

# RES MEDICA

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## Books

### Various authors

#### Abstract

- Auscultation of the Heart (3rd. Edition) by R. W. D. Turner. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 6 /- .
- A Dictionary of Microbial Taxonomic Usage by S. T. Cowan. Oliver & Boyd. 4 2 /-.
- Acute Myocardial Infarction . Eds. D. G. Julian and M. F. Oliver. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 50 /-.
- Textbook of Medical Treatment. Eds. Dunlop and Alstead. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 75/-.
- Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive Vehicles. A Report by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. 5/-.
- Modern Trends in Toxicology I. Eds. Boyland and Goulding. Butterworth & Co. 75/-.
- Vascular Diseases by M. J. Tsapogas, V. V. Kakkar & E. N. Gleave. H. K. Lewis & Co. £2 10/-.
- Principles of X-Ray Diagnosis by D. H. Trapnell. Butterworth & Co. £6 10/-.
- Elements of Medical Genetics by Alan E. H. Emery. E. & S. Livingstone. 35/-.
- The Principles and Practice of Medicine (9th. Edition) by Sir Stanley Davidson. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 45/-.
- Development of the Brain by W. A. Marshall. Oliver & Boyd Ltd. 7/6d.
- Speech and Hearing Science by W. Zemlin. Prentice Hall International. 102/6d.
- Industrial Dermatoses and The Industrial Injuries Act by J. T. Ingram. J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 10/-.
- Scoliosis by J. I. P. James. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 55 /-.

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## BOOKS

*Auscultation of the Heart* (3rd. Edition) by R. W. D. Turner. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 6/-.

This is the third edition of a popular pocket-sized handbook, which originated from three articles written by Dr. Turner for *Res Medica* in 1960. The expansion of the text has greatly enhanced its comprehensibility, though the changes in the diagrams have not significantly elevated them beyond their former mediocrity. Dr. Turner once again emphasises the need for a methodical approach to auscultation, entreating that the student listen to only one thing at a time. He underlines the point by considering the events of the cardiac cycle in turn, passing from heart sounds to systolic and then to diastolic murmurs. Nevertheless, a short appendix systematically describing the auscultatory features of the various cardiac lesions in turn, would add to the value of the book. It is a volume which every clinical student must possess.

D.McL.

*A Dictionary of Microbial Taxonomic Usage* by S. T. Cowan. Oliver & Boyd. 42/-.

Microbial Taxonomy is a subject that few people show any inclination to venture into very deeply. Those who do are faced with outstanding problems in the classification, nomenclature and identification of micro-organisms. S. T. Cowan has actively participated in the International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature which was formed to discuss the problems involved in taxonomy.

In this text 'A Dictionary of Microbial Taxonomic Usage', he has contributed further with a concise account of taxonomic study as

it is today. The book brings to the forefront the difficulties and pitfalls of bacteriological taxonomy and includes explanatory notes on the various attempts to design a successful taxonomic scheme. Moreover, Cowan has defined principles that require to be followed in the laboratory and particularly in the literature, stressing these in respect of rules formulated at the meetings of the International Committee. A unique and sensible presentation that brings to one's attention the attempts being made to bring order to the chaos of bacteriological taxonomy.

G.G.C.

*Acute Myocardial Infarction*. Eds. D. G. Julian and M. F. Oliver. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 50/-.

This is a series of forty short papers, by cardiologists from all over the globe, presented to a symposium on Myocardial Infarction held in Edinburgh in September 1967.

These articles are concerned with the many aspects of the treatment of acute infarction, ranging from artificial pacing and specialised coronary care units, to digitalis and diuretics. Particularly interesting are those papers in which cardiac arrhythmias are considered. In the discussions, which are liberally interspersed among the proceedings, other participants in the symposium have an opportunity to air their views; many old questions are answered, while new ones are posed and considered.

One would require more than a casual interest in the subject to get very much out of this book.

D.McL.

*Textbook of Medical Treatment.* Eds. Dunlop and Alstead. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 75/-.

Sir Derrick Dunlop was one of the most well-known of teachers in the Edinburgh Medical School, and his active days as Professor of Therapeutics here are remembered with affection and gratitude by his students. We rarely see him in person now, but he still contributes to our medical lives to a significant degree, in print.

