Reviews

SHOCK

Physiology of Shock. By Carl J. Wiggers, M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 459; 56 figures. £1 12s. 6d.) Harvard: University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1952.

Dr. Carl Wiggers's new book on the cause of shock will be warmly welcomed by many investigators. During the last 40 years his group have published more than 50 papers on shock and haemorrhage. The book has evolved from these. But it is far more than a monograph on the experimental findings from a single laboratory, though these are of great importance. Dr. Wiggers touches on every major contribution from the earliest times up to 1948; each is appraised impartially and nicely displayed in its right perspective. So the grateful reader obtains, perhaps for the first time, an admirable and authoritative overall impression. He will not begrudge the fact that some passages make rather difficult reading.

After describing the approaches to the problem up to the second world war he considers the aetiological and symptomatic aspects of clinical shock and concludes that its development is often caused by a considerable reduction in blood volume. In the following chapters he discusses the production of experimental shock in animals, especially haemorrhagic shock. The resulting alterations of function in the cardiovascular system are then portrayed in great detail. In the progressive stage, the reduction of venous return is due to trapping of blood in the minute vessels rather than to loss of fluid by increased permeability. The explanation of this is not settled. The myocardium is also impaired. The effects on respiratory, oxidative, metabolic, and many other functions are also considered. The author ends by indicating the probable direction of future investigations.

HENRY BARCROFT.

ENDOSCOPY

Endoscopy as Related to Diseases of the Bronchus, Oesophagus, Stomach, and Peritoneal Cavity. By Edward B. Benedict, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 373; 130 figures. £3 17s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1951.

This book is attractively produced and beautifully illustrated. There is an interesting introduction on the history of endoscopy and the experiments and difficulties of the early instrumentalists. Each section on bronchoscopy, oesophagoscopy, and gastroscopy opens with an excellent description of the anatomy and physiology on which the technique is based. It is a pity that the author does not go straight on to describe, in the light of his great experience, the appearances that may be seen, the deductions that may be drawn from them, and the errors that may be made. Instead, there follows in each section a catalogue of diseases, some very rare, in which endoscopy might be done. The occurrence, aetiology, treatment, and prognosis of each condition are listed under these subheadings even when the relevance of endoscopy is slight. The preface and foreword suggest that this approach to the subject is deliberate—with the object of making the endoscopist into a clinician. But the result is a synopsis of certain diseases from the endoscopic point of view which are more objectively discussed in standard textbooks of medicine, while the points the author wants to make about endoscopy become rather obscured. This is unfortunate, because some of these points are of great importance—for example, the necessity of insisting on bronchoscopy in a case of haemoptysis, in face of a negative *x*-ray examination of the lungs.

In Britain we tend to have our clinicians first, and encourage them to develop such endoscopy as they need. For British students the book could with advantage have been smaller and confined to the subject indicated by the title.

HERMON TAYLOR.

FLUID BALANCE

Fluid Balance: A Clinical Manual. By Professor Carl A. Moyer, M.D. (Pp. 191. £1 8s.) Chicago: The Yearbook Publishers, Inc. London: Interscience Publishers. 1952.

Carl Moyer, professor of surgery at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, has made notable contributions in the last decade to the subject of this book, and what he writes may be accepted as sound. His declared aims are practical: to present a simple scheme of diagnosis concerning abnormalities of fluid and electrolyte balances and to give practical advice on treatment. He has succeeded in achieving his intentions.

The book begins with a brief review of outstanding historical publications. Particularly interesting are his quotations from the writings of O'Shaughnessy in 1831 on the blood changes in cholera and the letter from Dr. Latta, of Leith, on his remarkable trial of the administration of copious intravenous fluid in 1832. Professor Moyer then goes on to explain the composition and equilibrium of the body fluids and the causes and effects of their main disturbances. There follow interesting chapters on the evaluation of clinical and laboratory data in states of fluid and electrolyte imbalance. The final portion of the book is on treatment and the complications of fluid therapy. Much of what is said is generally known, but there are many interesting original observations and fresh points of view. This manual is well worth reading by all interested in the subject.

H. L. MARRIOTT.

TRAUMATIC SURGERY

Die Technik der Knochenbruch-Behandlung. By Dr. Lorenz Böhler. Volume 1. 12th–13th edition. (Pp. 1,151; 1,721 figures. M. 98.) Vienna: Wilhelm Maudrich. 1951.

The appearance of the twelfth edition of Böhler's great work on fractures is sufficient evidence of its popularity and of the unique position which Professor Böhler holds in this field. The vast experience which lies behind it is shown in the fact that it is based on a study of nearly half a million injuries and of a million and a half radiographs. But the work would be more correctly described as a treatise on traumatic surgery, for the author discusses wounds and injuries of every description, in which a fracture is often only a minor consideration.

The present volume is on general problems in the treatment of injuries, and the principles involved in treating open wounds, correcting deformities, and supporting fractures. Professor Böhler discusses them in great detail and describes their application both in civil injuries and in war. He then considers fractures of the skull, of the vertebral column, and of the upper limb, but includes with this a full account of injuries of the head and face, of the trunk, and of the arm and hand. The book is very fully illustrated and every possible contingency is carefully considered. It is indeed a magnificent work, and those who are not familiar with German will be grateful to know that there is now a new edition in English.

HENRY SOUTTAR.

CHEST RADIOLOGY

Chest X-ray Diagnosis. By Max Ritvo, M.D. (Pp. 558; 615 illustrations on 418 engravings and a coloured plate. £5 5s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1951.

Although this purports to be a textbook on chest *x*-ray diagnosis, and is written by a radiologist, a very considerable proportion of it is devoted to descriptions of clinical and pathological aspects of disease. For instance, in the section on silicosis three and a half pages are devoted to clinical and pathological aspects, and one and a half pages, together with a table, to radiological aspects. No detailed description of radiological appearances is given, nor is there any large-scale illustration of the characteristic patterns of