

Wartime Psychiatry in the U.S.A.

Neuropsychiatry in World War 2. Vol. 1. Zone of Interior. Prepared and published under the direction of Lieutenant-General Leonard D. Heaton, Editor-in-Chief, Colonel Robert S. Anderson, M.C. Editors for Neuropsychiatry, Colonel Albert J. Glass, M.C., and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert J. Bernucci, M.C. (Pp. 898+xxxiv; illustrated. \$7.50.) Washington: Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army. Available from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. 1967.

One of the great unsung triumphs of British medicine in the second world war was the virtual abolition of the mass of chronic "shell-shocked" ex-soldiers that had lined the streets after the first world war, unemployed and often unemployable. "Front-line" sedation, the use of drug abreaction, many other physical and psychological treatments, the early honourable discharge of those unfit for further service, and the sending of others breaking down to more suitable military posts all played a part in reducing to very low numbers those unable to return to work even after discharge. If so, further

treatment rather than large pensions were sensibly provided.

This book discusses the equivalent American efforts to tackle the same problem. The present volume is concerned with conditions in the United States itself rather than with its Forces abroad. A second volume on psychiatric work in the active theatres of war is promised later. This first volume does not present a happy picture. American psychiatrists were allowed much less scope and initiative than their British counterparts in a rigid and often outmoded medical war system. Treatment too often simply consisted of hot and cold packs, advances in treatment were slow in being introduced, and soldiers were discharged while still very disabled. Attempts were made to use early forms of group therapy in some psychiatric units. But even essential treatments such as electric convulsion therapy were totally barred until late in the war. Discharges were probably too high initially, and too few later on, and all added to the unnecessary chronic illnesses after discharge. Then larger pensions but less treatment were provided for the veteran. A psychodynamic orientation towards psychiatry on the part of many of the main Government psychiatric advisers later in the war also contributed to a rigidity to the treatment approaches allowed. The amount of psychiatric illness, discharges, and other wastage of manpower became enormous and terrible in consequence. The authors freely admit to very many shortcomings, and one only hopes that lessons learned at such cost are now being applied in the Vietnam war.

The book has over 800 pages, and there are 22 different writers. All give their varying viewpoints and discuss the varied aspects of military psychiatry, including valuable accounts of all the supporting psychiatric services and non-medical personnel in psychiatry which were gradually forged into a working whole during the war. A special section is devoted to the postwar period. It is really a work of reference and not for the ordinary reader. Its successor about what was done in the active European and Far Eastern theatres of war should make more exciting and hopeful reading. For here British and American methods were much more likely to cross-fertilize each other.

WILLIAM SARGANT.

Neuro-Otology

Dizziness and Vertigo. Diagnosis and Treatment. Edited by Martin Spector, M.D. (Pp. 299+xi; illustrated. \$17.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1967.

Twenty-four authors have contributed to this study of dizziness and vertigo. In his short foreword the editor writes: "The content reflects the experiences and prejudices of the contributors. . . . No attempt has been made to stifle the contributions or to overemphasize one aspect. . . . This book is designed for the general practitioner."

I accept the first point, deplore the second, and cannot agree with the third. Many of the contributions are excellent, such as the first two chapters by E. A. Spiegel on the structure and function of the vestibular system, the contribution in chapter 6 on Menière's disease by Dr. J. R. Lindsay, and