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Book Reviews

Abstract

- A Practical Guide To The Care of the Injured by P. S. London. E. & S. Livingstone. £7 10/-.
- Treatment of Common Acute Poisonings. Henry Matthew and A. A. H. Lawson. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. 16/.
- Basic Anatomy (2nd. Edition) by G. A. G. Mitchell and E. L. Patterson. E. & S. Livingstone. £5 5/-.
- Introduction to Medical Laboratory Technology (4th Edition) by F. J. Baker, R. E. Silverton and E. D. Luckcock. Butterworth & Co. 62/6.
- Exercises In Neurological Diagnosis by J. H. Tyrer and J. M. Sutherland. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 42/-.
- Nervous Inhibition. Ed. E. Florey. Pergamon Press. £5.
- Outline Of Fractures (8th Edition) by J. Crawford Adams. E. & S. Livingstone. 32/6.
- Principles Of Gynaecology (3rd. Edition) by T. N. A. Jeffcoate. Butterworth & Co. £6 10/-.
- Introduction To Gastrointestinal Physiology by George B. Jerzy Glass. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 74/6.
- Techniques In Blood Grouping. Vols. I and II, by I. Dunsford and C. C. Bowley. (2nd. Edition). Oliver & Boyd Ltd. £5 5/-.
- Research In Burns. Ed. A. B. Wallace and A. W. Wilkinson. E. & S. Livingstone. 90/-.
- Symptoms And Signs In Clinical Medicine (8th. Edition) by E. Noble Chamberlain and Colin Ogilvie. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 55/-.
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- A System of Orthopaedics and Fractures—Third Edition by A. Graham Apley, MB, BS, FRCS.
- Surgery of the Alimentary Tract by John H. Garlock, M.D.
- Labor-Clinical Evaluation and Management by Emanuel A. Friedman, M.D.

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BOOK REVIEWS

A Practical Guide To The Care of the Injured by P. S. London. E. & S. Livingstone. £7 10/-.

Mr. London, with the aid of seven able contributors, has recorded in this book the experiences of a lifetime's work in traumatology. He has himself written a very large part of this book which encompasses a wide range of subjects relating to the injured patient and his specialized treatment.

The book is excellently illustrated and each of its ten chapters provides a lucid and up to date exposition of its subject followed by a valuable line of references. Primarily of interest to the accident surgeon or experts in other fields who deal with the injured, its price and technical detail exclude it from the students library.

J.D.C.

Treatment of Common Acute Poisonings. Henry Matthew and A. A. H. Lawson. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. 16/-.

A startling graph at the beginning of this book indicates the enormous rise in poisoning cases since the war. A brief chapter on the statistics of the situation amply confirms the need for such a specialised unit as the Poisoning Treatment Centre, R.I.E., where the authors work. With this introduction the book then covers the identification of poisons, the basic principles of their treatment and finally a series of chapters dealing with specialised and specific methods of treatment for different substances.

The layout is clear and well headed, with neat illustrations, graphs and tables where needed. There is an adequate index at the back and cross references are included for convenience. The statistics alone will convince you that this is an important book to read.

T.K.B.

Basic Anatomy (2nd. Edition) by G. A. G. Mitchell and E. L. Patterson. E. & S. Livingstone. £5 5/-.

A book of 550 pages, which includes information on medical history, evolution, anthropology, embryology, histology, radiology, applied and systematic anatomy and even some forensic aspects of anatomy, clearly cannot hope to cover any of these in any depth. With, however, some 400 plates and diagrams, the authors provide a very well illustrated basic coverage of the subject for students beginning their anatomical excursion and an interesting adjunct to sustain them when despairing of regional anatomy, providing a sound framework upon which detailed concepts may be built.

Not really for the student whose sole aspiration in this field of study is to pass the professional examination.

D.McL.

Introduction To Medical Laboratory Technology (4th Edition) by F. J. Baker, R. E. Silverton and E. D. Luckcock. Butterworth & Co. 62/6.

Unless the medical student undertakes extracurricular laboratory work for financial or educational reasons, the only association that he has with laboratory technicians is fleeting contact with them in practical classes or with the end product of their work.

It is both unnecessary and indeed meddling for the student or doctor to involve himself in the routine techniques of laboratory investigation, the training for which being the responsibility of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology for whose Intermediate Examination this volume was compiled.

Not a book for the medical student but an essential text for those anticipating a career in medical laboratory work.

P.D.B.

Exercises In Neurological Diagnosis by J. H. Tyrer and J. M. Sutherland. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 42/-.

