Book Reviews


This textbook aims to be a synthesis of our current knowledge about the normal and pathological esophagus. Basic data such as anatomy, histology, electron microscopy and physiology are thoroughly discussed. Diagnostic procedures which have been improved by the refinement of the traditional methods and also recently developed techniques such as electromyography, acid infusion test and pH as well as PD measurements are discussed in detail also with respect to their clinical correlations. The necessity of subdividing the text in chapters and sections sometimes entails artificial classifications, but nevertheless, the general outline of this voluminous source of information keeps its clearly arranged structure. It is the result of a teamwork achieved by a group of contributors who are known for their great personal experience in the field of esophagology. This excellent textbook will not only be a most valuable acquisition for the library of an ORL Department, but it is also recommended to ENT surgeons active in the field of endoscopy in general and esophagology in particular.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel


In collaboration with 32 co-authors, Rehn (from Bergmanskeil Hospital in Bochum) has presented in 28 chapters a review of preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic aspects as well as rehabilitation of traumatology in children. The textbook, mainly written for pediatric and surgical residents, supplies comprehensive illustrations. Written in a concise and didactic style its purpose obviously is to deal with all the facets of ‘traumatology’, be they of toxicologic or neurosurgical interests. Among the very numerous authors, indeed, the advice of an otolaryngologist could have been pertinent. One of the chapters entitled ENT and maxillofacial injuries’ has been written by a maxillofacial surgeon and a couple of plastic-reconstructive surgeons. In spite of a very interesting presentation quite a few post-traumatic problems and complications, as seen daily by the otolaryngologist, are simply missing. The chapters dealing with ingestion of corrosive substances or foreign bodies, though very common in children, are judged somewhat incomplete. Omissions of that extent are regrettable, considering, for example, that even for eye injuries only an ophthalmologist has been qualified enough to discuss the problem in an exhaustive way.

W. Wey, Basel


22 competent specialists in cancerology, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and various sub-specialties of cancer surgery have issued an extremely informing book covering the German-speaking part of Europe. The work undoubtedly takes its source from the famous ‘cancer
research circle’ of Heidelberg University. The aim is to standardize cancer treatment and thus elaborate step by step the procedures to be followed. In order to succeed in such a high-standing goal the problem had to be analyzed with great care and experience. The authors simply call these guidelines, though founded and versatile, an ‘attempt at standardization’. A first chapter, entitled ‘General Principles of Treatment’ (suggestions for surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, follow-ups, rehabilitation, statistics and so forth) precedes a large paragraph in which optimal possibilities for therapy of various organ cancers are described, according to their stages and histopathologic results. H. Feldmann deals with ENT-Tumors’ in an accurate way. Clear and concise tables help the quick reader to look over the ‘Indications for Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy’ and last but not least a very detailed index concludes the volume. This book will be welcome to any physician dealing with cancer and its problems. W. Wey, Basel


This manual of tumour surgery of the head and neck is entirely clinical and covers the most important surgical procedures within this specialty. The goal of brevity and conciseness, at which the author was aiming, has been reached. However, the sketches illustrating the surgical technique step by step, are rather small and not always too distinct – the text on the other side is very clear and discussions of the rationale of each procedure are kept to pertinent facts. In summary, brief concise information on the given subject.

C.R. Pfaltz, Basel


Sound Reception in Mammals is a collection of 17 invited papers prepared for a two-day symposium organized jointly by The Zoological Society of London and The British Society of Audiology held in London in March 1974. Considering the various special interests of members in both Societies, one important theme chosen by the editors was ‘The comparison of the techniques, aims and limitations of research interests in hearing which are either primarily clinical or primarily comparative (that is zoological-physiological) in approach’. Because of the enormous variety of hearing mechanisms and of the special problems of hearing in different species, the scope of the papers was restricted to the terrestrial mammals including man. Most sessions of this symposium include papers that ranged from scholarly reviews to new experimental investigations. In summary, the editors have compiled, organized and edited a worthwhile collection of review papers and other papers which fully reached the aims of the symposium. This book, which is illustrated with clear figures and provided with a helpful author index, a taxonomic index and a subject index, will be greatly appreciated by all those who are directly interested in audiology or engaged in the different disciplines having a contribution to make to audiology.

E. König, Basel

Book Reviews


It is astonishing that up till now there is such a considerable gap in our basic knowledge of laryngeal physiology; and it is somewhat of a disgrace for us otorhinolaryngologists that an anesthesiologist has now made a successful contribution to filling this gap. In this nicely laid-out
monograph, Fink, after a concise historical, evolutionary and anatomical introduction, discusses in some detail the facts and myths of human laryngeal physiology. It appears that, especially in this field, presumptive, hypothetical opinions have a very long life without, however, having been tested properly. The author is able to falsify a number of these long-lived assumptions, especially concerning laryngeal mobility patterns. His opinion is based on objectively reviewing the relevant data hitherto available (mainly provided by X-ray cinematography and myography) and on a number of own observations. Among others, respiration, effort closure, swallow closure and phonation are discussed. It appears, then, that while interpreting the above data the spring, recoil and folding mechanisms of the human larynx, as effected by its ligaments and cartilages, have hitherto grossly been neglected.

The refreshingly unbiased approach of a non-laryngologist leads to some interesting hypotheses: e.g. one explaining the function of the hitherto enigmatic air-sacs present in most primate species by their probable contribution to laryngeal closing action; another one rejects the classical view of the lateral and the posterior cricoaryteniod muscles causing the glottis to close, respectively to open; this would rather be a consequence of the cranially, respectively caudally movement of the larynx as a whole. Though Fink’s ideas, for the time being, may not have a considerable impact on prevailing clinical strategies, this well-illustrated, -indexed, and -referenced book can be recommended to anyone interested in laryngology. In addition, it is likely to stimulate further research in this – relatively little explored – field.

J. Wind, Amsterdam


The introduction of new diagnostic procedures in clinical medicine and the application of modern morphologic methods of investigation in general pathology (immunohistology, electronmicroscopy) has modified considerably former views on pathogenesis and clinical-pathological classification of organic diseases. The present textbook on the pathology of the ear is an attempt to convey to the otologist fundamental information on the pathological anatomy of the organic and functional disorders of the external, middle and inner ear. Both authors are primarily clinicians but they are at the same time also experts in the field of special pathology of the ear. 129 excellent illustrations accompany a concise, instructive text and pertinent scientific literature is amply cited. In conclusion, this excellent text book is not only just useful, but a very important source of basic information to both scientists and clinicians concerned with diseases and functional disorders of the ear.

Pfaltz, Basel


A short but very instructive review of the comparative anatomy and physiology of the vestibular system in vertebrates. The reader who is interested in this particular field of research (equilibrium and spatial orientation) will find basic information as well as a rather complete bibliography on this subject, including most of the important international publications (text in German). Pfaltz, Basel


The authors’ wide personal experience is fundamental to their Short Manual of ENT Surgery of which the first volume (Surgery of the Nose, Epipharynx, Pharynx, Larynx and Neck) appeared 1971. Main principles and techniques of basic surgical procedures for trauma, congenital malformations, inflammatory diseases as well as reconstructive surgery of the middle ear, facial nerve surgery, surgery for Ménière’s disease and tumour surgery are presented in this volume. Indications, contraindications and risks are described concisely for each group of operations along with brief outlines on surgical anatomy, thus giving the reader a general view of the field with its possibilities and limits. Clinical aspects of the pathology as well as description of procedures in anaesthesia and postoperative care constitute another valuable practical aspect of this volume.

M. Podvinec, Basel