Reviews

TEXTBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Textbook of Ophthalmology. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, K.C.V.O., D.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.S. Volume V: The Ocular Adnexa. (Pp. 1,082; 1,181 illustrations, including 32 in colour. £4 10s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1952.

The fifth volume of Sir Stewart Duke-Elder's textbook is on the ocular adnexa. Of the 1,050 pages of the present volume the opening chapter of 150 pages is devoted to the developmental anomalies. As many of the conditions described are ocular manifestations of general disease, this chapter contains much material which normally falls to books on medical ophthalmology. There are, in particular, useful accounts of the generalized bone diseases associated with oxycephaly and anomalies of the orbit, and a refreshing innovation in general textbooks is the attention paid to the genetic background of developmental affections. The bulk of the text is in three large chapters on the diseases of the lids, the lacrimal apparatus, and the orbit. The affections are discussed partly on anatomical and partly on an aetiological basis. As in the opening chapter, there is much here—particularly in the chapter on the diseases of the lids—that relates to general disturbances, especially generalized skin conditions. In the concluding chapter—a relatively short one of 47 pages—the author discusses the difficult borderland between ophthalmology and oto-laryngology. Here, as throughout this volume and in the previous volumes, the scope is encyclopaedic and the information concise, accurate, and up to date.

As these volumes move towards majestic completion they take their place beside Hirschberg's *Geschichte der Augenheilkunde,* and the few—very few—similar encyclopaedias carried through single-handed.

ARNOLD SORSBY.

CONCISE PATHOLOGY

Patterns of Disease: On a Basis of Physiologic Pathology. By Frank L. Apperly, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 456: 50 figures, and 37 charts. £3 3s.) Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1951.

This is a commendable but not wholly satisfactory effort by a professor of pathology to impart life and movement to the static facts of morbid anatomy and histology. It is based on the beliefs that "structure without function is meaningless" and that "the overburdened medical student" is called upon during his training to "master infinite structural detail, which too often explains nothing." Professor Apperly has attempted to "present the disease process beginning at the beginning (instead of beginning at the end-result)." He believes that "the treatment of disease depends largely on the ability of the body to compensate for the inactivities of its diseased organs by the over-activity of certain other tissues capable of assuming similar functions," and that "these over-activities enable us to understand the principles of symptomatology."

The author has packed an enormous amount of information into this book by drawing liberally upon the facts and theories of physiology and illustrating pathological descriptions by frequent reference to clinical medicine and surgery. He has covered the whole field of general and special pathology, and although no photographs have been used there are a fair number of line drawings and a large number of explanatory charts. In spite of this the volume is only about half the size of MacCallum's *Textbook of Pathology.* To perform this feat of compression the author has unfortunately adopted the irritating and inelegant take-it-or-leave-it style of a synopsis. The use of explanatory charts has also effected a considerable saving of text, and the simpler ones are instructive. Far too many of them, however, are complicated and difficult to decipher: Chart No. 4, p. 33, for instance, in which there are 17 arrowheads all travelling in different directions, could easily be accepted as a diagram of the Battle of Hastings as seen by the bowmen of King Harold's bodyguard.

Professor Apperly in his preface tells us that he has avoided "lengthy and tortuous arguments" by "exhibiting a shocking dogmatism," and almost every page bears witness to the fact that he has not only faithfully carried out his "shocking" resolve, but has thereby saved a great deal of space. Physiological and pathological theories, hypotheses, and opinions, sound and unsound, likely and unlikely, are too often quoted as facts, and no attempt is made to present and discuss the essential evidence on which they are based. This treatment may be a highly commendable method for inculcating dogma in the very young, but we must assume that by the time the medical student has reached the study of pathology he has received some education in the examination of scientific evidence and has, to some degree, developed a critical faculty. Professor Apperly's book may appeal to the credulous minority of students who are too indolent to think for themselves, and they are likely to become as dogmatic as the text of this book. But the more critically minded are likely to feel that their intelligence has been underestimated and their curiosity unsatisfied.

The correlation of structure and function is a matter of rapidly increasing importance in the teaching of pathology, and Professor Apperly is to be congratulated on his contribution to a neglected field of pathological literature. It is a pity that he has made so strenuous an effort to reduce the size of his book. It would be a relatively simple matter to rectify its deficiencies.

