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Books

Abstract

- Urology and Renal Medicine. £1.25. Livingstone. J. E. Newsam and J. J. B. Petrie.
- Medical and Veterinary Protozoology – An Illustrated Guide. £6. Churchill Livingstone. K. M. G. Adam, T. Paul, V. Zaman.
- The Principles and Practice of Medicine. 10th Edition. £3. Livingstone. Davidson and Macleod.
- Hormone Assays and their Clinical Application. 3rd Edition. £5. Livingstone. John A. Loraine and E. Trevor Bell.
- Cardiology. £1.75. Concise Medical Textbooks: Balliere. D. G. Julian.
- Gynaecology. £5.75. Churchill Livingstone. Novak, Jones and Jones.
- The Voice and Voice Therapy. £4. Prentice Hall International. Daniel Boone.

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Urology and Renal Medicine. £1.25. Livingstone.
J. E. Newsam and J. J. B. Petrie.

This unpretentious little book provides a concise, lucid resume of the medical and surgical aspects of urology. It allows no sharp demarcation between the two aspects of the subject — instead it presents integrated accounts of different topics, with renal physiology well-blended in and devoid of its usual mystifying aura of High Science.

It is the ideal book for the student in Final Phase who wishes to clarify and add to his existing knowledge, but would undoubtedly be useful both before and after this period of tranquillity.

Altogether it is to be highly recommended to all those interested in urology and renal medicine. S.M.R.

Medical and Veterinary Protozoology — An Illustrated Guide. £6. Churchill Livingstone.
K. M. G. Adam, T. Paul, V. Zaman.

This book was apparently designed to be used in conjunction with one of the various protozoological textbooks. With this in mind comments can only be favourable. It has a pleasing format, good colour reproduction and, of course, lots of pretty pictures.

It is however, difficult to imagine that it will appeal sufficiently to many people to entice them to purchase a copy as it obviously has a very limited appeal. A medical student at Edinburgh could well find it worthy of reference in his "Tropical Disease Week" when its many illustrations of plasmodia may well help to impinge the life-cycle of the malaria parasites on to his memory.

Apart from this, I can see very little opportunity for its use — perhaps it would be better appreciated by our veterinary colleagues.

C.L.

The Principles and Practice of Medicine. 10th Edition. £3. Livingstone. Davidson and Macleod.

If an Edinburgh medical student were cast away of a desert island, "Davidson" would most likely be the book he'd take with him — to

keep in touch and to remind him of home. There can be few clinical students who do not possess a copy — it is the booksellers' hardest perennial.

In this new edition the mixture is very much as before, but the pages are larger, the print clearer and (alas!) the paper more flimsy. There are two very welcome new chapters at the beginning of the book, one on Genetics, the other on Immunology; both of these are excellent and concise outlines of present thinking, with the usual useful lists of references at the ends.

The section on psychological medicine has no doubt failed to expand sufficiently to satisfy those with strong leanings in that direction, and this I think is all that can reasonably be expected from a conveniently-sized general medical textbook.

Sir Stanley Davidson declares in his editorial to this edition that owing to failing sight this will be the last for which he will be responsible — it is a pity he could not now persuade someone to do the service to surgical teaching that he did to medical teaching through his "Principles and Practice". A.N.F.

Hormone Assays and their Clinical Application. 3rd Edition. £5. Livingstone. John A. Loraine and E. Trevor Bell.

The Clinical Endocrinology Research Unit in Edinburgh may to some of the uninitiated be merely the place to which specimens are sent when some rather abstruse hormone level requires measurement. However, by endocrinologists all over the world it is highly regarded as one of the most important centres for research on hormone assays.

This book gives a resume of the work that has been done there in recent years. Although it obviously is an account of a specialised branch of medicine and, as such, is not of universal appeal, it nevertheless is a welcome reference volume for anyone interested in the subject as it is both clear in layout and fascinating in content. For the dedicated endocrinologist it is indispensable!

N. de P.

Cardiology. £1.75. Concise Medical Textbooks: Balliere. D. G. Julian.

This extremely useful book gives as comprehensive an account of all the cardiac topics as any student (and most doctors) is likely to need to know. Of especial use to the undergraduate fighting his way through a sea of gimmick-polluted "scheduled learning" and "aids to memory" cards from drug companies about E.C.G.'s is the chapter on the electrical activity of the heart which provides the reasons for the shape of a normal E.C.G. and the reasons for pathological aberrations — incidentally it also clearly explains about axis-deviation, which was my own particular neurosis-producer.

There is also an interesting summary of radiology and the heart with silhouettes of radiological appearances in the presence of different disease, plus notes on cardiac catheterisation and its risks. All the standard subjects, such as coronary artery disease and rheumatic heart disease, are present, only in this book, unlike in some of the larger and more verbose texts on these subjects, they are clearly explained with the pages attractively laid out.

Towards the end of the book fly some of the canaries — the heart in glycogen-storage disease and pseudoxanthoma elasticum — but these are kept severely in control and are obviously designed to satisfy the majority rather than the avid fancier.

This is, indeed, a well-planned, attractive book which will undoubtedly be read by many.
P.A.T.

Gynaecology. £5.75. Churchill Livingstone. Novak, Jones and Jones.

There is usually something rather intimidating about American textbooks. They tend to be large, hopelessly over-detailed and, one feels, ostentatiously bursting with references.

This book is different. It has been written especially for the undergraduate, being an adapted and invigorated synopsis of Novak's "Textbook of Gynaecology". Nonetheless, it still retains a rather daunting amount of

material for the completely uninitiated: there are, for instance, about 2½ pages on the Stein Leventhal syndrome alone.

This book has, however, been carefully and clearly laid out with numerous photographs (not all as enticing as that on the cover unfortunately) both in black and white and in colour, with a fairly comprehensive index. Altogether, it promises to be a useful book for many medical students — although perhaps more suited to the staid souls of Final Phase than to those taking their first tremulous steps in the subject in Fifth Year.

A.R.M.

The Voice and Voice Therapy. £4. Prentice Hall International. Daniel Boone.

The exasperated parent who is unable to tolerate his offspring's screaming will find in this book a good rationalisation for his attempts to stem the noise. Apparently children who shout too much are liable to develop "vocal nodules" leading to hoarseness; hoarseness, moreover, which increases as the nodules enlarge.

This, and other fascinating information — such as the cause of "falsetto males" — can be found in this book by Daniel Boone. It was intended for use by speech therapists and other such specialised workers rather than medical students, but it is well worth browsing through, though perhaps not purchasing a copy.

It consists mainly of quick explanations of different speech disorders, then concentrates on detailed accounts of methods of overcoming them. The chapter at the end of the laryngectomy patient provides the uninitiated who are anxious to learn more with a glimpse into the lives both of laryngectomees and of speech therapists.

Alice said that good books ought to have pictures and conversations: this book has a few, though perhaps not enough, of the medical textbooks' equivalents — diagrams and case-histories.

K.F.