This compact volume is written by two Australian physicians who have set out to defend Trousseau's philosophy that "there are no diseases, only sick people". This they do by presenting a series of case histories, all interesting and some illustrated, of patients whom they have seen in their neurological clinics. The cases are in random order, and at the end of each group of cases or "clinic", the authors give an analysis of each of the clinical problems and discuss the differential diagnosis.

The preface to the book provides some helpful reminders of the principles of neurological diagnosis and the cases discussed cover a wide range of pathologies. The book is well within the range of the senior clinical student, and provides a refreshing method of revision. There is a good index and the cross-references are accurate. It is unfortunate that the price of this book will probably ensure that it is only used as a book of reference by the undergraduate.

C.M.R.

Nervous Inhibition. Ed. E. Florey. Pergamon Press. £5.

Comparative, general and neurophysiologists, psychologists and biochemists interested in the chemical transmission of nerve impulses will find this a most stimulating publication. The thirty-one papers collected in this volume were presented at the 1960 International Symposium on Nervous Inhibition.

Recognition has been given to the fact that states of inhibition or of temporary inexcitability produced by nerve cells are as important for the co-ordinated and co-ordinating function of the nervous system as are the excitatory states of central or peripheral neurons and of effector cells.

General topics covered include the historical development of theories of inhibition, inhibition in the mammalian spinal cord, inhibition of receptor nerve cells and the nervous inhibition of the endocrine systems, but perhaps the most important new concept was that of presynaptic inhibition.

I have no doubt that this book will prove invaluable to those undertaking the honours course in Physiology.

C.F.J.G.

Outline Of Fractures (8th Edition) by J. Crawford Adams. E. & S. Livingstone. 32/6.

The latest edition of Outline of Fractures is a useful and compact book which devotes considerable print to the general principles of the subject, together with sections dealing with the individual skeletal regions and the specific injuries thereof. At the end of each section the author considerably provides a summary of the fracture managements described therein, a convenient feature for those of us too lazy or too pressed for time to fully read the text.

The book is very well illustrated with innumerable radiographic plates and with many simple and illuminating diagrams. However, although the average medical student does not have a reputation for high degrees of intellectual curiosity, he might find this book rather less than stimulating. This is an unfortunate but inevitable concomitant of excellent simplicity and lack of extraneous detail.

A good book for those interested only in the broadest outline of the topic, and without any desire to explore its profounder aspects.

M.F.O.

Principles Of Gynaecology (3rd. Edition) by T. N. A. Jeffcoate. Butterworth & Co. £6 10/-.

This large book of 970 pages contains an attractive layout of material which is easy to read, with many plates, illustrations and comments.

Originally intended for undergraduates it now encompasses the realms of postgraduate work. However, I found it rewarding to read, discovering that it contains chapters on many fields that have been attracting attention recently such as Genetics, Biochemistry, Chemotherapy, Sex, Family Planning and Birth Control.

It is written in a personal way including, for example, details of illustrative cases from the author's experience which exemplify difficulties, diagnostic and prognostic, of carcinoma of the cervix. In his discussion on causation of abnormal uterine action in dysmenorrhoea, he gives the several views which have been put forward and draws his own conclusions from them.

The author does not give references, hoping to create a desire for the reader to study the journals. An expensive book at £6 10/- but well worth reading or using for reference.

A.D.D.

Introduction To Gastrointestinal Physiology by George B. Jerzy Glass. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 74/6.

George Jerzy Glass, Professor of Medicine at New York Medical College, in just short of 200 pages, takes us through every part of the G.I. tract, stopping at accessory organs to discuss them in physiological terms.

Written in a style which integrates abundant illustrations with a text that classifies the information but at the same time justifies it experimentally, structure and function become one and the reader gains the impression of a single organ processing food rather than the misconception of an apparently unrelated series of organs so often conveyed by physiological text-books.

This is the only book that I have seen which adequately bridges that gap between general physiology texts and the specialist tome that so often daunts those attempting to extract relevant data from an ocean of fact.

Special points to recommend are the comprehensive references after each chapter and the catalogue of liver functions which appears as an addendum. Expensive at 74/- but an excellent grounding for those not specializing in this field.

P.D.B.

Techniques In Blood Grouping. Vols. I and II, by I. Dunsford and C. C. Bowley. (2nd. Edition). Oliver & Boyd Ltd. £5 5/-.

The second edition of this erudite manual of blood grouping techniques measures up to the international reputation of its predecessor, which has become a classic in the subject. It is based upon the experience of the authors in the Sheffield Regional Centre where the vast scale of operations means that many extremely rare Rhesus types are encountered.