GEOFFREY HADFIELD.

DESIGN FOR LIVING

Health and the Citizen. By Joseph V. Walker, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Pp. 151. 10s. 6d.) London: Hollis and Carter. 1951.

This is an unusual book. Dr. Walker is a medical officer of health and has drawn on his experience in the practice of preventive medicine and on the results of his observations of the health and habits of the community to give us his views on the ills of society and their remedy. He is not content to consider health in the physical sense only, nor even in the wider psychosomatic sense: his subject is the all-embracing one of the well-being of body, mind, and soul.

The author's approach is intriguing and at times perplexing, which is not surprising in face of the complexities of his chosen theme. He is very much in earnest, and, although some of his ideas will not be acceptable to many who are equally earnest, his book is certainly stimulating. It is subtle, deep, and greatly persuasive. This book treats of many things—theology, national socialism, communism, sex, birth control, work, play, love, and worship. For the unease of the world Dr. Walker prescribes Christianity. Of course, he is right. But the prescription is no new one—it was given to struggling and unhappy humanity nearly 2,000 years ago not far from the Lake of Gennesaret.

C. METCALFE BROWN.

TREATMENT OF DIABETES

Diabetes Mellitus. Principles and Treatment. By Garfield G. Duncan, M.D. (Pp. 289; illustrated. £1 9s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1951.

Here is another very comprehensive, competent, and well-written book from America on diabetes. I have read, and perhaps reviewed, several since the war, and apart from the vast Joslin book—the best reference book on diabetes in the world—they differ little except in personal idiosyncrasies and arrangement of material. If the various authors feel they have something new to say it is not obvious; if they feel as authorities in a wide American locality they must write on this account, well and good: or do publishers demand new books from so many authorities? Be that as it may, this is an excellent, fully comprehensive book,

from physiology to complications, mainly for doctors, but with a small section on diet for patients. As regards the latter, it is interesting for an English reviewer to note that the new method recently adopted by the American Diabetes Association is now advocated. Instead of listing the percentage composition of food, portions and exchanges for 10 and 15 g. of carbohydrate are listed, and protein and fat are treated in the same way, so that the simpler method current in England for 25 years (Lawrence and others) is at last coming into vogue in America. What a blessing for the American diabetic, for whom total calorie control of carbohydrate, protein, and fat is still advocated.

The foreword by the great experimentalist, Dr. F. M. Allen, is most interesting. He pleads for physiological control of the blood sugar by insulin and diet, and suggests that thereby all cardiovascular complications can be avoided. But he seems to forget that the risk of hypoglycaemia, so hated by patients, makes this normoglycaemia almost impossible.

R. D. LAWRENCE.

HOSPITAL ORGANIZATION

Hospital Organization and Management. By Captain J. E. Stone C.B.E., M.C., F.S.A.A., LL.D. Fourth and greatly enlarged edition. Introduction by Sir Ernest Pooley, K.C.V.O., LL.D. (Pp. 1,722. £8 8s.) London: Faber and Faber. 1952.

All hospital management committees and large and medium-sized hospitals would be well advised to buy a copy of this very large and well-produced book, for it is a veritable mine of information on most aspects of hospital organization and management, and it should be made available to all staff actively engaged in hospital administration. Despite its size it is eminently readable, and it is divided conveniently into sections so that the reader can easily find the information he seeks. But it may remind medical readers that the days of Osler are past. Captain Stone's book has the defects of an encyclopaedic volume prepared by one man. No individual could write with complete authority on all parts of such a vast subject. Nevertheless the average standard is high and many sections are excellent.

An important feature is that the author has collected together the main parts of many reports and circulars illustrating how and why the present hospital systems have developed. The book provides, therefore, a valuable collection of relevant information for those making a serious study of this development and endeavouring to plan for the future. Much of this information may be unnecessary or could be greatly abridged in later editions. Another valuable feature, also perhaps requiring less space in future editions, is the copious information about the present systems of hospital organization and the design of hospitals in U.S.A., from which constructive comparisons with British hospitals may be drawn.

