

REVIEW

THE MANAGEMENT OF HEAD INJURIES by Walpole Lewin, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Published by Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell, London, (60s).

This is a well-written book which succeeds in its limited aims, *i.e.* to provide a guide for the House Surgeon and Junior Surgical Officer in a general surgical Unit who are the first people to see patients with head injuries and have to cope with the initial treatment.

The emphasis is on clinical assessment, as it should be, with simple radiology as the main ancillary aid. The treatment described is that which can be carried out in any general Unit and no attempt is made to describe, perhaps inadequately, specialised neurosurgical techniques, both of investigation and of treatment.

The language employed is simple and the

subject matter is well set out, with many good illustrations. The print is large and there are very few errors, the bibliography appears to be adequate for the general reader, and the price reasonable.

It is, therefore, a bit disappointing that no mention is made of gastrostomy as a means of feeding in patients who are comatose for a long period, instead of transnasal intragastric intubation, with all its attendant complications. Again, Paraldehyde is given too much pride of place in the sedation of restless patients and in the control of fits, and parenteral Epanutin, the present drug of choice, is not even mentioned in the treatment of Status Epilepticus.

Despite these minor defects, this is a worthwhile book for the practising Surgical Trainee to acquire.

J. E. Choo



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