

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Urology**

Ed John Blandy. Vols 1 and 2. (Pp 1344; £46.) Blackwell Scientific. 1976.

The editor of this well-illustrated book on the practice of urology in the United Kingdom, John Blandy, holds the only chair in urology in this country. His excellent writings are known to all urologists, and he is well suited to have undertaken this task. The contributors include 21 practising urologists, five physicians with an interest in nephrology, five radiologists, and two pathologists. This choice of writers clearly indicates the orientation of diagnosis in modern urology, which is largely dependent on radiological investigation. This book will be interesting and stimulating reading for any established urologist as well as for the intended audience declared in the preface—namely, trainee surgeons who are making urology their specialty, and established general surgeons who want to keep abreast of recent developments in urological practice.

Although separate sections on anatomy and physiology, which are conventional in most textbooks of urology, have been omitted here, essential details of the anatomy and physiology of structures such as the ureter and bladder are fully covered in the appropriate chapters. But it is a little surprising to find the subject of hydronephrosis under the title of "Anatomy and Physiology of the Ureter." The book opens with a chapter on urological technology, which describes precisely the development of modern endoscopes and the methods of sterilising these delicate pieces of equipment. It also includes comments on the plastics used in urology, both for the construction of catheters and in the future development of prostheses.

There is an excellent survey of the present confused thought on the treatment of carcinoma of the prostate, and it is interesting to read a well-balanced account of male infertility. However, certain disproportions are noticeable, such as nearly 50 pages on incontinence of urine, much of the space being devoted to hypothetical concepts, against 30 pages on carcinoma of the urothelium, which is a problem consuming much of the urologist's time today. Perhaps in this allocation there is a hint that we are not at present paying sufficient attention to the distressing consequences of our failure to treat incontinence satisfactorily. The chapter on function of the bladder was probably the most difficult to write because a multitude of widely differing opinions had to be compressed into relatively few pages. It is well presented, and the reader will be relieved to be free of the oft-quoted laws of physics, which can never apply to the bladder and urethra owing to the built-in resilience, elasticity, and muscular contractility of their walls. As well as an authoritative chapter on genitourinary tuberculosis there is an excellent survey of tropical parasitic infections of the urinary tract, with an extensive series of references.

There does, however, seem to be some inconsistency in the extent of the bibliography in different chapters. Some controversial subjects may have only a few references, while one, far less controversial, has as many as 91. The layout of the book may perhaps be a little extravagant, but the printing and the arrangement of the illustrations make comfortable reading indeed. Some of the x-rays appear to be unnecessarily large. Unfortunately illustration 25.9 (a) is upside down, and a few pages further on reference is made to figure 25.20 as showing steps of Guy Leadbetter's operation, 1964, while the illustration in fact shows Gersuny's operation. But in a book so well illustrated it is hardly surprising that these two minor errors have crept in. May a plea be made to all publishers and editors to decide, once and for all, whether the adjective should be "ureteric" or "ureteral."

Despite the size of this publication, the coverage of the subject is appropriately limited and selective, and all controversial aspects of urology today appear to have been well presented. It can be regarded as an anthology of the best clinical practice in the United Kingdom and a valuable basis for study for all urologists. Though the book is expensive for an individual, one should reasonably expect to be able to consult it in any postgraduate library and in the library of every department of urology.

J P MITCHELL

**One Way to do Research. The A-Z for those who must**

James Calnan. (Pp 250; £2.78.) William Heinemann Medical Books. 1976.

A book about research is bound to embody a personal approach, and the author of this one is careful to point out that his views are not intended to represent absolute guidelines to all research workers. There is also, as might be expected from a professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, a strong bias towards clinical research. Curiously, his postal address is nowhere mentioned, but one does not have to read far to find that he works at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

The book contains much valuable advice to the aspiring research worker and should be particularly useful to junior staff already engaged on research but perhaps doubtful how far to pursue such a career. The advantages and disadvantages are fairly listed, and no reader could complain afterwards of not being warned of the possible financial and social drawbacks of complete dedication to his ideal. The alphabetical approach has certain limitations, and it is necessary to study carefully the table of contents, since if one reads straight through one reaches Acknowledgments (p 5) and Appendix (p 16) long before What research? (p 242), References (p 174), or Why do research? (p 246). The sections on communication and on com-

mittees are particularly noteworthy, though not everyone would agree that "a committee meeting which commonly lasts more than one hour is either inefficient or meets too infrequently." It might be a dangerous experiment to increase the frequency of hospital medical committees until they stopped after one hour, but it would certainly diminish attendance. Much good advice is found under "Creativity," including the insistence on regular hours of work. The intelligent use of the secretary to discourage distractions is obviously based on experience and could be more widely copied. Early co-operation with the statistician is an important recommendation, particularly in clinical trials. Advice on writing papers and on how to handle rejections could be read with advantage even by senior workers.

In conclusion one might describe the book, to paraphrase the title, as "A must for those who must." It is excellent value at the price, which is very moderate by today's standards.

N F MACLAGAN

**Internment in Concentration Camps and its Consequences**

Paul Matussek. (Pp 269; DM 29.20.) Springer. 1975.

An account of the effects of incarceration in concentration camps published in 1966 would have been read with respectful interest. Now in 1976, with two volumes of *The Gulag Archipelago* in print and a dramatic change in the face of world events, such a study has an unexpected immediacy and relevance. Professor Matussek, a German psychiatrist, has co-ordinated a large-scale project to answer the questions: What exactly were the psychological, medical, and social consequences of the sufferings that people endured in concentration camps under the Nazis? and What factors tended to mitigate these effects during captivity and in subsequent return to ordinary life?

A random sample was sought from the register of the 210 811 "former victims of persecution" and which identified 175 men and 70 women living now in Germany, Israel, or New York. "Psychoanalytical depth interviews" were the main source of data, and these were amplified by medical reports and a wide-ranging questionnaire. During their incarceration those who made the most successful adaptation were active in making social contacts among the inmates, and they involved themselves fully in whatever work had to be done. They also showed a caring for others and an "opportunistic submission" to the guards. Those adapting badly had made fewer contacts, showed a passivity and indifference to their situation, and were often stubborn towards the guards.

The physical and mental health of inmates was studied up to about 1960, but the incidences are hard to interpret without comparison with expected rates. However, they