

# RES MEDICA

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## Book Reviews

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The Principles and Practice of Medicine

A Manual of Human Anatomy

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The Addict in the Street

One in Twenty

An Introduction to Medical Automation

The Chromosome Disorders

Textbook of Operative Surgery

The Development of the Normal and Abnormal Infant and Young Child

Reproductive Physiology of the Post-partum Period

Hormone Assays and their Clinical Application

Spatiocardiography

Human Nutrition and Dietetics

Casualty Officers' Handbook

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.* Edited by Sir Stanley Davidson. 1342 pages. 8th Edition. E. & S. Livingstone. 40/-.

The eighth edition of Davidson is certainly a new edition rather than a reprint. Adhering to the policy of frequent revision to keep abreast of recent developments, all sections have been brought up to date, that on Diabetes Mellitus having been most usefully clarified. In addition two new chapters have been included, one on Genetics in relation to medicine and the other on Acute poisoning.

The study of genetics is becoming increasingly important and a working knowledge of this subject is obtainable from this brief, simplified account.

Acute poisoning is an acute problem as is evident from the alarming rise in the incidence of self poisoning. There are now over 6000 deaths per annum from poisoning in Britain. These facts justify the inclusion of a chapter on this rather specialised subject.

It was once said that Scotland's two greatest exports both cost the same — whisky and Davidson. Despite the increase of 2/6 on Davidson it is now much cheaper than a bottle of whisky. Whether or not it is better value for money depends on your taste.

D.J.M.

*A MANUAL OF HUMAN ANATOMY* (5 volumes sold singly). Aitken, Causey, Joseph and Young. E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

This series was aimed to give students at the London Schools a concise guide to second M.B. anatomy. The book is precisely written and includes excellent original illustrations. If one is capable of memorizing a book from cover to cover and has no interest in peripheral facts this book is ideal. Most people could, with profit, use the series to highlight the main facts for examination revision.

C.F.J.G.

*DIABETES MELLITUS.* Ed. L. J. P. Duncan. Pfizer Medical Monographs Vol. 1. Univ. Edin. Press. 1966. 42/-.

A subject such as Diabetes Mellitus is one which involves all branches of medicine, and is therefore of interest to all medical practitioners.

This monograph, the proceedings of the first University of Edinburgh Pfizer foundation for Post-Graduate Medical research, presents a very comprehensive and authoritative account of the subject. Its authors include a large number of the Edinburgh teaching staff, as well as experts from overseas.

The work includes sections on the actions and antagonists of Insulin; a description of the complications, and their treatment, and an interesting section on epidemiology. The illustrations are particularly good, and the presentation of the book is a credit to the University Press.

This book deserves a first place in the present works on diabetes mellitus, and should be of great interest to the student and doctor alike.

D.B.

*BASIC DERMATOLOGY.* By P. J. Hare. 198 pages; 61 illustrations. £2.2.0. London; H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1966.

This little book is a completely new addition to existing works in Dermatology. It is written primarily for the use of medical undergraduates in British medical schools and gives a novel and concise approach to its subject.

The book is divided into three sections. Part I dealing with the general scope of Dermatology, the sort of diseases encountered, and an introduction to the terminology peculiar to this speciality is given. Part II introduces the student to dermatological history taking and discusses the various groups of skin disorders, with emphasis on physical signs and appearances essential in each case to make the differential diagnosis. Part III is an alphabetical list of skin diseases with succinct and up to date notes on their treatment and management.

The book is extremely well illustrated, but all the plates are in black and white which in many cases makes them less informative, though this fault is offset by the relatively low price for a standard text in a medical speciality. I would recommend this book to all students as a foundation for their studies in dermatology, for it will make their lecture courses and clinical instruction far more rewarding.

R.J.N.

**THE ADDICT IN THE STREET.** Jeremy Larnar and Paul Tefferteller. Penguin Original. 4/6 net.

"As a habit takes hold, other interests lose importance to the user. Life telescopes down to junk, one fix and looking forward to the next, "stash" and "scripts", "spikes" and "droppers". So writes Bill Burroughs, prima donna of the drug-literary scene in his book, "junkie".

This small compilation deals with the private hells of a few addicts (or more correctly, drug dependents) in the U.S.A. Their poignant stories are faithfully chronicled (by interview); the message comes across starkly. Principally the reader will be struck by the insidious way the habit enmeshes those who find their own problems too much to bear, and then murders the productivity of each individual.

Faced with the conditions some of these people have met in themselves and in others, one cannot help feeling that most people would turn to the high. It is a sobering thought. M.F.M.

