

## Book Reviews

### *Approach to Clinical Endocrinology*

**Fundamentals of Clinical Endocrinology.** By Reginald Hall, M.R.C.P., John Anderson, M.R.C.P., and George A. Smart, F.R.C.P. (Pp 418+vii; illustrated. 80s.) London: Pitman. 1969.

A new textbook of endocrinology and one of British authorship is a matter of considerable importance. Until now endocrinology has largely been dealt with either in textbooks of medicine, at length in some of the larger books, or in specialist texts varying from the small, which cater for the undergraduate, to the large, lavishly illustrated, and expensive volume usually of multiple American authorship designed for reference or the specialist. This book by three authors working in Newcastle brings an original and refreshing approach to the subject. It may not appeal to the run-of-the-mill medical student, but will find enthusiastic support from the able student, from the postgraduate in Newcastle brings an original and a need to encompass clinical endocrinology, and not least from the endocrinologist.

It is a relatively slender volume but comprehensive. It does not contain photographs of such obvious clinical conditions as myxoedema or acromegaly. It is a workshop full of practical advice leavened by an excellent physiological background, and if at times the latter shows some lack of balance, as in the excellent but over-lengthy account of the

work of Tata on the action of thyroidal hormones at a cellular level in contrast to the too brief account of the basic biological function of cortisol, this only reflects the particular interests and enthusiasms of the authors that make the text that much more alive and stimulating. By not following the traditional format of textbooks they bring a refreshing practical approach to clinical problems. For example, they discuss the clinical and physiological approach to hirsutism in general before dealing in detail with its particular causes. Similarly there is an excellent practical approach to male infertility.

Some chapters are more appealing than others, but all are of a high standard. Particularly pleasing are those on diseases of the thyroid gland, hormonal control of metabolism, and diabetes mellitus. An appendix giving details of, and references to, various basic tests of endocrine function saves repetition in the text and is of practical value. Perhaps the least satisfactory and at times contradictory sections are those concerned with the pituitary gland and its hypothalamic control. Here there are statements that may

not coincide with the experience of others, who might not agree that in anorexia nervosa "a complete cure is the rule," even though this statement is qualified by the need for careful and continued follow-up. In the section on the treatment of diabetes insipidus lysine-vasopressin is relegated to a role inferior to pitressin snuff and the value of thiazide-derivative diuretics is under-emphasized. Rightly the depression of eosinophils, as a test of adrenocortical response to A.C.T.H., is dismissed as of historic interest, but so also might the tyrosine tolerance and creatine phosphokinase tests in thyroidal dysfunction, and surely any mention of Fehling's solution should be omitted even though solutions A and B still appear regularly at the final M.B. examination of one of England's oldest universities.

Rightly the authors should be proud of this first edition, and will be even prouder of the many subsequent ones that will allow them to alter emphasis and correct certain minor imperfections without changing the refreshingly original approach to an exciting and growing subject. At £4 this book is remarkable value, and one can only hope that the authors will derive the desserts that their industry, knowledge, and researches so richly deserve.

R. I. S. BAYLISS.

### *Occupational Bladder Cancer*

**Occupational and Environmental Cancers of the Urinary System.** By W. C. Hueper. (Pp. 465+xix; illustrated 180s.) London: Yale University Press. 1969.

Although only a small proportion of tumours in the urinary system can with certainty be called occupational, their medical and social importance is out of all proportion to their number.

The subject has now been reviewed by Dr. Hueper, who gives an account which is detailed, authoritative, and disturbing. Inevitably, the emphasis falls heavily on the aromatic amines such as  $\beta$ -naphthylamine, benzidine, and 4-aminodiphenyl, but many other extrinsic carcinogens are also reviewed. Of these, the carcinogenic bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is one of the most interesting, while the nitrosamines are perhaps the most disquieting. Dr. Hueper reminds us how little we know of the possible combined action of various extrinsic carcinogens on bladder epithelium. Cancers of the bladder which occur in association with schistosomal infection are discussed in detail, and there is a suitably cautious account of the role of endogenous aromatic amines arising from tryptophan metabolites—regarded by the author as "interesting but unproven speculation(s)." The experimental production of bladder tumours is

reviewed fully, much of the work stemming from Dr. Hueper's own observations in 1938 on the induction of bladder neoplasms in dogs fed with  $\beta$ -naphthylamine.

