

REVIEWS

ANAESTHETICS RESUSCITATION AND INTENSIVE CARE

By W. Norris and D. Campbell

2nd Edition 1968, 271 Pages, 133 Illustrations. Price: 30s.

Excellent textbooks on Anaesthesia exist. They are however more suited for the specialist and trainee specialist. A need has long been felt for a book embodying principles of modern anaesthetic practice and recent advances suitable for students and doctors not engaged in this specialty.

Drs. Norris and Campbell have accomplished writing such a book and also undertaken the tremendous task of bringing the 2nd edition up-to-date. They have done this extremely well and in a very concise readable style without going into controversies and without making the book a synopsis.

Changes are noted in every chapter. The chapters are arranged in the very logical manner in which one would approach the subject and patients. They are however each complete in themselves and hence the reader can choose whichever order he prefers to read them.

The scope covered is very wide and the authors have managed very well to present important features without undue details. Certain deficiencies however can be observed and would be inevitable in a book of this nature. An example can be found in the description of the Adam's reducing valve, which states that its function is to reduce the pressure to 5 lb./sq. in. This figure of 5 lb./sq. in. is not true for all models of anaesthetic machines. In addition the reducing valve has the important functions of maintaining constant flow and pressure in spite of falling cylinder content and pressure.

A chapter on the important subject of Resuscitation would appear incomplete without consideration of the sequelae and after care of a successful resuscitation.

Notes of caution and good practical advice are evident in every chapter. However it is

disappointing to find that the authors have failed to point out certain obvious dangers. An example can be found in the description of Bier's block for the lower limb. The dose of lignocaine required is 500 mg., far in excess of the maximum safe dose. For this reason it is seldom done.

The title of the book reflects the interests of the authors who are well known for their work in respiratory intensive care, oxygen therapy and resuscitation. Throughout the book their experience and wisdom in these fields are evident. Much can be learnt regarding the organisation of Intensive Care Units, respiratory problems, oxygen therapy, management of patients on ventilators, cooperation between medical personnel and the total care of patients. These together with an excellent concise chapter on resuscitation will commend the book not only to students of Anaesthesia but all doctors and administrators.

It is a tribute to the publishers that besides a misplaced comma, no other typographical errors are detected. In Figure 55, Page 114—Pa CO₂ is printed wrongly on both occasions and in Figure 116, Page 231—the needle illustrated is neither a Mitchell's needle nor a plastic cannula. The quality of the printing, paper and binding is excellent.

In summary this is a book well worth its money. A cheaper paperback edition however is most welcome. There is a surprising wealth of up-to-date and sound information presented in a book this size. I strongly recommend it not only to students but all doctors and aspiring specialists in their early training period. The recommended reading list is invaluable to the trainee specialist.

Si Hoe Kok Chun

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

Edited by O. C. J. Lippold and F. R. Winton, J. & A. Churchill, London, 1968.

Over the past thirty years or so two very obvious changes have occurred in medical schools. One has been an increase in the number of students and the other an increase in the size of standard textbooks. As a consequence the student is being presented with more and more facts and theories as time goes on, but is getting less and less access to his teachers. In Singapore, as elsewhere, a further circumstance is a rigid adherence to traditional methods of examination with little latitude for the student to extend the time during which he is allowed to study particular topics. An inevitable consequence is an attempt to memorise dull words and formulae at the expense of thinking about and getting to understand the many intricate and fascinating characteristics of the living body.

An important contribution in helping to rectify this unfortunate situation would be the provision of a book, small enough and simple enough for all students to be able to read and re-read within the time at their disposal and which presented in a readable and interesting way the knowledge about the normal human body which medical students need. I think that this latest edition of 'Winton and Bayliss' comes nearer to this ideal than any other recent textbooks of Physiology.

The relative amount of space given to different topics varies in different books. The present volume devotes the first chapter to the cell and its membranes and does so in a mere nine pages. Other subjects of a basic nature are likewise discussed briefly but adequately for the preclinical

student. The nervous system in all its aspects occupies the greatest space and perhaps for students in tropical countries where gastrointestinal disorders and anaemias take a prominent place in clinical practice much more might have been discussed about the gastrointestinal tract and certainly of the haemopoetic system at the expense of some of the space given to muscle and nerve.

The central nervous system is discussed clearly and realistically and the author of this part of the book (P.A. Merton) makes some amusing and salutary statements. He points out, for example that in the brain there are "large masses of nerve cells for which factual information about function is negligible. He (the student) may be warned, however, that speculation on these matters, masquerading as fact, in anatomical and physiological texts, is an old if little recognised branch of science fiction."

The last section in the book is entitled "Reactions to Injuries" and provides a link between physiology and general pathology. This is particularly acceptable just now in Singapore where plans are being made to introduce general pathology into the second year of the preclinical course when physiology is still being taught. One chapter in this section discusses transplantation of organs.

There is a bibliography at the end of the book classified under main sections and which provides a useful guide for study by more adventurous students and for teachers of physiology.

G. R. Wadsworth

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LECTURE NOTES ON PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE

By T. Ferguson Rodger, and I. M. Ingram, G. C. Timbury, R. M. Mowbray
Third Edition, Published by E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London.
Pp. 106. Price: 8s. 6d. net.

