

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

RADIOLOGICAL ATLAS

Atlas de Radiologie Clinique de La Presse Médicale. (Série la 100 1953-58.) 1,764 figures. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1958.

This publication consists of 100 separate sections, each a 4-page loose-leaf illustrated article, dealing with a particular aspect of diagnostic radiology. Of these articles the first $\frac{1}{4}$ -page at most is devoted to text and the remaining 3 pages to excellently repro-

duced radiographs. Since each page is of 14 by 10 inches dimensions it is possible to reproduce a very large number of radiographs; altogether there are no less than 1,764 figures.

Most aspects of diagnostic radiology are covered. There are sections devoted to the heart, genito-urinary system, bones, skull (including angiography), lungs and the gastro-intestinal system.

This atlas represents the fruits of many labourers gathered during the years 1953-58. Of the many contributors all are French. The text is in French. The radiographs, however, are of such good quality that to radiologists and those interested in diagnostic radiology the accompanying legends are hardly of importance and the language problem is therefore almost non-existent. This publication is, therefore, recommended for inclusion in radiological libraries.

W.J.L.

DERMATOLOGY AND SYPHILOLOGY

The Year Book of Dermatology and Syphilology—1957-58. Edited by Rudolf L. Baer, M.D. and Victor H. Witten, M.D. Pp. 492. 64 figures. \$8.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

As most dermatologists consider the Year Book an essential purchase representing the best available abstract service in the English language there is little for the reviewer to say. This year's editorial article is concerned with test procedures in allergic contact dermatitis. The practical applications are considered in greater detail than in any other single article that one can recall and there are few who will not find some useful suggestions for the improvement of their technique. The abstracts are, as always, well done and the editors' comments pertinent. Roughly 50% of the articles abstracted originated in the United States; this is a change for the better compared with 1950, when the percentage was 66, and if the trend persists the Year Book may really become international in its scope.

J.M.

UROLOGY

The Year Book of Urology—1957-58. Edited by William Wallace Scott, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 359. 79 figures. \$7.50. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1958.

The present Year Book, under the editorship of William Wallace Scott, has maintained the extremely high standard, which the Editor has previously set.

The editorial is of particular interest to the urologist. The Editor presents his own views regarding the study of disseminated prostatic cancer and its management by hormonal therapy. Professor Scott is an authority on this subject, and in this article asks some very pertinent questions, which it will pay the research-inclined urologist to examine, digest and, if possible, act upon.

Thereafter we are given to consider the numerous branches of urological medicine, under well-defined headings, and also several branches of medicine which are allied to urology or in which the urologist occasionally has to trespass.

All the articles summarized are concise in their subject matter, and are therefore a very useful adjunct to the library of the urologist. The articles are well summarized, but to this reviewer the pertinent, and often witty, comments made by the Editor remain a source of great pleasure and instruction.

If the reviewer were allowed to offer a minor criticism of an otherwise excellent presentation, it would be that the genitalia should be subdivided into male and female genitalia, and that more prominence should be given to the numerous rather vexing female urological problems with which the urologist is often required to deal. It seems that the necessary accentuation of the numerous female complaints with which the urologist is presented has been sadly neglected by the urological fraternity over many years.

J.N. de K.

INTERFERENCE MICROSCOPE

The Interference Microscope in Biological Research. By Arthur J. Hale, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D. Pp. xi+114. 95 figures. 20s. net + 1s. 4d. postage abroad. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958.

The interference microscope was first introduced in 1894 but it did not become a practical instrument until the late 1940s,

soon after which it was shown that it could be used to measure the total amount of material in a tissue, cell or cell component.

The purpose of this book as stated in the author's preface is to describe the basic phenomenon involved, the designs of the instruments which have been introduced, and the theoretical basis of the measurements of mass, thickness and concentrations of materials in very small objects. The use of the commercially available instruments and the errors and limitations of the method are also discussed.

The interference microscope can be used merely for the examination of cell morphology, but the main value of the technique is that it permits the quantitative measurements mentioned above. Used alone, or in conjunction with other methods such as microspectrophotometry and general cytochemical techniques, it must play an important roll in the elucidation of problems of cell metabolism.

The biologist concerned with the investigation of these cellular processes will welcome the appearance of this book, which will help him to become familiar with the principles underlying the method he will be using.

T.G.S.

HAEMATOLOGY

Laboratory Medicine—Hematology. By John B. Miale, M.D. Pp. 735. 192 illustrations. 9 plates, including 5 in colour. South African price: £5 17s. 0d. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1958.

This book provides an excellent outline of haematology and will enable the student of haematology, the clinician, haematologist and technologist to get an easily readable description and a clear insight into the various facets of haematology. A full list of references is given at the end of each chapter.