Besides the group of hospital administrators, including doctors and nurses, who should be enabled to study the present full edition, a large number of hospital officers, including many hospital doctors and nurses, could benefit greatly from an abridged edition of about 300 pages. It is to be hoped that at an early date Captain Stone will produce an abridged edition of his *magnum opus*.

W. G. PATTERSON.

RETREAT AND RECOLLECTION

Adventures in Two Worlds. By A. J. Cronin. (Pp. 288. 16s.) London: Victor Gollancz. 1952.

Doctor in the House. By Richard Gordon. (Pp. 190. 10s. 6d.) London: Michael Joseph. 1952.

The debt which Dr. A. J. Cronin owes the medical profession is in some degree discharged in his autobiography *Adventures in Two Worlds*. In *The Citadel* he described the underworld of medicine, and there was little indication in that book that this underworld comprised only a handful of doctors pursuing their commercial activities in a small community in the West End of London.

In this autobiography there are detailed portraits of several doctors, including Sir William Macewen, Lord Dawson, and two country doctors, and each is described with sympathetic insight. The only doctor in the book who lowers his standards is Cronin himself, who, after years of hard and devoted work in Scotland and South Wales, finds himself practising in Bayswater and selling injections at five guineas a time to urban ladies suffering from fatigue. "Emotion moves us," wrote Sherington, "hence its name," and Cronin discloses himself as a man moved primarily by emotion. Reason and judgment are not obtrusive, as Sir William Macewen early recognized when he issued the firm prognosis, "You will never be a surgeon." This is a novelist's autobiography, and these pages from a doctor's case-book are related with all the skill of a fine storyteller. It is also a representative twentieth-century success story, for the hero tells of his duodenal ulcer, his spiritual odyssey, his prescription for the ills of humanity, and his final retreat to the United States.

The novel *Doctor in the House* by Richard Gordon is a story of medical-student life related after the manner of Evelyn Waugh. Its entertainment value cannot be denied, but it emphasizes again the gulf which separates Mr. Bob Sawyer from Sir Colenso Ridgeon and Mr. Benjamin Allen from Sir Patrick Cullen. How cleverly these young rakes conceal from the scribes any suggestion of industry, heart, or intellect. The doctor who stirs uneasily these ashes of his dead self will laugh again as he encounters the jests and the phrases which were the stock of common-room conversation. He may be surprised to find how warmly the book is received by the younger members of his family, until he too becomes not unwilling to believe that even the parent-dog had his day in this Rabelaisian Arcadia.

D. V. HUBBLE.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

Klinische Elektrokardiographie. By Dr. Max Holzmann. Second edition. (Pp. 652; 302 figures. M. 69.60.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1952.

Dr. Holzmann starts his book on clinical electrocardiography with a short description of apparatus and technique. Then, after discussing the physiological basis in a conventional way, he describes the normal cardiogram, starting with the typical pattern and going on to consider vectors, the electrical field, and how these appear in various leads. The demonstration of the association between the cardiogram of the limb leads (unipolar and bipolar) and the vectorgram is complex, but fairly well done and worthy of study. But a good deal is far from easy to follow. After this there is a discussion of the gradient; and the author describes fully the effects of position and various influences such as effort and age on the cardiogram. The idea that various sites and degrees of block in the auricles cause the different sorts of auricular waves is novel and interesting, if rather fanciful. This is a subject that needs much further exploration. The author still believes in the old idea of arborization block, although he admits most of these curves can be explained by bundle lesion. The theory of circus movement still receives full support, and Scherf's work is hardly mentioned and Prinzmetal not at all. But perhaps this is too new. He also discusses the clinical aspects and treatment. This is often rather vague in direction and too short in description to be of real practical value. The vagal stimulants, for example, receive but little attention. The pathological findings are duly given. For the most part the illustrations are good, and some diagrams in the section on infarction are excellent.

This is a useful book, remarkably full in its general survey, and with many novel viewpoints, even if not quite so up to date in some things as one would wish. In many respects it is unique, particularly in its discussion of rare and little-known topics. The references for each section are fairly full. The German is clear and easy to follow.

TERENCE EAST.