This book written by three Psychiatrists and a Psychologist is probably the most compact, concise, and dogmatic account of Psychiatry ever written in the English language, and is one of the few medical texts which can be read through in one night. As its name implies, it is intended to be "Lectures Notes" (some of its contents are in notes form), and it is meant to be supplemented

by lectures and clinical discussions. There are twenty-two chapters which cover the whole field of basic clinical psychiatry leaving out all the controversial, theoretical and abstruse issues peculiar to Psychiatry. Some chapters (Addiction, Alcoholism, and Child Psychiatry) are rather brief and oversimplified, but they do serve to introduce the subject matter to the reader, who

could pursue further with the help of references at the end of most chapters. These references, together with the addition of a glossary of psychiatric terms, is an improvement over the second edition published in 1962, which also includes a one-and-a-half page chapter on E.E.G., omitted in the present third edition. The chapters on "The Psychiatric Interview," and "Physical Treatments in Psychiatry," are dealt with in sufficient detail to give adequate information for the guidance of the average medical practitioner dealing-

with them. The retention of the older definition of "Addiction" and some terms describing mental deficiency *viz.* "Idiots, Imbeciles, and Feebleminded" helps to reduce confusion for the beginner. The statistics (incidences), and the forensic aspects of psychiatry are not applicable to Singapore. This book is a recommended introduction and practical guide for the student and the busy practitioner interested in clinical psychiatry.

Tsoi Wing Foo

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LECTURE NOTES ON BACTERIOLOGY

By R. R. Gillies, M.D., D.P.H., M.C. Path.

Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford and Edinburgh. Pp. 177. Price: £1.

True to its title, this book is compiled from lecture notes meant for undergraduates. The notes are very well made with the key words in italics and each paragraph has a subtitle. There are 22 chapters which begin with a historical introduction and cover briefly the field of bacteriology from bacterial anatomy, physiology, immunology, serology to diagnostic bacteriology and end up with a chapter on sterilization techniques. Just the book for the medical student before going up to the examination.

There are the latest concepts, some of which are still not general knowledge yet. For example, the chapter on potential hazards of immunisation procedures states that the best time to vaccinate a child against smallpox is between one and four years of age because of the high incidence and fatality rates of generalized vaccinia and post-vaccinal encephalitis are in children who had their primary vaccination under one year of age.

The chapter on the collection, delivery and processing of specimens should be extended to the nursing staff. It gives an overall picture of how a specimen should be taken and delivered to the laboratory. A brief note on how the specimens are processed in the laboratory shows how important it is that specimens should be properly collected and despatched. This chapter should be read by all clinical personnel who are using the bacteriological laboratory services, if it is just to avoid the wasting of time, reagents and media on spoilt specimens.

There are twelve photograph plates showing bacterial cultures, smears and sugar-reactions. These would have been beautiful if they had been in colour. The printing is very good and there is only one printing error in the whole book.

Moses Yu

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LECTURE NOTES ON PHARMACOLOGY

By J. H. Burn

9th Edition, 1968, Blackwell Scientific Publications. 15s.

In the ever-expanding field of pharmacology, the trend is toward larger and bigger volumes. Thus one notices each later edition of pharmacological texts to increase steadily in size and content. This is perhaps unavoidable to a certain extent with important advances in the field and an ever-increasing number of new drugs being synthesised and made available to the physician. Against this background Professor Burn's "Lecture Notes on Pharmacology" has managed to keep track of advances and the addition of some

new topics without undue increase in book size. This is facilitated by the precise and simple presentation which makes reading easy and informative. The chapter on statistics is a good example of this and offers the reader a refreshing change to be able to approach the subject from a "non-statistician's" view point. However, like the other chapters in the book, it is not meant to be comprehensive and the reader after grasping the essentials would have to consult fuller accounts for more detailed information.

Pharmacology as taught to medical students should attempt to bridge the gap between the science of pharmacology and the art of therapeutics so that the knowledge learnt in pharmacology can be better applied to the problems of therapeutics. In the use of drugs in therapeutics,

few drugs, if any at all, are free from side or toxic effects and it is especially desirable to emphasise this point. This aspect of pharmacology should perhaps be given more stress by the author.

Yeoh Teow Seng

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THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

Edited by Sir Stanley Davidson

9th Edition, Livingstone, 1968. Pp. 1341.

Before 1950 text books of Medicine for the undergraduate contained so many facts of all the known diseases however rare that it was a struggle for the young medical student to master the basics. In 1952 with the first edition of the Principles and Practice of Medicine the study of Internal Medicine has been made much easier. Here was a text devoted to those disorders most commonly encountered in practice and written with such clarity and completeness: the phenomenal demands reported by book sellers in the British Commonwealth and the United States of America, Africa and South America, the translations into other languages and the fact that nine editions and eight large reprints have appeared during the short period of 16 years speak for themselves.