The illustrations of blood and bone-marrow cells (normal and abnormal) are helpful and have been reproduced in colour (Wright's stain). Nuclear detail is not as clear as it might have been, but this is not easily reproducible in text-books.

Cases of the various conditions (megaloblastic anaemias, leukaemias etc.) are presented, with clinical and laboratory data, discussion, and illustrations in black-and-white. These aptly serve to emphasize the cooperation that should exist between the laboratory and the clinician.

The chapters on blood transfusion, haemostasis and blood coagulation, deficiency anaemias, aplastic anaemias and the myeloproliferative syndromes, and leukocytes and diseases of leukopoiesis are well presented and provide a good understanding of each subject. There is an excellent up-to-date summary of the haemolytic anaemias.

Laboratory methods are given in an appendix at the end of the book.

In general this is a most useful addition to the haematology library.

S.J.R.

THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE

British Postgraduate Medical Federation, University of London. Lectures on the Scientific Basis of Medicine. Volume VI. 1956-57. Pp. ix+393. Illustrations. 45s. net. London: University of London, The Athlone Press. 1958.

This is the 6th annual volume of lectures in the series arranged by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. They were given in the winter of 1956-57. Like their predecessors the speakers were selected for their eminence in the profession and their wide knowledge, and in most cases intimate experience, of the subjects which they were invited to discuss. The bibliographies at the end of the lectures vividly illustrate the large number of original papers which many of the authors have themselves contributed.

The lectures included in this volume cover a wide range of subjects. As befits this age, biochemistry receives considerable attention and, while there is often mention of the relevance of the topic to clinical medicine, one might well be a little lost if one's biochemistry has become rusty. But just as we can pick and choose the lectures we attend so we can select or reject the ones we choose to read. There are a few more clinically orientated, but one cannot but regret the omission of Sir Russell Brock's lecture on 'The relationship between the embryology and morphology of the heart and cardiac surgery' and Paul Woods' on 'The physiological basis of clinical signs in heart disease'—both of which were delivered in this series.

The book contains lectures on viruses and other organisms, endocrinology and psychiatry, atomic energy and biological systems—and many more, for there are 21 lectures in all. They reflect new techniques and trends of modern research. The book is authoritative and up to date and there are few of us who would not find something of interest in its pages.

C.M.

NEOMYCIN

Neomycin. Its nature and practical application. Edited by Selman A. Waksman. Pp. x+412. 41 figures. 40s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

The research on antibiotics has been so intensive, extensive and productive that monographs on individual agents have become necessary in medical literature. This volume dealing with the neomycin complex is a model that should be carefully studied by future authors. It is written by experts, including the discoverer of this broad-spectrum antibiotic (Waksman), who also discovered the streptomycin complex. There is great detail on the discovery, the production, and the antimicrobial, pharmacological and therapeutic properties of this widely used antibiotic still hardly 10 years old. The information is well presented, extensively documented and illustrated, and should serve not only as an account of neomycin but as an example in the presentation of knowledge on antibiotics in general.

Neomycin has found an important place in human and animal therapy. It is not the only antibiotic produced by *S. fradiae*, which is fast becoming an organism of distinction, but it is being extensively used as the most important antibacterial agent in

intestinal antiseptics, in certain enteric infections (including diarrhoea due to enteropathogenic *E. coli*), and as the drug of choice for intraperitoneal administration and for many infections by local application on skin and mucous membranes. The book is a 'must' for microbiologists, pharmacologists, physicians, veterinarians, and manufacturers of antibiotic preparations.

N.S.

TUMOURS OF THE MOUTH AND JAWS

Histopathologie der Tumoren der Kiefer und der Mundhöhle. Von Prof. Dr. E. Langer. vii+167 Seiten. 212 Abbildungen. DM 49.50. Stuttgart: George Thieme Verlag. 1958.

The author describes very thoroughly the tumours of the jaws, the salivary glands and the oral cavity. He deals with anatomical aspects and some clinical findings. The descriptions are rather short, but there are many good illustrations (they should not be retouched) demonstrating the neoplastic structures. Since the author wrote this book for surgeons, dentists and dentistry students, the reviewer may make the following two remarks. The forms of naevi pigmentosi are so important for the prognosis that the author should have explained the differentiation of junctional and intradermal naevi. And although the author does not agree with the opinion that the giant-cell epulis is no true neoplasm he should have mentioned the findings which suggest that the giant-cell epulis is a reactive process. But on the whole Langer's book gives a good review of the tumours in the jaws, the oral cavity and the salivary glands.

H.W.W.