**ONE IN TWENTY**, a study of homosexuality in men and women, by Brian Magee. Secker and Warburg. 21/- net.

Homosexuals, Magee asserts, are made, not born. Somewhere along the line in childhood relationships, especially with the parents, a distortion sets in. Traditionally the mother was held as the most important conditioning factor in early development; now it appears that a "recessive" father, not a possessive mother, may be the commonest cause of homosexuality.

Magee has chosen his title with panache. Based on a number of surveys that disclose 4-6 per cent of sample populations to be "predominantly homosexual", the phrase one in twenty is misleading. If Kinsey's proposal of a continuum is accepted, running from the exclusively heterosexual to the bisexual and ultimately to the totally homosexual, then it is a little difficult to see how any firm figure can be set on what is meant by homosexuality. Cultural attitudes have to be indicated, bisexuality, for instance, being rare in the West but common in Muslim countries where it is not forbidden.

But this is a quibble. The general approach is sensible, simple, and very non-camp. The book should clear up one or two misconceptions, and includes a rather coy description of certain sexual procedures indulged in by the homosexual. The depth of this book is not great. In ten years' time it will be very passé.

M.F.M.



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**AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL AUTOMATION.** L. C. Payne. 125 pages. Pitman. 25/6.

Automation is playing an increasing role in clinical and research medicine but misconceptions and fears about it still abound in the Profession. Dr. Payne's book will do much to dispel these. In a clear and interesting manner, a powerful case for the place of computers in Medicine is presented by a man who is both an enthusiast and a visionary.

He explains the workings and advantages of Electronic medical records systems, computerised laboratory analysis and patient monitoring systems. On the controversial subject of computer assisted diagnosis, far from hammering nails into the diagnostician's coffin, the book gives insight into how the clinician can use the machine to best advantage. These are illustrated throughout with examples drawn from the author's experience at University College Hospital. The latter half of the book, with admirable clarity and a minimum of maths explains how computers are programmed and how they work.

All those concerned with hospital, group practice or research medicine would do well to read this book.

I.C.M.

**THE CHROMOSOME DISORDERS: An Introduction for Clinicians**, by G. M. Valentine. 126 pages. William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. Price 25/-.

This little book makes an excellent introduction to the study of chromosomes for clinicians and students alike. It is very easy to read and at times even produces a touch of humour. The section on biochemistry of the chromosome is a little too simplified for any budding biochemist but has the advantage of being easily understandable for the average medical student. The early chapters with numerous diagrams and illustrations give a clear account of how chromosome disorders can occur and then go on to describe those that are at present known. Dr. Valentine's account of such disorders as Down's, Turner's and Klinefelter's syndromes, to mention just three, is both intelligible and illuminating. The book has a very interesting chapter on dermatoglyphics and their relation to chromosome disorders which is not documented in any previous work. Dr. Valentine does not answer all the questions but provides enough material to stimulate thought and maybe action. Altogether a very helpful little volume.

T.J.D.

## Indispensable Books for the Student

### THE 'SYNOPSIS' SERIES

Ideal for revision purposes

**ANAESTHESIA** (Lee & Atkinson)  
Fifth Edition. 37s. 6d.

**BIOLOGY** (Crow)  
Second Edition. 52s. 6d.

**CANCER: GENESIS AND BIOLOGY** (Kark)  
42s.

**CARDIOLOGY** (Weitzman)  
30s.

**CHILDREN'S DISEASES** (Rendle-Short) *New Fourth Edition to Come*

**FORENSIC MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY** (Thomas)  
Third Edition. 12s. 6d.

**GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY** (Chandler)  
27s. 6d.

**INFECTIOUS AND TROPICAL DISEASES** (Woodruff and Bell)  
about 30s.

**MEDICINE** (Tidy)  
Tenth Edition. 35s.

**NEUROLOGY** (Tatlow, Ardis, and Bickford)  
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**OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY** (Bourne and Holmes)  
Thirteenth Edition. 52s. 6d.

**OPHTHALMOLOGY** (Martin-Doyle)  
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**OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY** (Simpson, Robin, and Ballantyne)  
42s.

**PHYSIOLOGY** (Rendle-Short) (Ed. Vass)  
Fifth Edition. 30s.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEDICINE** (Essex-Cater)  
55s.

**RENAL DISEASES AND UROLOGY** (Miller, Slade, and Leather)  
35s.

**RESPIRATORY DISEASES** (Smart)  
22s. 6d.

**RHEUMATIC DISEASES** (Golding)  
30s.

**SKIN DISEASES** (Solomons)  
30s.

**SURGERY** (Hey Groves') (Ed. Cotton)  
*Sixteenth Edition. 52s. 6d.*

**SURGICAL ANATOMY** (McGregor)  
Ninth Edition. 35s.

**SURGICAL PATHOLOGY** (Kark)  
45s.

**John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol**

**TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE SURGERY.** Eric L. Farquharson, E. & S. Livingstone. 3rd ed. 1966. pp. 950. £6 6/-.

