

RES MEDICA

Journal of the Royal Medical Society



Book Reviews

Abstract

Notes On Medical Virology by Morag C. Tinbury. Published by E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh 1967.

Racial And Geographical Factors In Tumour Incidence (University of Edinburgh Press— Pfizer Medical). Monograph No. 2. Edited by A. A. Shivas. 63s.

Psychiatric Disorders Of Obstetrics by A. A. Baker. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 27s 6d.

A Synopsis of Children's Diseases (4th Edition) by Rendle- Short & Gray. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, 52s 6d.

Biochemical Values In Clinical Medicine by Robert Eastham. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol. 15s.

Roxburgh's Common Skin Diseases (13th Edition) by Peter Borrie. H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. £2 10s.

A New Look At Industrial Medicine by R. L. Luffingham. Pitman Medical 12s 6d.

Cervical Spondylosis edited by Lord Brain & Marcia Wilkinson. William Heinemann Ltd. 55s.

Diseases Of The Nose, Throat And Ear (8th Ed.) by Hall & Coleman. Livingstone 30s.

The Vesico-Vaginal Fistula by J. Chassar Moir. Bailliere Tindall & Cassell Ltd. 60s.

Copyright Royal Medical Society. All rights reserved. The copyright is retained by the author and the Royal Medical Society, except where explicitly otherwise stated. Scans have been produced by the Digital Imaging Unit at Edinburgh University Library. Res Medica is supported by the University of Edinburgh's Journal Hosting Service: <http://journals.ed.ac.uk>

ISSN: 2051-7580 (Online) ISSN: ISSN 0482-3206 (Print)

Res Medica is published by the Royal Medical Society, 5/5 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL

Res Medica, Winter 1967-68, 6(1): 39-40

doi: [10.2218/resmedica.v6i1.836](https://doi.org/10.2218/resmedica.v6i1.836)

BOOK REVIEWS

Notes On Medical Virology by Morag C. Tinbury.
Published by E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh 1967.

This short book commences by discussing the general properties of viruses and their laboratory diagnosis, going on to discuss each group of viruses and the disease associated with them in turn. At the end there are short chapters on viruses and tumours and the rickettsiae.

As its title implies it is written in note form but at the same time is eminently readable and covers the topic in sufficient detail for the Student or Medical Practitioner. It is a book which ought to find a place on every doctor's bookshelf.

C.J.E.

Racial And Geographical Factors In Tumour Incidence (University of Edinburgh Press—Pfizer Medical). Monograph No. 2. Edited by A. A. Shivas. 63s.

This very well-produced book is a record of an interesting conference held in Edinburgh in 1966. The title does not do complete justice to the contents because other factors influencing malignancy besides racial and geographical ones were considered and discussed at this meeting, and are reported in this book.

The standard of contributions is uniformly high and all gain from a more leisurely perusal than was possible when they were originally presented. It is probably unfair to single out for special mention any particular contribution but both the paper and the closing remarks by Ernest L. Wynder are more than ordinarily interesting; the closing remarks could be called provocative. This reviewer's only critical comment is that the book might have been better if the contents were more fully indexed; the discussion which followed several papers could also have been included with benefit.

J.M.L.

Psychiatric Disorders Of Obstetrics by A. A. Baker.
Blackwell Scientific Publications. 27s 6d.

This book reads easily and will be a boon to any medical student, especially those interested in the field. The approach is one of suggestion rather than dogmatism, so that the reader is stimulated to think. The text is sprinkled generously with case histories and Dr. Baker continually stresses the importance of treating the patient in relation to her environment rather than treating the disorder empirically.

The first four chapters provide valuable elucidation of the emotional changes that are liable to take place in the pregnant female, while the final chapter on termination of pregnancy and sterilisation is of special relevance owing to the new law relating to abortion. The author stresses the importance of considering these latter topics individually; however he is again not dogmatic, and this lends weight to the argument that when dealing with this kind of situation one is not dealing with clearcut issues.

The book is heartily recommended to all students, medical and nonmedical.

D.J.H.

