

## BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

## KARDIOLOGIE

*Principles and Problems of Ischemic Heart Disease.* By T. R. Harrison, M.D. and T. J. Reeves, M.D. Pp. 474. \$20.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1968.

Die keuse van hierdie onderwerp het meegebring dat die skrywers feitlik die hele bekende gebied van kardiologie betree. Alle aspekte van kardiaal funksie en patofisiologie word bespreek. Daar word behoorlike aandag gegee aan die fisiese ondersoek, aan die röntgenologiese ondersoek en aan spesiale ondersoekmetodes insluitende elektrokardiografie, apeks-kardiografie en ook koronêre cine-angiografie.

Wat veral verblydend is, is die feit dat die skrywers die perspektief reg stel en dat daar nie twyfel bestaan oor die unieke waarde van die siektegeskiedenis in die juiste bepaling van die diagnose van iskemiese hartsiekte nie.

Dit is ook nuttig dat daar uit die staanspoor uit 'n presiese definisie gegee word van woorde soos iskemiese hartsiekte, koronêre hartsiekte, arteriosklerotiese hartsiekte, hartversaking, kardiaal dissinie, isovolumiese sametrekking en ontspanning en kontraktiliteit.

Die geskiedkundige agtergrond van iskemiese hartsiekte is van veel waarde en is baie leesbaar uiteengesit.

Die wetenskaplike aanbieding en inhoud is puik en tot op datum. Verwysings na die literatuur van so onlangs as 1966 word dikwels gemaak. Die skrywers het 'n gebalanseerde en konserwatiewe uitkyk en gee baie nuttige wenke en oorsigtelike besprekings oor die siekte self en oor die hantering daarvan, nie alleen vanuit die organiese oopspunt nie, maar ook van die psigiese implikasies daarvan.

'n Mens wil sterk aanbeveel dat hierdie samevatting van die huidige kennis oor hierdie baie belangrike siekte deur elke geneesheer geraadpleeg word.

A.J.B.

## MENTAL RETARDATION

*Clinical Pathology in Mental Retardation.* By R. D. Eastham, B.A. (Cantab.), M.D. (Cantab.), F.C. Path., D.C.P., Dipl. Path. Pp. viii + 353. £3.5.0. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1968.

Although this is not the only contemporary work that brings together biochemical, genetic, haematological and infective origins of mental retardation (defect), it does so in a way that makes it a novel and valuable contribution to the field. In the first place, the collaboration between psychiatrist and clinical pathologist is particularly intimate. Secondly, the range of syndromes and the detail of the biochemistry are exceptional.

Finally, the possibilities of biochemical reversal of these conditions through dietetic and pharmacological means, as well as the scope of genetic counselling and carrier detection, are clearly envisaged and set out.

L.A.H.

## OBSTETRICAL FORCEPS

*Obstetric Forceps.* By L. E. Laufe, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. Pp. x + 141. Illustrated. \$8.50. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row. 1968.

In the last decade or so articles and books on the subject of obstetrics have come to be heavily coloured and often completely dominated by the sciences of biochemistry, physics and mathematics. For this reason it is somewhat refreshing to have a new work on a very down-to-earth operation, namely the proper use of the obstetric forceps.

The book starts with a history, followed by chapters on the 'anatomy' and function of the instrument. The different types of forceps are described, and their uses and applications for specific indications are discussed.

On the whole, this is a useful volume for the registrar-in-training and a healthy reminder in this scientific age that intelligent vaginal delivery with the obstetric forceps suited to the particular occasion is still an art well worthy of acquisition.

E.M.

## THE HANDICAPPED CHILD

*Social Competence and Mental Handicap.* An introduction to social education. By H. C. Gunzburg, M.A., Ph.D., F.B., Ps.S. Pp. 225. Illustrated. £2.5.0. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1968.

The essential message of this book is that in the training of the moderately or severely mentally handicapped child the aim must be to achieve social competence rather than provide academic education. For example, even a hopeless illiterate can possibly be taught to recognize socially important words such as 'ladies', 'gentlemen', 'danger', etc.

The first half of the book deals with the methods and results of testing in the handicapped child. Stress is laid on tests of social maturity. The latter half deals with the rationale and structure of training programmes, the use of specialized teaching aids and the results of the programmes.