The third edition of this famous text has now made a long-awaited appearance. While there have been important editions and revisions, the book still achieves its aim of presenting the whole field of operative surgery in balanced perspective. Layout and style are similar to previous editions with initial chapters on skin, vessels, tendons, nerves, and the later chapters systematically covering the different regions.

Each section is well-planned and comprehensive. Surgical anatomy and general principles of technique are described; the indications and choice of operation are discussed; the common operations are described in detail and the less common more briefly. Gastro-duodenal surgery is well covered with an interesting discussion on the merits of the operations for duodenal ulcer. There is a definite claim for gastro-jejunostomy as the operation of choice. Operations for hernia are delightfully discussed and described in a most readable manner. The author again quotes his series of over 500 inguinal herniorrhaphies — as out patients under local anaesthesia — a procedure which has not as yet gained general acceptance. Mr. Farquharson's book will continue to be a must for those studying for part II F.R.C.S. and for trainee general surgeons.

D.K.M.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORMAL AND ABNORMAL INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD,** by R. S. Illingworth. Third Edition. 378 pages. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. 37/6.

This edition contains new chapters on reflexes and reactions of the newborn, the assessment of maturity, assessment for adoption and seeing and hearing. Previous writing has been revised and extended in the light of more recent work. Professor Illingworth's book will undoubtedly continue to be held in the highest esteem because of his thoughtful and clear exposition of the subject. Evidence is succinctly presented and areas of ignorance and disagreement indicated. Happily Professor Illingworth avoids becoming embroiled in psychological discussion, writing instead with a firm clinical and practical basis. This delightful book is surely essential for anyone, paediatrician, general practitioner or social worker, who is involved in the developmental assessment of infants and young children.

D.L.W.D.

## Amnesia

edited by C. W. M. Whitty, M.A., B.Sc., D.M.(Oxon), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), and O. L. Zangwill, M.A.

A comprehensive review of amnesia which collates the findings of neurology, psychiatry and clinical psychology relevant to memory and its disorders. Although the scientific implications of amnesia are kept well to the fore, interest is also centred in the clinical and pathological aspects.

228 pages.

64s.

## Casualty Officer's Handbook

SECOND EDITION

by Maurice Ellis, M.A., M.B., B.Chir(Cantab.), F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M.O.H.

A very useful practical handbook for casualty officers, house surgeons and house physicians, which gives help in the management, diagnosis and treatment of the patient.

257 pages. illus.

48s.

## Modern Trends in Rheumatology - I

edited by Alan G. S. Hill, M.C., F.R.C.P., (Id), M.R.C.P.

Aspects of rheumatology are discussed within three broad themes — aetiological research, advances in clinical management, and recognition of the broadening clinical pattern of connective tissue disease.

416 pages. illus.

95s.

## Cardiac Pathology

by Robert Lannigan, M.D., M.C.Path.

A short but comprehensive textbook on the pathology of heart disease. Particular attention has been paid to some rare diseases since it is in these uncommon and obscure conditions that information is difficult to obtain.

392 pages. illus.

£5 16s.

**BUTTERWORTHS**

88 KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2

**REPRODUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE POST-PARTUM PERIOD.** A. Sharman. Livingstone 1966. 25/-.

The reconstitution of non-pregnant reproductive physiology following delivery is a complex and confused subject deserving more investigation and certainly needing some clarification. Sharman has here brought together histological and clinical findings from a great number of sources and has condensed them into a usefully correlated review, adding his own findings from investigations designed to close the many gaps in present understanding. The book is broadly in two sections, the one dealing with the reconstitution of the uterus and containing a wealth of histological illustrations, and the other concerned with the re-appearance of ovulation and menstruation.

In parts the author has been successful in drawing reasonably definite conclusions, for instance as to the time of the re-establishment of ovulation, but most of the book remains rather confused. Sharman's literary style and presentation does not, perhaps, do justice to his material or to his own investigation; indeed the work is rather dull. But his investigations themselves may be generally criticised for their lack of adequate material for the drawing of conclusions; in particular the final chapter should not have been included for it represents a very poor attempt at scientific investigation.

This is not a book for the undergraduate, but can be recommended to the critical and patient postgraduate for the sheer amount of information presented.

R.H.S.

**BONE MARROW REACTIONS.** J. Yoffrey. Ed. Arnold. 1966. 30/-.

There are still many unsolved facets to the pathophysiological relationship of the bone marrow-blood axis. Professor Yoffrey's contribution to this aspect of haemopoietic physiology has world wide recognition.

The monograph deals primarily with the quantitative and qualitative response of the various bone marrow cellular components to stress, in a standard experimental animal. Each series is subjected to appropriate stimuli and its reaction outlined from examination of bone marrow and blood.