For general reading students will find the first volume of the book to be an excellent account of the fundamental principles of blood grouping and tissue compatibility. The second volume describes one hundred and twenty-eight practical procedures, the rationale behind each technique being included in the text to facilitate the exact interpretation of the results.

A useful book for the student to consult and an essential in the laboratory of any blood grouping centre.

C.F.J.G.

Research In Burns. Ed. A. B. Wallace and A. W. Wilkinson. E. & S. Livingstone. 90/-.

This weighty text-book is a report on the proceedings of the second International Congress on Research in Burns, which was held in Edinburgh in September, 1965, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. B. Wallace.

The papers presented and the symposia held cover all aspects of the topic most comprehensively. This congress was held, however, two and a half years ago, and one feels that some of the material in it may have been superseded by more recent work.

I feel that this report, fascinating reading that it makes for those with enough time to devote themselves to it, will be of most value to the postgraduate researching into the topic or to those in whose hands the treatment of burns patients is.

To the undergraduate seeking to have the maximum of teaching dogma presented to him in the concisest and simplest form, this book is of little value. Unless, of course, he has a burning enthusiasm for the subject.

M.F.O.

Symptoms And Signs In Clinical Medicine (8th. Edition) by E. Noble Chamberlain and Colin Ogilvie. John Wright & Sons Ltd. 55/-.

This is a book which every medical student should consult at some time during his clinical training, for it outlines in great detail the important symptoms and signs met with in practice. All too often one finds that both the undergraduate and the graduate wish to embark on a series of special investigations in order to reach a diagnosis, when careful history taking and examination of the patient will either provide them with the diagnosis or at least take them a long way towards one.

A great asset of this book is the clear and concise way in which the authors have presented their material, making the text easy and enjoyable to read. The large and comprehensive index is also a very welcome feature.

The authors have quite rightly given a short account of the history of medicine with especial reference to the ways in which careful observation of the patient has furthered our understanding of the diseases which afflict man. I trust that this will be a feature of all future editions of their book.

C.J.E.

Principles of Head and Neck Surgery by H. Robert Freund. Butterworth & Co. £6 5/-.

Those who specialize in surgery of this region and who undertake the arduous task of the oral surgeon will find this text invaluable. It strives to give both undergraduate and post-graduate a knowledge of fundamental principles and operative technique, and also some understanding of the various problems encountered in head and neck surgery.

The text is extremely readable and has the clarity we have come to expect of American medical books. The illustrations, however, are no more than sketches made during operations and the reader will wish to use one of the many excellent anatomical atlases devoted to this region in conjunction with the text.

The book will be of great interest to those students who spend their elective period in this surgical speciality and is to be especially recommended to those taking their fellowship examinations.

C.F.J.G.

Exercise in Neurological Diagnosis. John H. Tyrer and John M. Sutherland. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. 42/-.

This monograph by two Australian neurologists makes good reading. The subject has been covered by presenting a series of cases, with clinical presentation and discussion, and on reading through them there is a gradual and reasonably painless gathering of knowledge. This process is aided by some large and helpful photographs and by clear annotations.

The discussions that attend each section, or "clinic", are written in an easy and informal style, but nevertheless explore the relevant data with enough thoroughness to satisfy even the most rigorous examiner. The authors confess to having been much influenced by Lord Brain's teachings, and if that is not recommendation enough, then a brief glance through the book's pages will be sufficient to entice the student to buy. A contents page covering diseases mentioned might, however, be a help.

H.P.S.

A SYSTEM OF ORTHOPAEDICS AND FRACTURES—Third Edition

by A. Graham Apley, MB, BS, FRCS.

For its third edition *A System of Orthopaedics and Fractures* has been extensively revised and much new work has been incorporated. Illustrations have been introduced on a lavish scale. Mr Apley has not only assembled a noteworthy collection of X-rays, photographs and diagrams, but by grouping them in composites he has enhanced their instructional value.

558 pages. Illustrated £6 6s.

SURGERY OF THE ALIMENTARY TRACT

by John H. Garlock, M.D.

Dr. John Garlock is one of the world's foremost specialists in surgery of the alimentary tract, and in this volume he incorporates the results of his vast experience with surgical procedures and management. The major emphasis of the book is on surgical technique as applied to the common lesions of the alimentary tract, and it also deals at length with pre- and postoperative care.

506 pages. Illustrated £8 4s.

LABOR-CLINICAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

by Emanuel A. Friedman, M.D.

In this book the author presents his own method of graphical representation of the stages in childbirth. In dealing with these stages he interprets the graphical curves, and describes the significance in assessing the normal course of events and the complications which may occur. The book also covers the aetiology, therapy and prognosis of such disorders.

412 pages. Illustrated £5 12s. 6d.

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