The well-known textbook of Medical Treatment, edited by Sir Derrick and by Professor Stanley Alstead now reappears two years after the old edition, in a reread version. The old layout has been abandoned in favour of a double-column page, giving Livingstone's a new, transatlantic look.

The vast knowledge of its team of Scottish contributors guarantees that the book remains as comprehensive and as authoritative as ever, new sections on anti-coagulants and iatrogenic effects, and a glossary of drug names, having been added. The whole thing is as up to date as a textbook can be.

The book is recommended to anyone with aspirations in medicine, and upholds the very fine standard set by previous editions.

J.E.H.

*Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive Vehicles.* A Report by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. 5/-.

This monograph, designed for medical practitioners, contains nine chapters, each dealing with different aspects of disease in relation to driving. It also includes an appendix on 'Unwanted and dangerous interactions between drugs'.

Of particular interest are the chapters concerned with cardiac conditions and with ageing, problems which affect a sizeable proportion of the driving population. Professor Mary Pickford is the principal author of the chapter on fatigue and boredom, a factor of increasing importance in these nomadic days of mechanised transport. Particularly good are the sections on 'Suggestions and advice to patients' for they provide, in considerable detail, a well reasoned approach to this often neglected aspect of patient care.

The little time spent in studying this pamphlet would not be wasted for either student or practitioner.

J.W.

*Modern Trends in Toxicology I.* Eds. Boyland and Goulding. Butterworth & Co. 75/-.

Though this book is definitely for the specialist, it leaves the non-specialist reader with an uneasy awareness of the chemical hazards in the environment. Most of us live with the suspicion that the surfeit of new substances around us may include molecules mitching mallecho; bestowing ills tumours and monsters. These review articles summarise what is known in this gloomy area of biology. Toxic substances, their access to the human organism, their immediate or delayed effects and their visitations upon our children and upon our children's children, are reported with detached scholarship. The scope is wide, ranging from the dangers of food additives ('all will agree that cancer-causing agents should be avoided in foods wherever possible'), to the inevitable self-inflicted tobacco injury ('the most potent known carcinogen operating on man at the present time is cigarette smoke').

Read it, and scare your friends!

C.T.C.

*Vascular Diseases* by M. J. Tsapogas, V. V. Kakkar & E. N. Gleave. H. K. Lewis & Co. £2 10/-.

The authors of this excellent book have culled their extensive experience from many years of research in the field of vascular disease; including work at King's College Hospital and at the research establishment of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. They have now published a textbook on this subject, which is both lucid and interesting. It covers all aspects of vascular disease, and includes an introductory chapter on the assessment of the vascular patient which is enormously helpful to medical students, especially to those approaching clinical medicine for the first time. Diagnosis, special investigations and the indications for conservative or for surgical treatment are made abundantly clear and reasonable. The presentation of the book is, on the whole, a clinical and practical one which many of its student readers will appreciate.

The illustrations and diagrams are very good, appropriate and illuminating and the style is crisp, concise and readable. From this book one may painlessly absorb a great deal of knowledge, and yet read it with pleasure and enjoyment.

M.F.O.

*Principles of X-Ray Diagnosis* by D. H. Trapnell.  
Butterworth & Co. £6 10/-.

This well planned and explicit publication must be of interest, and of substantial value, not only to the postgraduate for whom it was primarily produced, but to a greater proportion of senior medical students than was initially envisaged.

The introductory chapters are informative and interesting, and those following present a logical and very complete discussion of the evaluation of the information available from radiographs. Many senior students might benefit from such a concise introduction to the subject and the more advanced information follows very readily for those pursuing post-graduate courses of study.

It is to be hoped that the daunting cost of this book does not limit the circulation, placing it on the shelves of reference libraries only and thus rendering it less easily available to the readership it properly deserves.

M.J.R.

*Elements of Medical Genetics* by Alan E. H. Emery.  
E. & S. Livingstone. 35/-.

Little more than a decade ago it was shown for the first time that the normal human cell contains not 48 chromosomes but 46. The M.R.C. unit in Edinburgh is today thinking in terms of karyotyping whole populations at birth by a fully automated system utilizing advanced techniques and sophisticated computer programming. This is a measure of the explosion which has occurred in genetics in recent years and an indication of the likely impact on medicine in the future.

