
This book will be useful to nurses, health visitors and other members of the ancillary services connected with the care of the elderly. It gives some basic facts on the physiological and pathological changes commonly found in the elderly with a note on the best way to cope with them.

The book is reasonably priced.

Elektrolyt-Kompendium. Herausgegeben von Dr. Werner Fleischer and Dr. Ernst Frohlich. Benno Schwabe & Co., Basel 1960. 388 p., sFr. 38.-.

The importance of electrolyte metabolism cannot be exaggerated. The latest “Kompendium” abstracts carefully and completely the available world literature on the subject. In addition to the well-known and therapeutically applied basic facts, the authors give a well balanced account of the interrelations between electrolyte metabolism and endocrine glands, in particular between electrolytes and the adrenal system. The final chapter of the book is devoted to the more important disturbances of water and electrolyte metabolism as they occur in surgical and paediatric practice.

A very extensive list of references up to 1959 makes the book particularly valuable. The production is faultless.

The book is in no way original, but sets out to show prevalent opinions on this very important subject. By its very nature it is not easy reading, but excellent for looking up special points. This raises the question; for whom is such a work intended? It is too extensive for the physician and certainly for the medical student. Workers in the field will be acquainted with its contents.

However, it deserves a place in a well run medical library.


This index consists of 17 sections divided into 4 volumes. The loose-leaf form is used with the object of keeping the contents up to date by the inclusion of additional material. The aim of the authors has been to collect together ideas and information on equipment which will help the disabled to lead more active lives. The National Fund is now concerned not only with poliomyelitis but with disabilities resulting from other diseases. The sections dealing with Eating and Drinking, Personal Toilet, Dressing and Walking will be of particular value to those concerned in the rehabilitation of elderly patients suffering from such conditions as hemiplegia and arthritis. The sections on Beds, Wheelchairs and Hoists will be of help in the nursing care of aged patients in hospital.

A copy of this work should be in every Occupational Therapy and Physical Medicine Department and there must be few Geriatric Units in which it will not find a valuable place. The authors are to be congratulated on compiling and classifying such a wide range of material and in taking great trouble in presenting such full and clear descriptions of individual items.