The epidemiology and clinical aspects of occupational bladder cancer receive equally full treatment. Special problems are clearly discussed such as the observations that exposure to carcinogenic amines may be short, that the latent period before tumours develop may be very long, and that premonitory symptoms of acute or chronic exposure hardly ever occur. Clinicians may find some of Dr. Hueper's recommendations for selection of workers in these hazardous occupations unrealistic, and there is still no agreement as to the most effective way in which screening procedures such as urine cytology and cystoscopy can be deployed.

Some readers may find that their pet topics are passed over or discussed too briefly. Epidemiologists might expect a more critical comparison of the widely different demographic methods used in the various surveys which are cited. Pathologists would certainly like a clearer statement of the author's views as to whether vesical "papillomas" should be regarded as low grade carcinomas, and they will be surprised to find cancer *in situ* classified as a non-neoplastic lesion. Biochemical events might be easier to follow with more structural formulae in the text.

These are minor criticisms, and the book as a whole provides an outstanding review

of the subject. Perhaps the most lasting impression relates more to social than to scientific matters. Protective legislation, where it exists, is often ineffectual, and it is difficult to dismiss the author's comment that too many people "have revealed too frequently a lack of concern for human suffering and loss of life and a tendency to obstruct measures of prevention and control rarely equalled in other areas of occupational cancer hazard."

R. L. CARTER.

### *Transplanting the Liver*

**Experience in Hepatic Transplantation.** By Thomas E. Starzl, Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 553+xxi; illustrated. 319s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1969.

Dr. Starzl is one of the world pioneers in hepatic transplantation. This book describes in detail his experience in both laboratory and clinical practice. As a result of an immense laboratory effort he has now developed a relatively safe technique for human transplantation, and it is encouraging to hear that he has five patients who have survived for more than one year after an orthotopic liver graft and one for almost two years. Of great significance is the fact that 95% of the candidates for liver transplantation in his programme have died while

awaiting a satisfactory donor to materialize.

All aspects of patient management are fully covered, including excellent sections by Dr. Terasaki on the problem of tissue-typing, and by Professor Porter on the pathological changes. Anaesthesia, changes in blood coagulation, and immunosuppression are also considered in depth. This book is obligatory reading for all those interested in hepatic transplantation.

W. A. B. SMELLIE.

## Anti-psychiatry

**In the Name of Mental Health.** The Social Functions of Psychiatry. By Ronald Leifer, M.D. (Pp. 282; \$8.95.) New York: Science House, 1969.

Mr. Herbert Lom is probably the world's best known psychiatrist. This splendid actor personifies the generally accepted stereotype of the psychiatrist—omnipotent, omniscient, capable of producing the imponderable and solving the insoluble. He is the direct descendant of the Shaman, the all-wise physician-priest, with one vitally important difference however: the psychiatrist has acquired in the course of time a third ear by means of which he is able to listen to messages from the unconscious, messages inaudible, of course, to ordinary mortals.

But that was yesterday. Today, mainly in America paradoxically enough, doubt has led to scepticism and scepticism to a growing disbelief in the ability of the psychiatrist to palliate, let alone cure, all the multitudinous ills that unsettle the minds of men. The frontal attack on the entrenched positions of American psychiatry reached its zenith a while ago in the writings of Dr. Thomas Szasz, himself a physician and a psychoanalyst, as is Dr. Ronald Leifer, the author of the book under review. (It cannot incidentally, be a pure coincidence that both these rebels are on the staff of the department of psychiatry of the State University of New York, Upstate Medical Centre, Syracuse.) Dr. Leifer continues the attack using the same heavy artillery as Dr. Szasz and in effect aims at the same targets—namely, psychiatry in the setting of the mental hospital, in relation to the law, and as a form of treatment both of the individual and of the community. In respect of none of these functions does psychiatry escape a severe hammering.

One target which comes in for special attention is the medical model on which psychiatry is based, or rather, behind which it masquerades. The medical practitioners of psychotherapy, according to Dr. Leifer, need the pin-stripe suiting of the orthodox physician only as a symbol of respectability and prestige. "This reduces competition from other merchants of this service and accordingly increases the demand for and the value of the psychiatrist service," he writes. In the same vitriolic vein, he goes on, "In the guise of the physician, the psychiatrist may function as a policeman, a warden, a parent, a monitor, an educator, a personnel manager and a scientific expert on human behaviour." As though this were not enough, Dr. Leifer in his last chapter gives us a peep into the world of tomorrow and into the

future function of psychiatry and psychiatrists in circa 1984. The modern state will by that time have assumed total control over the individual and will demand unquestioning obedience to its dictates. The psychiatrist, Dr. Big Brother, will have degenerated into a tool of the state to brainwash and bewitch us, "And this bewitchment will be eagerly sought by its victims—justified and exalted 'In the name of Mental Health.'" That is his final, spine-chilling sentence.

