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Books

Various Authors

Abstract

- Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Davidson and Passmore. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh.
- Simpson and Syme of Edinburgh. John A. Shepherd. Livingstone. 50s.
- Notes for the Guidance of Parents of Diabetic Children. J. W. Farquhar.
- Early Difficulties with Young Families. Charlotte Himsworth. H. K. Lewis. 45s.
- Modern Trends in Obstetrics. Edited R. J. Kellar. Butterworth. 64s.
- British Medical Bulletin. "Immunization Against Infectious Diseases". Volume 25, Number 2, May 1969. £2.
- Attachment of the Young. F. V. Smith. Oliver & Boyd. 7s. 6d.
- Modern Trends in Gynaecology. Edited R. J. Kellar. Butterworth. 64s.
- Primer of Histopathological Technique. Geoffrey G. Brown. Butterworth. 52s.

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BOOKS

Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Davidson and Passmore. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh.

This new fourth edition is presented in much the same way as the old edition but has the added benefits of the advances made in the knowledge of nutrition and dietetics during the past three years. The amount of detailed knowledge so presented is vast. The lucid manner in which this book relates biochemistry, disease, and therapy produces not only an outstanding text book for nutritionists and dietitians but also a useful reference book for readers from a wide variety of fields. Parts one, two and three — 'Physiology', 'Food' and 'Primary Nutritional Diseases' — contain invaluable reading for the student of preclinical, physiological sciences. Parts four, five and six provide useful references for those engaged in clinical study and practice. It is beautifully written. It has a liberal distribution of apt quotations and of sparkling wit which make it all the more readable.

P.A.

Simpson and Syme of Edinburgh. John A. Shepherd. Livingstone. 50s.

This year will see the centenary of the deaths of both James Young Simpson and James Syme, two of the most famous and influential figures of the last century; at a time when Edinburgh medical school was at its zenith.

This was an amazing period to read about. Slander and libel between eminent people flourished as an almost daily occurrence, and Syme was famous for his litigations with col-

leagues. 'Simpson and Syme of Edinburgh' is a most entertaining book about a quarrelsome pair and the life in the city at that time. A continuous somewhat one-sided comparison is drawn between the two men, being intermingled with university and college anecdotes. Lord Lister's early career is briefly outlined; so too is the development of anaesthesia, a topic about which many journals have recently concerned themselves.

It is sad that Mr. Shepherd did not avail himself of the hand-written dissertations of both Simpson (*On the Diseases of the Placenta*, 1835) and Syme (*On Caries of the Bones*, 1821). They were written when both men were members of the Royal Medical Society, and the Society possesses them still.

In spite of this omission this book can be recommended without question as excellent bed-time reading.

R.deS.

Notes for the Guidance of Parents of Diabetic Children. J. W. Farquhar.

Dr. Farquhar has written a splendid little book which every student ought to read for his own education and guidance. He knows from experience the problems encountered and questions asked, and forstalls them with his advice. It is very simple and comprehensive and totally readable.

Any potential paediatrician or G.P. who thinks he knows about diabetes and its management should read this book and be amazed by what he has learnt thereby.

P.G.T.

Early Difficulties with Young Families. Charlotte Himsworth. H. K. Lewis. 45s.

If you are a doctor, a health visitor or a parent, this book might not prove as dreary or as redolent of the back pages of a woman's magazine as it sounds. Written with humour and tolerance, it dissects the family situation very clearly, and shows how disturbing for children, minor parental conflicts can be. Dr. Himsworth's theme is that if small problems are recognised and treated early on then later gross behavioural abnormalities may be minimised. That an intelligent awareness of the parent's personality, of the family situation, and of the medical and social problems involved is the recipe for prophylactic psychiatry.

If you are not interested from a medical viewpoint, as a potential or actual parent you might find it a useful book.

H.B.F.

Modern Trends in Obstetrics. Edited R. J. Kellar. Butterworth. 64s.

Again edited by Robert Kellar, with solid contributions from Drs. Melville Kerr and Robertson, this is a much more vital and interesting book than its companion above. This is probably because obstetrics includes so many partially-explored fields, in which exciting work is being done and new knowledge collected.

All the present growing points are here: coagulation defects, Rhesus isoimmunisation, placental localisation by ultrasonics and isotope techniques.

Every contribution is worth reading; a rare virtue in a book of this nature.

L.C.S.

British Medical Bulletin. "Immunization Against Infectious Diseases". Volume 25, Number 2, May 1969. £2.

The issues of the British Medical Bulletin are always eagerly awaited by many medical and other research workers and some issues have an even wider appeal: the number under review should attract wide interest including that of medical undergraduates. We have come to expect that the Bulletin attracts contributions from distinguished experts in the subject under consideration and this volume is no exception.

Whilst not wishing to detract from the excellent contributions the reviewer feels compelled to remind readers, and particularly undergraduates, that artificial immunization is not the whole answer, nor indeed is it necessarily the long-term answer to the conquest of many communicable diseases; one need only recall the disappearance of plague and typhus from these islands long before immunization procedures were available to emphasise that other measures are also effective in protecting communities against infections. Similarly pasteurization of milk supplies effected a reduction in non-pulmonary tuberculosis incidence before the introduction of BCG vaccine.

Having said this we must again congratulate the contributors in presenting such a wealth of information concerning numerous vaccines in less than 100 pages; all of the papers are worth close study but those of Dr. Dudgeon on Measles and Rubella vaccines and Dr. Tyrrell's paper on vaccination against respiratory viruses were especially welcome to the reviewer.

One can confidently predict that this volume will enjoy wide popularity at a nat-

ional and international level and although its price may seem high to the medical undergraduate he would be well advised to dig into its contents regardless of how he comes by the volume.

R.R.G.

Attachment of the Young. F. V. Smith. Oliver & Boyd. 7s. 6d.

Placental though the title sounds, the author concerns himself with the mechanism and the significance of the imprinting phenomenon—why a duckling follows its mother. In effect he merely provides a review of work already done in this field. It is useful therefore for those wishing a broad grasp of the business of imprinting, for those looking for a source of references, and for those who just want to know what the word means.

M.P.C.

Modern Trends in Gynaecology. Edited R. J. Kellar. Butterworth. 64s.

This is one of the two volumes in this series edited by Professor Kellar, both now in their 4th. edition; Edinburgh is implicated in its authorage, as well as its editorship. The studies done here on ovarian tumours are focussed in print, together with an excellent account of shock, also from Edinburgh. This is not an article one expects to see in a discussion of

latest developments in gynaecology, but it proves a concise and valuable account — if not revolutionary.

The promotion or the control of fertility still remains the subject of much discussion, and figures prominently in the topics included. The chapter on psychosomatic disorders must have been included merely as a gesture, for it is sketchy and unconvincing.

A good book for those whose vocation lies in the pelvis.

P.F.R.

Primer of Histopathological Technique. Geoffrey G. Brown. Butterworth. 52s.

Medical students spend most of their course in practical pathology making wild guesses over hot microscopes; the most consistently misdiagnosed feature of their slides being artefacts. The techniques used in preparing histological specimens remain the haziest of concepts in their minds.

This book explains all the mystique in a simple penetrable way. Mainly for the technician, it would however benefit any student who cares to read it, though he may not wish to go to the rather expensive extreme of buying it.

It has a regrettable lack of photographs, otherwise it is a simple and good book, guaranteed to help make histological interpretation less of a black art and more of a rational process.

M.F.O.