Hand in hand with cytological advances have gone those in biochemical understanding and Professor Emery has attempted to relate the altered position in genetic knowledge to the needs of medical practice today. In this he has met with great success and both student and physician are provided with a comprehensive account of the fundamental changes in understanding which have occurred in relation to individual, family and population.

It is a tribute to the author that he has been able to cover the wide field of medical genetics whilst keeping technical terms to a minimum. The result is both readable and instructive and extensive references at the end of each chapter enable topics in which especial interest has been created to be easily pursued further.

P.D.B.

*The Principles and Practice of Medicine* (9th Edition) by Sir Stanley Davidson. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 45/-.

Thomas Fuller's dictum that "Learning hath gained most by those books by which the printers have lost" is sure to be refuted once more by this latest edition of *The Principles and Practice of Medicine*. The ninth edition is similar in style to the eighth, emphasis being on those common disorders encountered in practice with preceding summary of the anatomy and physiology relevant to each section. Useful additions appear in the chapters on Nutritional Disorders, Diseases of the Pancreas and Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract.

Professor Carstairs' rewriting of the Psychological Medicine section is directed towards the neurotic and psychosomatic symptomatology likely to be encountered by the non-specialist physician in day to day practice. A short resumé of psychotropic drugs is an addition which recognises that both medical and illicit use of these agents should be familiar to every practitioner.

The updating of all sections has not led to any increase in length and despite the slight price increment this is a book which must have high claim to being perhaps the best value amongst general medical texts now available.

A.D.D.

*Development of the Brain* by W. A. Marshall.  
Oliver & Boyd Ltd. 7/6d.

Most medical students quail at the thought of learning neuroanatomy after having spent a year studying systematic anatomy in their second year. Consequently all new texts on this subject are eagerly awaited, scanned, and then usually rejected. Let there be no doubt that this is not an examination-cramming book; rather a lucid volume purely for leisure reading — it does not even have an index. It does however succeed in what it sets out to do. It provides a very elementary picture of brain development and includes a consideration of brain-waves, neurobiochemistry and the influence of the endocrine system on cerebral development and metabolism.

For the aspiring neurophysiologist this work is not adequate; for the average medical student it is a useful little book.

A.K.T.C.

*Speech and Hearing Science* by W. Zemlin. Prentice Hall International. 102/6d.

Assuming no previous exposure of his readers to the biological sciences, Professor Zemlin aims to provide "a manageable overview of the field of speech and hearing".

Man, anatomy and physiology are defined and the cell, basic tissues, organs and body systems are described in Chapter One, which features Gray's Anatomy in its selective reading list. A lengthy discourse on the mechanism of breathing must be negotiated before basic structure and the mechanism of phonation is reached. The section which might be expected to provide a review of the nervous mechanisms in speech and hearing, proves to be a revision course for consultant neurologists. One would expect the potential readership of this book to be relatively small, anticipating that most medical students and specialists in this field would already have had considerable contact with biological science.

J.M.R.

*Industrial Dermatoses and The Industrial Injuries Act* by J. T. Ingram. J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 10/-.

This monograph by the Emeritus Professor of Dermatology, Newcastle upon Tyne, deals mainly with the complex problems of industrial diseases and injuries affecting the skin. Attention is focussed on the relation of these injuries to the Industrial Injuries Act. Procedures under the Act and Medical Board and Appeal Tribunals are explained and clarified. Scheduled Prescribed Diseases are succinctly classified and non-infectious dermatitis of external origin is described in the following chapter.

As the Act has in the past led to much confusion, a section is devoted to "Suggested Modifications" in which clarification of several aspects are considered. To complete this forty page booklet, management, diagnosis and treatment is reviewed from the point of view of the Industrial Injuries Act and fifty or so illustrative cases put the numerous points discussed in their true perspective. E.A.H.

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## NEW BLACKWELL BOOKS

### **A Companion to Medical Studies**

*Vol. 1 Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Related Subjects.*

Edited by R. PASSMORE and J. S. ROBSON. 1968. 1142 pages, 1075 illustrations.

Cloth £6 6s., Limp 95s.

