

Surgery of Trauma

Recent Advances in the Surgery of Trauma. Edited by David N. Matthews, O.B.E., M.D., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 452+x; illustrated. 65s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1963.

The editor in his preface denies that this is a textbook on the surgery of trauma. Maybe he is right, yet this work should be read by all surgeons responsible for the care of major injuries.

Serious road accidents, and less frequently those occurring in the mining and building industries, are no respecters of the various anatomical systems into which surgery has been so neatly divided. One or many injuries can occur to any or many parts of the body in any one victim. Modern methods of resuscitation, if early and adequate, can prolong life, but they must be matched by equally early and adequate definitive treatment.

This book rightly devotes approximately one-third of its text to injuries in those body areas most frequently associated with high mortality rates—that is, the head, chest, abdomen, and pelvis. Almost two-thirds of the book is concerned with function-saving surgery, and the remainder deals with general principles in the organization of accident services, resuscitation, and the prevention of accidents and infection.

The difficult problems of early diagnosis in multiple injuries and the assessment of priorities in treatment are not considered, neither are the problems of surgical first-aid at the accident site or gentle and adequate ambulance transport to hospital. During the next decade or two serious road accidents will undoubtedly increase and so will the demand for further editions of this most valuable work.

WILLIAM GISSANE.

Recent Gynaecology

Progress in Gynecology. Edited by Joe V. Meigs, M.D., and Somers H. Sturgis, M.D. Volume 4. (Pp. 676+xi; illustrated. £6.) London: William Heinemann. 1964.

All those gynaecologists who aim to cope with the rising tide of knowledge and to be aware of those subjects attracting attention and research should read this book. Preferably, they should own it, because it contains so many facts and ideas that it is difficult to digest at a single reading and full benefit can be derived only by repeated reference to its pages. This is the fourth volume of a work to appear under the same editorship since 1947, and it follows the same plan as its predecessors. There are 38 chapters contributed by well-known authorities in their particular fields, drawn mainly from the United States of America but also from Austria, Canada, India, Sweden, and Yugoslavia. The subject matter ranges from the electron microscopy of the endometrium to the pathology and treatment of endometrial carcinoma, from urinary cytology as a means of assessing the sex hormone status to the effects of endometriosis on the urinary tract, from dysmenorrhoea to the induction of ovulation with human pituitary gonadotrophins, from therapeutic abortion to the pelvic anterior meningocele.

Chromosomes, the biochemistry of virilism, pelvic cancer, colposcopy, radiation

effects on the foetus, radical pelvic surgery of all types, post-operative complications, oestrogens and progestogens, urinary stress incontinence, the incompetent cervix, and conservation of the ovaries all find a place, and there is a fascinating chapter on "para-endocrine phenomena" which describes rare and so far mostly unexplained syndromes. For the convenience of readers wishing to refer to a subject not covered, lists of the contents of the earlier volumes appear as appendices.

The subject matter of different authors sometimes overlaps to reveal divergencies of opinion and experience. The views tend to be personal rather than representative of a survey of all the relevant literature, and the editors themselves point out that they do not always agree with what is said by their contributors. But this is all to the good and ensures that, apart from offering the reader information on where and how gynaecology is advancing and on current trends in the management of certain diseases, the book is stimulating and interesting. How sad it is that the senior editor, Dr. Joe V. Meigs, was not longer spared to appreciate the final production of his work and the tributes paid to it.

T. N. A. JEFFCOATE.

Clinical Pharmacology

Manuel de Pharmacologie. By R. Hazard, J. Cheymol, J. Lévy, J.-R. Boissier, P. Lechat. (Pp. 714+vi; illustrated. 78 F.) Paris: Masson. 1963.

This manual of pharmacology is written jointly by five professors in the Faculty of Medicine in Paris. Apart from a short section of 30 pages on general pharmacology, most of the book deals with the actions of drugs on various systems in the body. Doses are presented separately, in 50 pages of tabulation derived from the French pharmacopoeia. The orientation is chemical, pharmaceutical, and therapeutic, and the approach authoritative rather than inquiring. Each chapter is provided with a short list of references, mainly to other textbooks. The paper, layout, printing, and binding are excellent, but it does not look as though the book has any exceptional qualities which will attract English readers.

M. WEATHERALL.

Atomic Energy

Atomic Energy Encyclopedia in the Life Sciences. Editor and major contributor, Charles Wesley Shilling, M.D., D.Sc., with the assistance of Miriam Teed Shilling, M.A. (Pp. 474+xxvi; illustrated. £3 13s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1964.

Nobody, not even a reviewer, reads encyclopaedias from cover to cover. Nevertheless with dictionaries they are an essential of the personal and departmental library. As their use is for occasional reference, this particular work linking atomic physics and biology was tested by a method of random sampling of entries. In the 5% survey of 1,200 entries, all but one of these were eminently satisfactory as a first introduction to the subject. (Incidentally encyclopaedias never give guidance as to

where to garner more comprehensive data.) The only unsatisfactory entry encountered—Linear Energy Transfer—contained a non-sensical sentence, presumably due to omissions not noted in proof reading: it did not refer to quality factor (Q.F.), which dates from 1963, and is not entered under Q, but Q.F. is referred to under Dose Equivalent. This is evidence of revision in part up to a recent date.

An ordinary work should contain an index. An encyclopaedia is itself an alphabetical compendium. Ingeniously in this book there is a prefatory classification of the contents under 15 main headings. The general impression is that this is a most useful work for the reference shelf.

J. F. LOUTIT.

Homosexuality

Homosexuality. A Psychoanalytic Study. 3rd Printing. By Irving Bieber, Harvey J. Dian, Paul R. Dince, Marvin G. Drellich, Henry G. Grand, Ralph H. Gundlach, Malvina W. Kremer, Alfred H. Rifkin, Cornelia B. Wilbur, and Toby B. Bieber. (Pp. 358+viii. 50s.) New York, London: Basic Books. 1963.

Psycho-analytic studies are usually concerned with observations obtained in the long-term treatment of one or a few individuals. This work presents a new departure. It is a systematic study of 106 male homosexuals and a control group of 100 male heterosexuals in psycho-analytic treatment. Detailed data were collected by a group of full-time psycho-analysts and subjected to statistical analysis. The group included an analyst who was also a social psychologist. Three questionnaires were sent to 100 psycho-analysts, of whom 70 replied. All the patients were under private treatment. The research, which extended over nine years, included a clinical investigation of adolescent homosexuals admitted to Bellevue Hospital, the main psychiatric observation centre of New York City.

The questionnaires aimed at exploring the patients' relationship to their parents and siblings, childhood development, adolescence, sexual adaptation including heterosexual tendencies, latent homosexuality, and results of treatment. The authors do not deny the possibility of genetic factors but are unconvinced by the evidence available. Like other investigators, they were impressed by their patients' relationship to their mothers, which seemed to have promoted homosexuality. In the control group such a relationship was rare. They also found seriously defective father-son and sibling relationships. The personality types and the tensions and conflicts observed in the nuclear family are described in considerable detail. The pre-homosexual childhood of the homosexuals differed from that of the control group by excessive fear of injury and avoidance of fight. The behaviour of the adolescent group showed effeminacy, which the authors regard as a façade. The concept of latent homosexuality is questioned and the authors doubt whether every person has to pass through such a period. Treatment gave encouraging results. During the course of it 29 patients became exclusively heterosexual; 23 of them had consciously wanted to change.