The expansion of the section on psychological medicine is very timely especially with regard to the many drugs now available for the treatment of psychotic and psychoneurotic conditions. Perhaps the section on Tropical Medicine first

included in 1964 could be expanded a little by the inclusion of newer disorders which are occurring in epidemic proportions in various parts of the world like the dengue haemorrhagic fever of South East Asia.

Although much effort has had to be made to keep down the size of the book we feel that the inclusion of a short section on neonatal pediatrics and dermatology with the same style, composition and presentation as the rest of the book would make it invaluable.

This book is very strongly recommended to all medical students as their first basic text-book of medicine which, if properly mastered, will stand them in good stead for all future study. For the busy practitioner, this book which is so easily readable should be very useful for a quick review to bring him up to date with the latest in medicine.

E. Hanam

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LECTURE NOTES ON GENERAL SURGERY

By Harold Ellis and Roy Yorke Calne

Blackwell Scientific Publications. Price: 42s.

This collection of lecture notes written by Harold Ellis and Roy Calne have become so popular that a revised second edition has been published only three years after its first appearance in 1965. The book represents the final year teaching of these two professors of Surgery. The authors have indicated that these notes are not substitutes for standard text books of surgery. The book covers all aspects of general surgery including transplantation. The facts are analysed and classified for easy remembering and the notes are written in clear style for fast reading. The princi-

ples rather than details of treatment are outlined. The diagrams are simple and instructive but some of them are rather too large. In a book of this size it is unnecessary to devote nearly a whole page for a diagram of Sengstaken tube. There is generally a lack of emphasis on the more common conditions which are important for students taking their final examination. Except for these minor criticisms these notes provide a comprehensive form for revision for the final year medical student.

R. Nambiar

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MINOR SURGERY

By David Kyle

Butterworth & Co., London. Price: 75s.

This book is written by a general practitioner of thirty year's experience in a remote country town in Scotland. Dr. Kyle has been lucky to have had access to a well equipped cottage hospital and therefore has been able to perform such varying procedures as treating fractures of long bones, gynaecological operations, tracheostomies, suprapubic cystostomies and the like. Not all general practitioners have such excellent facilities and one wonders whether a general practitioner should not seek competent surgical advice in such difficult situations. The book is written in simple and clear style and describes the

surgical procedures, pre and post-operative care and instruments. However, long introductions and too many anatomical and pathophysiological details have reduced the usefulness of this book.

There are relatively few books on minor surgery and especially written by general practitioners for general practitioners. As such this book is a welcome addition. The busy general practitioner may however find this volume too elaborate and not sufficiently handy for his practical day to day needs.

R. Nambiar

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A MANUAL OF ENGLISH FOR THE OVERSEA'S DOCTOR

By Joy E. Parkinson

E. & S. Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1969. Price: 15s.

This is a little book aimed to acquaint foreign medical students and doctors with idioms, allusions and variations of intonation in the spoken English language, and the author is a lecturer of English for overseas students in an English College. However, the book contains information such as structure of National Health service, organisation of a hospital, medical qualifications and conferring bodies and medical abbreviations thus making it much more than a language guide. The association of Singapore with British medicine is still recent enough for such information to appear superfluous, and a local doctor or student would not find the information of great interest or value.

of interest is to be found under colloquial English and language of drug addiction. Unfortunately, spoken language is well known for flexibility and liability to change, and a collection like this is unlikely to be of value for long. Hence whilst it is interesting to see that an English patient may now have 12 ways to express defecation, and 23 ways to take his leave of the world, it is doubtful that a student will find many occasions when such knowledge will be put to use. The fact that such a book has been written is perhaps an indication that visitors to England in recent years have changed radically or that the English people are losing touch with the population from regions which were British possessions before.

The actual portion in this book that may be

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TROPICAL DISEASES

By Frederick J. Wright, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H.

and

James P. Baird, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., & F.R.C.P.

Third Edition, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh & London, 1968. Pp. 176.

This book is a supplement to the Principles and Practice of Medicine edited by Sir Stanley Davidson, which has proved to be a very popular textbook in many parts of the world. It is intended primarily for students and general practitioners living in the tropics. As the book does not

attempt to cover fully all aspects of tropical medicine, it is meant more as an introduction to the common tropical diseases. For further study, advanced text books on tropical medicine or helminthology e.g. Manson's Tropical Diseases, should be consulted.

Gwee Ah Leng

The tropical diseases described are more commonly seen in Africa than in this part of the world. Diseases such as amoebiasis, bacillary dysentery, malaria and enteric fevers, which are encountered here, are omitted as they are included in the main text book.

Despite the size and scope of the book, certain sections e.g. Tropical sprue, leprosy, poisonous bites and poisonous stings, are written with some depth. The section on Anaemia in the Tropics, written by Dr. E. J. Watson-Williams, an acknowledged authority in this field, is rather comprehensive.

Haemorrhagic fever which is assuming greater importance in this region is only briefly mentioned under Dengue Fever. It is hoped that it will deserve more detailed mention in the next edition. The reviewer feels that references should be included at the end of each chapter for those who would want to delve more deeply into a particular subject. On the whole, this book provides an easy and quick reference to the main tropical diseases and has so far been well received by students and doctors in the tropical countries.

N. B. Tham

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