Dr. Leifer argues forcefully and convincingly, provided his premises are accepted. This is by no means always so, particularly for us in Britain where, for example, the costly couch of omnipotence is still a rare piece of psychiatric furniture. Nevertheless, American psychiatry will undoubtedly survive the assault by the combined forces of Drs. Szasz and Leifer; but it can never be quite the same again. Should Dr. Lom once more play the part of a psychiatrist, his make-up will have to be very considerably modified. Perhaps the addition of a cloven hoof would be appropriate.

HENRY R. ROLLIN.

## Surgical Technique

**Nouveau Traité de Technique Chirurgicale. Vol. 12. Voies Biliaires Extra-Hépatiques Pancréas.** By Jean Patel and Lucien Leger. (Pp. 608; illustrated. 168F.) Paris: Masson, 1969.

This volume on the operative surgery of the biliary tract and pancreas is the twelfth of the series of which there are to be fifteen. Its production is of the same high standard as its predecessors and once more the illustrations are very good. All the formal operations of the region are described and also many variations. It is difficult to select a particular part for special praise but the chapter devoted to injuries of the biliary ducts and their operative treatment is excellent.

These volumes will become important works of reference and are likely to be widely used. They can be recommended.

EDWARD MUIR.

## Nervous System and its Development

**The Human Nervous System: A Developmental Approach.** By R. L. Holmes, M.B., Ph.D. and J. A. Sharp, M.B., Ph.D. (Pp. 136 + viii; illustrated. 50s.) London: J. & A. Churchill, 1969.

The authors in their preface state that in the writing of this book they had two specific aims: firstly, to include only information that was relevant to prepare the medical student for his clinical neurological studies, and, secondly, to present the information against the background of embryonic development of the nervous system. They believe that this second approach is absolutely essential for the clarification of the intricacies of the central nervous system and I would endorse this view. No attempt has been made to give a comprehensive account

of the nervous system or a detailed description of its structure.

The text is well presented, and gives a concise account of the subject of each chapter. It is unfortunate that illustrations do not reach the same standard as the text. Many are much too diagrammatic and some are very crude. There are five half-tone plates which are again not very satisfactory.

The book will be welcomed by many students who find difficulty in approaching the intricacies of the central nervous system. It is hoped that when a new edition is required, the authors will consider replacing many of the present illustrations.

W. J. HAMILTON.

## Milestones of Ophthalmology

**An Anthology of Ophthalmic Classics.** By James E. Lebensohn, M.D. (Pp. 407 + xx; illustrated. 150s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

This is a most unusual book. The author has assembled 70 original articles, some of them two centuries old, which he regards as epoch-making, and with each has written a short commentary and a biographical note. Since the works of no one now alive are included personal disappointment and perhaps jealousy are avoided. Very few of the world's living ophthalmologists could think of half the number of important contributors and their works, and even if they did it is quite certain that no two lists would be identical.

This book serves three purposes. It makes readily available and in the English language most of the milestones of ophthalmology, some of which might not be easy to trace; it is a fascinating book to browse over when convalescing from influenza; and, of course, would make a splendid present for a nostalgic old ophthalmic surgeon on his retirement.

HAROLD RIDLEY.

## Simians in the Lab.

**Hazards of Handling Simians.** Proceedings of the 29th Symposium held at Brighton, 9-11 April 1969. Edited by F. T. Perkins, Ph.D. and P. N. O'Donoghue. (Pp. 268; illustrated. 45s.) London: Laboratory Animals Ltd, 1969.

This is the fourth in the series of handbooks published by Laboratory Animals Ltd. It records the proceedings of a symposium organized by the permanent section for microbiological standardization of the International Association of Microbiological Societies. The main subjects discussed are tuberculosis; other non-viral diseases; virus diseases; trapping, transport, and holding; quarantine; breeding of simians in the laboratory; and safety measures to protect man.

There is much evidence that simians are likely to be used in increasing numbers in the laboratory during the coming years. They will be more expensive than rats and mice, and even than dogs, by quite a considerable factor, but their close relationship to man makes them both potentially more