The book also contains logical conclusions as to the maturation time and life span of the myeloid series.

The chapter on the lymphocytic series is a thorough discussion of this complex series.

The nature of the blood small lymphocyte and its relation to the bone marrow one is well reviewed.

In addition to the vast experimental work, the book is a good review of our past and present knowledge of the subject. It will prove to be of great use to research workers engaged in this aspect of haemopoietic physiology.

A.M.D.

**HORMONE ASSAYS AND THEIR CLINICAL APPLICATION,** by J. A. Loraine and E. Trevor Bell. 584 pages. Published by E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. 65/-.

The average doctor, or medical student, has no time for the tiresome task of pursuing references however significant they appear to be; he needs a short, clear and concise text which must also be authoritative. These demands are fulfilled by so few modern textbooks that it is a pleasure to review one that achieves this objective. The authors present a thorough survey of the present trends in endocrinology from the point of view of hormone assay. The chapters on oestrogens, growth hormone and the gonadotrophins are especially to be recommended. This novel approach to the subject of endocrinology should especially recommend itself to the chemist, biochemist and experimental worker, but to the interested student this book is a mine of relevant information. Apart from full descriptions of hormone assay techniques, the physiological role of hormones and their relation to pathological states are summarised. This book is not easy to read, but, as in every science, in endocrinology there is no royal road to effortless understanding. Nowhere can a little patience and effort be so royally rewarded as in the reading of this text.

The authors and publishers, alike, are to be congratulated on producing a book that is up to date, complete and superbly presented. At the price, few endocrinologists can afford to be without this text, which should also be read by all students as an example of how a textbook should be presented.

J.A.H.

**SPATIOCARDIOGRAPHY, Textbook and Atlas,** by V. Laufberger. Published by H. K. Lewis.

Unipolar electrocardiography records the electrical events of the heart from a number of individual points. Vectorcardiography does so in three planes, one at a time. Spatiocardiography demonstrates them in three dimensions simultaneously. Professor Laufberger has written a detailed mathematical analysis of this

difficult subject and its recording techniques. Unfortunately, the clinical discussions are quite inadequate and their translation is obscure and misleading. The book fails in its object of clarification and its complexity will recommend it chiefly to those players of three-dimensional chess who have a working knowledge of Czech.  
D.G.J.

*HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS.* 3rd Edition. Davidson and Passmore. Livingstone. 1966. 95/-.

In its seven years this text has already run into three editions, the two previous each having demanded reprint. It has in the past been reviewed as "sparkling", lucid and "one of the most important books reviewed". Its scope is leviathan, ranging from an unusually clear account of fat metabolism which will be of great value to the pre-clinical undergraduate, to considerations of the population problem and contraceptive techniques.

The present revision has been undertaken with meticulous care and precision as is evidenced by the extensive list of references, and by the directions, at many points in the text, to various useful texts and original papers. There are many good reviews of recent work in the physiology section, and the clinical sections are no less well informed. Each section, in fact, has been revised, and not a few completely rewritten, while the original layout has wisely been retained.

The most outstanding feature of the text is its readability, a further recommendation to the wide range of potential readers, for while

it is probably the most authoritative textbook of Nutrition and Dietetics, and a useful reference work for pre-clinical students, it is also worthy of a place in the shelves of any public library.

R.H.S.

*CASUALTY OFFICERS' HANDBOOK.* H. Ellis. 2nd Edition. Butterworths. 1966. pp. 250. 48/-.

This book is intended as a guide for the newly qualified doctor working in a casualty department. As such it fulfils its purpose admirably. Principles of diagnosis and immediate treatment of major surgery emergencies are dealt with in principle, and treatment of minor casualty cases, so often neglected in the large surgery textbooks, is set out in detail.

Injuries to different parts of the body are covered systematically with further chapters on burns, foreign bodies, the acute abdomen and resuscitation. There is well illustrated guidance on X-rays — both on views required and interpretation — with a useful list of lesions commonly missed.

New chapters deal with multiple injuries and on fractures of the facial bones, and the book concludes with a useful chapter on the legal aspects of casualty work.

True to its title this is obviously a comprehensive text but the clear layout of relevant information and the excellent illustrations make this book a "must" for the new casualty officer and thoroughly recommended for clinical student.

I.C.M.

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## DIAGNOSTIC PROBLEM (from page 25)

### Diagnosis :

Lead poisoning. Confirmed by the finding of basophilic stippling of the red cells. Subsequent inquiry revealed that this man was exposed to molten lead in his occupation.

Treatment by the chelating agent sodium calcium edetate, 2g daily by intravenous infusion in 5% dextrose solution, brought about alleviation of symptoms, decrease in punctate basophilia and increase in urinary lead.