

REVIEWS

GROSS PATHOLOGY (A Colour Atlas)

by R. C. Curran & E. L. Jones

Publisher: Harvey Miller HM + M Publishers, 1974. Price: £8.74

Packed into 147 pages of fine photographic paper are 762 beautifully produced colour photographs covering a wide range of gross pathology. This is the second colour atlas of pathology produced by Professor Curran who is the Professor of Pathology at the University of Birmingham. He is being assisted by his Senior Lecturer, Dr. Jones in this present work which is designed to serve as a companion to Professor Curran's earlier atlas "Colour Atlas of Histopathology".

This atlas is divided up into 14 chapters; each chapter covering one major system in the body. At the foot of each page a short text of the salient points of each illustrated pathological condition is given. Where necessary, to highlight a point, close-up photographs are given. The photographs and the concise text

make it easy for the student to grasp the essence of the pathological lesion, which of course must further be supplemented by reading a standard text. In this atlas most of the commoner pathological conditions are dealt with. Although this is mainly an anatomical pathology atlas the section on bone pathology could be supplemented with X-ray pictures of the commoner bone tumours.

This atlas is produced mainly with the medical undergraduate in mind and it serves this purpose well; but it should prove of value to postgraduate students in pathology. Having made these comments, it cannot still be over emphasised that the best way of studying gross pathology is in the practical classroom.

Mr. Chiang Shih Chuin

* * * *

PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS

by M. Merskey and W. L. Tonge

292 Pages-Second Edition 1974, £2.80

Bailliere Tindall

This small text book on Psychiatry is not patterned along the usual style of a standard psychiatric text book. It is written to cater for the needs of the general medical practitioner who did not have much training in Psychiatry in the course of his career. It has 19 chapters and the book is divided into four parts.

Part I orientates the reader to the psychological approach in medical practice and to general psychological problems. It ends up with a chapter on "Examining the Patient" in which useful suggestions are offered. Part II deals with the main types of psychiatric symptoms like anxiety, phobia, dizziness, depersonalization, compulsions, hypochondriasis, depression and pain in a straight forward fashion. In the same manner the common psychiatric syndromes like

Neuroses, Functional Psychoses (Endogenous Depression and Schizophrenia) and the Organic Psychoses are described. Some of the explanations of the causation of Neuroses and certain clinical descriptions of Schizophrenia may not be appropriate for most Singapore patients of similar conditions. The chapter on General Principles of Treatment is fairly comprehensive. The section of Psychotherapy is worth reading but it may be a little difficult for the average doctor to practise some of the methods e.g. "Behaviour Therapy". Part III deals with Psychosomatic Disorders, Child Psychiatry and seemingly non-medical problems like emotional and sexual disorders in marriage, old age, mental deficiency and personality disorders. The subject matter is not orientated to similar

problems in Singapore but is written in an easy style. Part IV deals with psychiatric emergencies like acutely disturbed patients, stuporous patients and compulsory admissions with reference to the law in England. It ends up with a Chapter on Suicide and Attempted Suicide based on statistics, experience and practice in United Kingdom. There is an appendix on

Drug Treatment which is comprehensive enough for all practical purposes.

On the whole it is a well-balanced book orientated mainly for the general medical practitioner practising in United Kingdom. It is somewhat verbose and therefore contains less factual information than a psychiatric text book of similar size.

Dr. Tsoi Wing Foo
