

REVIEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL RHEUMATOLOGY

By William Carson Dick

Edinburgh and London, Churchill Livingstone, 1972 U.K. £1.25

In the East rheumatology has not gained the same importance it has assumed in the West mainly because it is not a big problem in the local populations. Whether it is our genetic endowment or rice eating or even squatting that helps us is debatable.

Dr. Carson Dick has written a very good little book based on lectures given to undergraduates and medical practitioners. The format is pleasing and it is a readable book. A general introduction to each topic is followed by clinical features and

then treatment. Pathology and radiology comes next and the controversial "Aetiology" is taken last, as least is known about this. What I can't understand however is the value of brief mention of topics such as Achondroplasia, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Nail-Patella syndrome and Hereditary Multiple Exostosis in this handbook. They do not come under "clinical rheumatology". However it is a book well worth reading and possessing both by the student and practitioner. The price is modest.

V. K. Pillay

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TEXTBOOK OF HUMAN GENETICS

This textbook of Human Genetics is yet another one to enter the market, but this is not due to the fact that there are already too many, but because this book deals with the subject in a slightly different way. It is complete for the undergraduate, and serves as a most useful starting point for the postgraduate who had not been acquainted with the subject during his undergraduate days, as the teaching of human genetics systematically and meaningfully has only recently been implemented in some medical schools after the appearance of the recent W.H.O. recommendations. The illustrations in this book have been well selected to demonstrate relevant points, and the mathematical treatment (a bugbear to some medical

students) has been kept simple and at a minimum. The historical accounts add to the liveliness of the book, and the exercises are useful in testing understanding. The only criticism one has of this book for readers in this part of the world is that not enough stress is given to the more common genetic conditions met with in Asia. This criticism is not really valid as the book is written mainly for readers from the West, but the basic principles apply equally to all genetic problems wherever they may be found. The printing and the paper are excellent, and this book is thoroughly recommended.

Wong Hock Boon

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SECOND PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF CHILD NEUROLOGY

Edited by I. Lesny and M. Lebovsky. (Pp. 268). Universita Karlova, Praha, 1971

Paediatric neurology is fast emerging as a discipline in its own right and enthusiasm in this direction is shown in this book, which contains fifty-four papers delivered at the Second International Symposium held in June 1970. Although this volume has the merit that it has appeared soon after the meeting some of the disadvantages which so often marred the publication of international congresses are evident. The papers are unequal in length and quality (a few appeared only in the abstract form) and half of them carry no references.

The communications cover 3 main topics. Those on the first topic, Heredodegenerative Diseases, deal almost exclusively with entities associated with disturbances of lipid metabolism and include a clear presentation by Hagberg

(Sweden) on the general characteristics and laboratory diagnosis of neurolipidosis and a discussion by Refsum (Oslo) on the biochemical and dietary studies on Refsum's disease. The second section devoted to Non-motor signs and Some Developmental Aspects of Cerebral Palsy contains a number of interesting papers including a few on the assessment of risk factors in infancy. Epilepsy has the most number of communications; while they contribute no new knowledge they do reflect the current areas of major interest, viz. drug therapy and electrophysiological investigation. Those interested in neurology or paediatrics will enjoy browsing through this small volume despite a number of drawbacks.

S. C. Loong

BOOKS AND JOURNALS RECEIVED

PARENTERAL NUTRITION, 1972—By A. W. Wilkinson. Published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London.

COMMON PARASITES OF LABORATORY RODENTS AND LAGOMORPHS, 1972—By Dawn Owen. Published by Medical Research Council, Laboratory Animals Centre, Handbook 1—Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

CLINICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY, 1972 (2nd edition)—By F. Avery Jones, J. W. P. Gummer and J. E. Lennard-Jones. Published by The English Language Book Society and Blackwell Scientific Publications, London.