There is little really new in this book and the writer tends to labour a point with unnecessary repetitions, but it is a useful, easily read introduction for psychologists, teachers and others moving into the field of the mentally handicapped.

D.L.N.

## TEXTBOOK ON PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

*Medical Physiology and Biochemistry.* By D. F. Horrobin. Pp. xv + 469. Illustrated. £6.6.0. London: Edward Arnold. 1968.

The author set out to devise a textbook containing just sufficient factual information, presented as intelligibly as possible, to enable the medical student both to follow the rationale behind physiological thinking and to pass his examinations. To this end, he has omitted much of the usual detail, has expounded clearly and at length on difficult topics, and has included supplementary notes on 'common examination topics'.

There can be little doubt that Professor Horrobin has achieved his aims. The newcomer to physiology will enjoy and benefit from this book. The only drawback appears to be one inherent in the design. Once the student has graduated he will need a more detailed and concise text. This feature of built-in obsolescence renders the price of the volume somewhat unrealistic.

L.C.I.

## TUMOUR PATHOLOGY

*Tumors of the Oral Cavity and Pharynx.* By M. B. Dockerty, M.D.C.M., M.S. (Path.), E. M. Parkhill, M.D., M.S. (Path.), D. C. Dahlin, M.D., M.S. (Path.), L. W. Woolner, M.D.C.M., M.S. (Path.), E. H. Soule, M.D. and E. G. Harrison jr, M.D., M.S. (Path.). Pp. 286. Illustrated. Washington, DC: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1968.

This is another fascicle in the *Atlas of Tumor Pathology* published by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and the same high standard of this well-known series is maintained.

The authors are all members of the staff of the Mayo Clinic and they utilize the large amount of material available to them. A most thorough and detailed description and discussion of tumours involving this difficult area are given, illustrated with excellent photographs and photomicrographs of the highest quality.

This is essentially a book of reference for libraries, and all histopathologists should certainly have it on their shelves.

C.A.R.S.

## COMPUTERS IN MEDICINE

*Computers in the Service of Medicine.* Vols. I and II. Essays on current research and applications. Ed. by G. McLachlan and R. A. Shegog. Pp. x + 188, and vi + 194. R2.90 each. London and Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1968.

The essays cover a wide range of computer applications in medicine, including the following: introducing a computer to a hospital; data capture at admissions; identification of patients

and their records in a hospital; computer applications in patient follow-up (for iatrogenic disease); towards automated electrocardiogram interpretation; radiotherapy treatment planning; the computer and drug prescribing; systems analysis and hospitals; the medical record and the computer; and the prediction and simulation of surgical admissions.

Whereas some of the articles are based on computer systems in use and are well proved, others are of value only in so far as they may stimulate interest by indicating current trends of thought. Experience in the field of computer applications in medicine has indicated that there is a sharp dividing line between fact and fantasy. The essays dealing with current research should therefore be read with some reservation, especially with regard to some optimistic expectations on the case of general implementation of the systems described.

Since knowledge of computers in the service of medicine in South Africa is still in the embryonic stage of development, these essays will prove to be of value and can be recommended.

D.C.P.

## CALORIE AND PROTEIN DEFICIENCIES

*Calorie Deficiencies and Protein Deficiencies.* Proceedings of a colloquium held in Cambridge, April 1967. Ed. by R. A. McCance, M.R.C. and E. M. Widdowson. Pp. xiv + 386. Illustrated. £4.0.0. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1968.

Forty-four people from all over the world, working actively on human or animal malnutrition, took part in this colloquium. Many aspects of marasmus and kwashiorkor were discussed, including clinical aspects, pathology, metabolic patterns, problems in treatment and ultimate prognosis. Clinicians, on the whole, agreed that the term 'protein-calorie malnutrition' covered the clinical conditions encountered, whereas animal nutritionists were inclined to separate protein deficiencies and calorie deficiencies more clearly. They suggest a diagnosis based on aetiology rather than clinical appearance.

The editors and participants should be congratulated on this valuable and stimulating publication. The extensive list of references adds greatly to the value of the volume.

W.W.