Book Reviews


This is the report of a Symposium jointly held by the Swiss Gastroenterological Society and the Swiss Angiological Society. It deals with three subjects, the Aortic Arch Syndrome, Circulatory Disturbances of the Intestine and Renal Circulation. Each of these subjects is of interest to the Physician who deals with arteriosclerotic patients. The subject of the circulation of the intestinal tract is particularly fascinating because it has been less intensely studied than the others. The main clinical features of arterial intestinal disturbances are described in great detail and it is stressed that minor segmental insufficiencies may present as malabsorption. There are excellent descriptions of the neurological aspect of the aortic arch syndrome and on renal arteriography. The book is beautifully produced.


The subject of this volume is becoming more and more important to physicians in all fields. The importance of electrolytes in cardiac physiology is now widely recognised and substitution has an established place in cardiac therapy. Not nearly as well understood is the role of electrolytes in the genesis of atheroma, hypertension and myocardial infarction. The present volume sets out the data of animal experimentation in this field in a clear and comprehensive fashion. Specially recommended is the introduction by J. J. Sampson on electrolytes and cardiovascular diseases which gives a historical review of this development and the article by J. K. Aikawa on the Role of Magnesium in Pathological Processes.

Entirely new fields are opened up by the paper by Lamarche and Royer on Aspartic Acid Salts in cardiovascular diseases. These appear to have an effect on the energy output, presumably within the framework of the tricarboxylic cycle where they form in combination with coA citric acid which in turn releases energy.

An extensive and extremely well documented article by Selye et al. on the Role of the Electrolytes in Experimental Cardiopathies without vascular involvement deserves special attention.

Although this book is entirely non-clinical, the amount of basic data deposited in it will be of the greatest value to the clinician in the coming decade. The book is well produced.

L. Halpern: Problems of Dynamic Neurology. An international volume. Published by The Department of Nervous Diseases of the Rothschild Hadassah University Hospital. This book is a valuable and interesting collection of essays on functional aspects of diseases of the central nervous system. It is a collection of papers given at a Symposium. One would single out the historical paper by Walter Riese on the History of Neurology, Denny-Brown’s contribution on the Physiological Basis of Perception and Speech, and M. Minkowski on
Aphasia in Polyglots. Professor Halpern contributes an interesting and very original paper on the effect of colour on various neurological lesions.

The book is highly specialised, but contains a considerable amount of information which is of value to clinicians who look after patients with organic brain disease.

Florence McKeown: Pathology of the Aged. Butterworth 1965. 361 p.; price: 77s. 6d.

The occasion for this book lies in an extensive autopsy study of 1,500 patients over 70 years old at the time of death, and while it is not claimed that the study represents the time incidence of the various diseases in the higher age-groups, it does give a broad indication of their prevalence, and this is the more valuable since it is combined with a review of the literature on this subject and comparisons are also given of the prevalence of disease in other age groups.

Much of the book is concerned with a description of the morbid anatomy found in the cases under review and this is very usefully amplified by short accounts of the histo-pathology and pathogenesis, especially in the chapters on the Arterial, Haemo-poietic, Skeletal and Nervous Systems.

In view of the fact that the book is built round the autopsy study it is, of course, incomplete as (even a short) textbook of pathology, but it is felt that its usefulness would have been enhanced if a short chapter had been added upon, e.g. the pathogenesis of malignancy, the effects of irradiation on tissues, and the mechanism of auto-immune reactions.

The book, however, should be a useful acquisition in any up-to-date Geriatric Library, its cost being probably prohibitive for individual ownership.


The Ophthalmic University Clinic at Basel had the splendid idea to organise a Symposium, on Gerontology and Geriatric Ophthalmology on the occasion of the centenary of the Basel Eye Hospital.

Outstanding amongst the lectures delivered on this occasion is one of Prof. Rintelen on the relationship between eye conditions and ageing. Prof. Gsell contributes an oration in which he correlates internal medicine with ophthalmic diseases in the elderly, stressing the preventive aspect in the years between middle age and advanced old age. This, of course, would imply earlier diagnosis, particularly in the ophthalmic field, with special accent on earlier cataract operation and the speedy diagnosis of glaucoma.

The other lectures deal with histology and pathology of the iris, the choroid, atrophic changes of the lacrymal glands, and changes in the lens and the vitreous. Finally, there is a discussion on the metabolism of the lens in relation to age.

The articles ought to be read in the original. The accumulated experience is of considerable use to the general Geriatrician who, by necessity, is often an amateur in this field and will have to rely increasingly on the help of his Ophthalmologist colleagues.


