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Book Reviews

Abstract

Calling the Laboratory Editor : W. A. R. Thompson, M.D. 2nd edition . E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. 1 7/6d. pp.126.

Glaucoma: Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Some Aspects of Treatment Proceedings of a symposium held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England 1965.

Textbook of Medical Treatment: Edited by Sir Derrick Dunlop and Stanley Alstead. 10th edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. 70s. pp. 1003.

A Guide to Cardiology By J. C. Leonard and E. G. Galea. 2nd edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. pp. 306.

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BOOK

REVIEWS

CALLING THE LABORATORY. Editor: W. A. R. Thompson, M.D. 2nd edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. 17/6d. pp. 126.

This book, although designed for use by general practitioners, will fill a long-felt need of both students and hospital staff.

It gives a brief outline of the various laboratory tests commonly in use today, with an explanation of the indications for such tests, and the principles and methods underlying them. Perhaps most useful of all, and certainly most practical, it tells doctors the correct way in which to present the specimen under test to the laboratory — surely a sore bone of contention between doctor and laboratory for many years.

As a practical review of laboratory tests it is admirable, and fully recommended. Its title and cover illustration, however, could well be improved.

D.B.

GLAUCOMA: EPIDEMIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND SOME ASPECTS OF TREATMENT.
Proceedings of a symposium held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England 1965.

The practical difficulties in mass screening of the population to detect unsuspected glaucoma in its early stages are enormous. This is especially so if one realises that "suspects", when discovered, constitute about 10% of the population and that further investigation of these will lead to discovery of the disease in about 1%. Unfortunately the problem does not end there.

This small thought-provoking volume will be of interest to ophthalmologists and those specially interested in glaucoma. It contains the result of 4 glaucoma screening programmes, as well as 2 studies of close relatives of glaucoma patients. A further portion is devoted to problems of epidemiology and difficulties in recommending and assessing surgical and medical treatment. The symposium ends with a critical review of methods of detecting glaucoma.

Not a recommended buy for the student unless he, for better or worse, wishes to complicate his thoughts on glaucoma.

B.C.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT. Edited by Sir Derrick Dunlop and Stanley Alstead. 10th edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. 70s. pp. 1003.

Since its conception in 1939 this text book has consistently proved one of the most popular of its kind, both in this country and overseas. The 10th edition will certainly be no exception. The authors, all clinical teachers from the Scottish Medical schools, have again produced a text which is both authoritative and comprehensive. The treatment of most conditions likely to be encountered in any branch of Medical practice is set out clearly, and with humbling attention to detail. In fields where controversy exists, such as anticoagulants, steroids and certain antibiotic regimes, full and fair consideration is given to all views. Where, on the other hand, a well-proven treatment is advocated, the authors do not hesitate to be dogmatic.

One refreshing feature throughout the book is the presentation of therapeutics not as a mere exercise in applied pharmacology but as treatment of "the whole Man" with due regard being paid to nursing care, diet, exercise, mental welfare and rehabilitation. Metric measures and official drug names are used throughout in an attempt to make the present pharmaceutical Tower of Babel a little less bewildering.

Like its predecessors this edition will surely remain the safe and complete guide to medical treatment for students and practitioners alike.

I.C.M.

A GUIDE TO CARDIOLOGY. By J. C. Leonard and E. G. Galea. 2nd edition. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1966. pp. 306.

Cardiologists seem to delight in writing short volumes for students, young doctors and General Practitioners. These books carry explanatory titles such as 'Essentials', 'A Clinical Introduction', 'A Primer', and 'An Approach'. And now there is the second edition of 'A Guide to Cardiology'.

In the Preface to the First Edition the authors said that the "emphasis throughout has been placed on the clinical features, diagnosis and treatment of the commoner diseases of the heart." This indeed has been done. The book is modern in outlook and up to date in most details. The text is perhaps rather fuller than that required by most medical students, but is written in a straight-forward manner. It is well illustrated by X-rays and electrocardiographs. After comparing this book with others of its kind, it emerges as the best in its field at the present time.

D.L.W.D.