

REVIEWS

ESSENTIALS OF NEUROLOGY

J. N. Walton, E.L.B.S. Edition

Pp. 435. Price: 15 shillings

This book has the object of helping "the undergraduate or postgraduate student to learn the principles of neurological diagnosis and treatment." The author with his profound experience is well qualified for such a task and his stress on history and differential diagnosis reflects his clinical approach. The pitfalls of sensory testing, and the problems of the "incurable" cases are well treated. Few minor points of error are worthy of note, for they have no place in a book of this nature—such as the allusion to the "entire reversibility" of dementia in myxoedema, and "commonness" of fatuous euphoria in neurosyphilis. Reference to complete recovery of facial nerve palsy in the

majority is not in keeping with present knowledge, and the statement that long term anti-coagulation may prevent catastrophic complete arterial occlusion is open to dispute. Also as an "essential" book on principles, the investigations extend too far when they include gamma scan, and the chapter on disorders of the mind is too sketchy to be seriously useful.

However, many gems of practical value can be found in the book representing the vast clinical experience of the author, and the first two chapters are especially readable. Produced in this cheap edition, this would appear to be a worthwhile buy for anyone who likes to have a quick and easy book at neurology.

Gwee Ah Leng

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LECTURES IN MEDICINE

C. W. H. Havard, Staples Press 1969

Second Edition. Pp. 400. Price: 70 shillings

This is a collection of topics ranging from clinical ones like "Inborn errors of metabolism, the use and abuse of corticosteroids, drug-induced diseases, shock" to others like "Medical aspects of transplantation, statistics in Medicine, computer-assisted medicine," the author himself being responsible for nine out of the fifteen lectures. As the preface said, most of the chapters are concerned with recent advances in the investigation or management of disease or current concepts of the nature of disease. Writing a book of this nature is a risky and thankless task, for recent advances are controversial and less known, and it is difficult to avoid excessive technicality which sounds like jargon to the uninitiated. Recent advances too very rapidly become dated in present day medicine, and a book of this nature whilst of immediate appeal especially to examination-

conscious candidates, very quickly becomes obsolete, and like year books, is left to gather dust on the shelves.

The author however has a pleasing style and manages to convey his message across simply, and yet authoritatively. Barring a few small points such as the life of a lymphocyte is put as 10 years, and shock stated categorically as a state of circulatory failure with a low cardiac output and high peripheral resistance, he has in fact contrived to arrange recent knowledge on selected topics in a very palatable form. The chapter on statistics appears too sketchy and elementary by comparison with the others, but the one on computer is lucid and well-considered. All in all, it is a boon to doctors wanting to be up-to-date, and a second edition published within two years is ample testimony of its popular appeal.

Gwee Ah Leng

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BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICINE

By F. S. Stewart

9th Edition. 1968. Bailliere Tindall & Cassell. Price: 55 shillings

This book succeeds 'Bigger's Handbook of Bacteriology' under a new title. The tremendous growth in microbiology and immunology in the five years since the last edition has necessitated a rewriting and expansion of the whole text. To all intents and purposes it is a new book but its primary objective of presenting the fundamental principles of medical microbiology and immunology remains the same.

Major changes have appeared in the sections on immunology, virology and chemotherapy. In particular, the basic biological mechanisms with respect to microbial genetics, the action of antimicrobial drugs, the replication of viruses, the composition and production of antibodies, and the nature and consequences of immune

and allergic reactions have all been brought up to date.

Designed to meet the requirements of students of medicine, this book fulfils its purpose adequately. The properties of bacteria, fungi and viruses pathogenic to man, and the epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of the diseases they produce are dealt with competently. As a textbook it will serve the medical student admirably and is strongly recommended. A paperback low priced edition is currently available.

The book is illustrated with instructive photographs and diagrams and it also provides a bibliography for further reading and a useful index.

Lee Liang Hin

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BOOKS RECEIVED

MEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE—1955-1966. A BIBLIOGRAPHY by O. C. Khoo, C.S. Muir, University of Singapore 1970.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH SOUTH-EAST ASIAN SEMINAR ON PARASITOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, SCHISTOSOMIASIS AND OTHER SNAIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASIS—Manila, February 1969. Editor Chamlong Harinasuta, Bangkok.

THE SOUTH-EAST ASIAN JOURNAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH. ADAMS AND MAEGRAITH: TROPICAL MEDICINE FOR NURSES—Maegraith & Gilles (Blackwell).

TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE SURGERY—Farquharson (Livingstone).

CONYBEARE'S TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE—Edited by Mann and Lessof 15th Edition (Livingstone).

OBESITY AND ITS MANAGEMENT—Craddock (Livingstone).

PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE A PHYSICIAN'S APPROACH—Richards (Livingstone).

TETANUS—Adams *et al* (Blackwell).

AIN SHAMS MEDICAL JOURNAL, Vol. 21, No. 2, 1970. (The official Journal of Ain Shams Chemical and Scientific Society, Ain Shams University, Cairo).

RECENT RESEARCH ON THE RETINA by Professor E. S. Perkins.