This monumental work arose out of the collaboration of a vascular surgeon, Prof. Heberer and his team, with an angiologist, Prof.Äw, and a radiologist, Vtö.Löhr. It is the first work of its kind in the German language and will certainly have a lasting influence on the practice of vascular surgery as it affects the aorta and the larger vessels.
The book is painstakingly composed in the great tradition, with introductory chapters on anatomy, physiology, pathological anatomy and pathological function. Radiological methods of examination and technique are discussed in great detail and with full regard to special application to various parts of the vascular system.

Book Reviews – Buchbesprechungen – Livres Nouveaux 63

This is followed by a chapter on anticoagulants and thrombolytic treatment by R. Gross. This is a most competent and critical survey of a very difficult subject, admirably balanced and informed. H.G.Borst writes the chapter on extracorporeal circulation in relation to the main subject; this too is in its workmanlike, practical approach, most useful. There follows a chapter on special instrumentation, including a discussion on needles and suture materials. Finally the question of reconstructive measures is discussed, including the problem of substitutes for arteries of various types and structures.

The special section is of great interest to the angiologist and the internist in general. The Clinical symptoms and signs of arterial embolism are described in different arterial systems including pulmonary embolism. Chronic occlusive arterial disease is dealt with at great length in topographical order, always including conservative and surgical treatment. A special chapter is devoted to pathological kinking of the branches of the aortic arch and the arteries of the neck. The various compression syndromes of the upper extremity are very thoroughly discussed. Arterial trauma has a special chapter. This is followed by an account of arterio-venous fistula, both traumatic and congenital, and a chapter on hepatoporal and splenoporal arterio-venous fistula. A very full discussion of aneurysms follows. Congenital abnormalities take up most of the remaining two hundred pages. Each chapter is concluded by the surgical author’s opinion on surgical treatment and his operative results. The literature is extensively and thoroughly quoted after each chapter.

The book is extremely well written. The style is clear, never hurried and the occasional difficult German technical term is explained. The authors are to be congratulated on having produced such an authoritative book, which makes fascinating reading for the physician who is interested and involved in the care of patients with vascular disease and who wishes to inform himself of the scope of the help which the Surgeon can now offer him. The book is very well produced. In addition to the references to the literature there is a very adequate index. Although the price in sterling seems high, the production of this book is of exceptionally good standard and certainly value for money in any specialised library.


This book is intended for Physiatrists. Physiatrists, according to Dr. Kamenetz, are specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation, and are represented by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: on this side of the Atlantic physical medicine is the usual synonym. It is apparent that North Americans and Englishmen do not speak the same language! Some of the words used in this book are entirely unknown here. Who knows that “Charleyhorse” means post-exertional myalgia, frequently of the tricepsurae, and the “CC” stands for chief complaint! Very few of us will know the difference between a wheelchair and a “glideabout” chair. In spite of these minor semantic differences the book contains a good deal of useful information including the explanation of eponymous terms. Still I do not know whether I shall put a Priessnitz compress on my forehead when I have finished reading this book or a cold wet pack! Douglas Collins: Pathology of Bone. Butterworths, London 1966. XII+254 p.; price: 72s 6d.
The late Douglas Collins was one of the foremost British authorities on pathology of diseases of the bone, and one is grateful to Dr. O. G. Dodge for preparing the present volume for publication after the untimely death of its author.

The book is divided into 12 chapters, each of which should be compulsory reading for geriatricians. The subject matter is highly relevant to anyone who has to deal with bone disease in elderly people and a clear understanding of the structure and chemistry of bony tissue is absolutely essential for this. The introductory chapter provides a tremendous amount of valuable information. The text is clear and incisive. This book is easy to read, very well produced and can be highly recommended. The numerous photographs are instructive and to the point. A subject index is provided. Recent references are appended to each individual chapter.


ųpllinger’s book is a most interesting and full account of every aspect of renal disorder, in fact I don’t think the pathology of this “elegant organ” has ever been more succinctly and more interestingly described than in this volume. There are many chapters which are of immediate interest to the Geriatrician and in particular the chapter on vascular changes in the kidney should be studied by everyone who is interested in this fascinating subject. Deservedly pyelonephritis is very extensively dealt with.

The subject matter of this book lends itself to excursions into differential diagnoses and this makes it particularly useful for the clinician. This book is likely to become the standard work on renal pathology for many years to come and can be highly recommended to a nephrophile.

Erratum

An unfortunate mistake occurred in the article by J. C. Brocklehurst and J. B. Dillane entitled ‘Studies of the Female Bladder in Old Age. I. Cystometrogram in Non-Incontinent Women’ published in Vol. 8, No. 5 (1966) of Gerontologia Clinica. The explanation of the symbols in Fig. 8 on page 298 should read correctly: square (□) ‘previous incontinence’ and triangle (Δ) ‘Right hemiplegia’.