A Synopsis of Children's Diseases (4th Edition) by Rendle-Short & Gray. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, 52s 6d.

This book provides a comprehensive coverage of the common and the rare in childhood illnesses. A commendable feature is the inclusion of references to the newer syndromes, so that the reader may conveniently augment his reading in areas of interest. The layout is clear and emphasises classification and methodology of approach. Hence it is well suited to the needs of the examinee if he can afford the cost.

M.F.M.

Biochemical Values In Clinical Medicine by Robert Eastham. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol. 15s.

The main attraction of this little book is that it is small enough for the pocket, and hence readily available for ward rounds and so on. Not only values but also tests in common use are included in the book, and recent extensive revision has ensured that the procedures are up-to-date. The presentation is neat and there is an efficient index at the back for those caught out by a consultant's question.

M.F.M.

Roxburgh's Common Skin Diseases (13th Edition) by Peter Borrie. H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. £2 10s.

This is an excellent book, written in a pleasant style. As a study of common, and hence relevant skin diseases, it succeeds in avoiding the dryness of a concise textbook and the verbosity of a more comprehensive one. Each skin condition is clearly defined and classified in a logical sequence, so that a definite pattern emerges. Other notable features include many excellent illustrations and the attention paid to practical details of treatment.

In conclusion, this book is recommended to all students and is a "must" for the future G.P.

J.M.D.

A New Look At Industrial Medicine by R. L. Luffingham. Pitman Medical 12s 6d.

The author of this the latest in the New Look series is a Medical Officer to the British Transport Docks Board. He writes with dismay on the shortcomings of present day industrial medicine. Determinedly propounding the view that this is an area in which effective preventive medicine may be practised he explores the changes possible and visualises an Occupational Health Service on a par with the Hospital and General Practitioner branches. He wishes to persuade industry that the maintenance of the health of the employee is as important as the regular care of expensive plant. He stresses the error that the industrial medical officer makes in attempting to provide management with a faultless casualty service, thus apparently denying the feasibility of the more exhausting but more worthwhile preventive service.

Proposals for changes in the factory doctor service are cogently presented, but the concept of an Occupational Health Service seems shaky. Clerical and distributive workers would be difficult to cover within the suggested framework.

Enthusiastically written the book suffers somewhat from contemporary political jargon; nevertheless it shows a valuable originality of thought on a neglected aspect of medicine.

W.L.C.

Cervical Spondylosis edited by Lord Brain & Marcia Wilkinson. William Heinemann Ltd. 55s.

Cervical spondylosis, hardly recognised twenty years ago, is subjected to careful scrutiny in this book. The anatomy, pathology, symptomatology, radiology and clinical aspects of the condition are expertly reviewed, aided by copious photographs and line drawings of a high standard. For those concerned with the subject this comprehensive volume will be invaluable, and it is within scope of the interested student, clinically and financially.

M.F.M.

Diseases Of The Nose, Throat And Ear (8th Ed.) by Hall & Coleman. Livingstone 30s.

A concise but comprehensive study of the most common ENT diseases. Both the relevant facts and considerable detail have been crammed into small bulk and an economic price. The result is a useful practical handbook for the practitioner, but rather heavy reading for the student approaching ENT for the first time — especially as this concentration of facts leads to an uninteresting style.

Illustrations, though sparse in places, are fairly good and methods of treatment are clearly described. The book is recommended to all with more than a superficial interest in ENT diseases.

J.M.D.

The Vesico-Vaginal Fistula by J. Chassar Moir. Bailliere Tindall & Cassell Ltd. 60s.

The subject of this book is beyond the scope of the undergraduate. Thanks to the great improvement in the standard of obstetrics now practised in this country the disorder is relatively uncommon. Nevertheless it is as well to be aware of this distressing condition as it is remediable.

In the first chapter the author gives a lucid account of the history of the treatment of the condition, including a full account of the life of J. Marion Sims. The remainder of the book requires a knowledge of surgical technique for useful appreciation. This limits its value for the medical student but ensures its importance to those interested in the speciality.

D.J.H.