### **Applied Neurochemistry**

Edited by A. N. DAVISON, PH.D., D.SC., B.PHARM., F.P.S., and JOHN DOBBING, B.SC., M.B., B.S., M.C.PATH. 1968. 454 pages, 96 illustrations. 90s.

### **Respiratory Failure**

M. K. SYKES, M.A., M.B., B.CHIR., D.A., F.F.A.R.C.S., M. W. McNICOL, M.B., M.R.C.P., and E. J. M. CAMPBELL, B.SC., PH.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. March 1969. 382 pages, 63 illustrations. 55s.

### **Clinical Aspects of Immunology**

Edited by P. G. H. GELL, M.B., M.R.C.S., and R. R. A. COOMBS, PH.D., SC.D., M.R.C.V.S., F.R.S. *Second Edition*, 1968. 1382 pages, 110 illustrations. £7 10s.

### **A Course in Renal Diseases**

G. M. BERLYNE, M.D., M.R.C.P. *Second Edition*, 1968. 432 pages, 77 illustrations. 40s.

### **Clinical Investigation of Gastrointestinal Function**

I. A. D. BOUCHIER, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.P. March 1969. 304 pages, 14 illustrations. 30s.

**BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS**

5 ALFRED STREET, OXFORD · 9 FORREST ROAD, EDINBURGH

In this monograph Professor James attempts to assist the young orthopaedic surgeon by presenting a careful review of the confused literature on scoliosis. Assessing his subject with the authority gained from twenty years of practising interest and drawing on research from the Edinburgh Orthopaedic Service, he first defines the terminology of scoliosis, aided by well-chosen radiographs and by clinical photography. He then proceeds to consider the differential diagnosis, aetiological evidence, classification and treatment. Included also are notes on the inheritance of scoliosis and on its medical aspects. The treatments discussed are those which involve special immobilisation and traction and also the definitive surgical correction. Throughout the book stress is laid on the importance of the surgeon's relationship with both the patient and the parent, in what may be a protracted period of orthopaedic supervision.

Progressive idiopathic scoliosis deforms cruelly and shortens life by its cardio-respiratory consequences. Early recognition is thus paramount and the undergraduate will find it valuable to read the earlier chapters. He will not regret the time spent and will enjoy a book which is marked by its clarity of language and organisation, and by the quality of its illustrative photographs, which are well integrated with the text. Professor James' style is attractive and dogmatic, though always supported by evidence. His book should arm well the postgraduate who progresses to the wider literature on scoliosis, to which he will find full references are given.

W.L.C.

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*Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. wish to announce that their new catalogue for 1968/69 has just been published and is available from them without charge.*

*Correspondence should be addressed to Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd., 5, Alfred Street, Oxford.*

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## ANSWERS TO DIAGNOSTIC PROBLEM

(See page 27)

A. The lesion lies in the left basal ganglia and neighbouring structures: the left corticospinal tract at the level of the internal capsule, the somatic sensory system in the region of thalamus and the hypothalamus (change in appetite, weight gain, excessive thirst). The most probable lesion is neoplasm.

B. The ventricular system would be distorted by a mass lesion in this region, and lumbar air encephalography is therefore indicated. This confirmed the site of the lesion, but suggested that it might arise from the brain stem. Vertebral angiograms were therefore taken, and showed an aneurysm on the trunk of the left posterior cerebral artery. The region which filled with dye was not large enough to produce the distortion seen in the encephalograms and it was therefore concluded that the aneurysmal sac was large, but mainly filled with thrombus.

C. Acute hepatic failure.

At autopsy the liver showed a gross macronodular cirrhosis, most probably due to previous subclinical virus hepatitis. Nothing in her history or examination suggested the presence of cirrhosis, and the earliest development raising the possibility of liver disease was the abnormal bleeding tendency noted at the first operation.

A large aneurysm was found arising from the trunk of the left posterior cerebral artery and extending upwards and backwards into posterior hypothalamus, left basal ganglia and brain stem: there was extensive destruction of brain tissue and such a lesion would inevitably have carried a fatal prognosis, without the additional problems arising from her liver disease.

Thus although neoplasm is the commonest lesion in this site the possibility of vascular lesions such as aneurysm or angioma should also be considered.

### Acknowledgment

This patient was under the care of Professor F. J. Gillingham and his permission to report this case is gratefully acknowledged.