BOOK REVIEW

Medical Embryology by Jan Langman, M.D.Ph.D., published by Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 1963, pp 335, 70s.

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The author states that his purpose in publishing this book was to present a concise account of human embryologic development which would incorporate recent advances in the field and correlate this knowledge with the clinical sciences. His book is intended primarily for medical students. The first part is devoted to general development and the second half to the embryologic development of each system. There is an interesting discussion on the etiologies of congenital malformations which includes some of the recent knowledge of the chromosomes and their abnormalities. Each of the chapters which concern the development of the various systems incorporates some information pertaining to the more important and frequently encountered congenital malformations.

The information presented is limited almost entirely to descriptive anatomy. There is practically no mention of theoretical aspects of embryology nor is any historical perspective presented. In the few places in the book where mention is made of etiologic factors of congenital malformations the statements are so general and brief as to be of almost no value to the student. A bibliography of varying length is appended to each chapter. This feature is often neglected in our textbooks for medical students in the basic sciences. However, most of the articles listed are 20 to 30 years old and pertain to aspects of embryology which are only casually mentioned in the text. The book lacks a glossary which would be of great help. However, a number of the definitions in the text are incorrect or so brief and vague that they are misleading. Though there are a number of line drawings throughout the book which are well conceived a number of the structures briefly described in the text are not accompanied by illustrations.

The book is very readable but compares in depth with publications by various drug houses. The discussions are too general and too brief. The book might be of value for a busy practising physician and surgeon or even the medical student as a summary and a review of the subject but I do not think that it would serve the purposes of a basic textbook for medical students or a good reference work for doctors.

RAY SELBY, M.D.

THE MICROSCOPICAL DIAGNOSIS OF HUMAN MALARIA (PART I) 2nd EDITION.

(Studies from the Institute for Medical Research, Federation of Malaya No. 30).
FIELD J. W., SANDOSHAM, A. A. and YAP LONG FONG (1963).
The Economy Printers Ltd., Kuala Lumpur. Price $12.

The second edition of what must be regarded as a standard reference book in this aspect of malarial work will be welcomed not only by malariologists but by those clinical pathologists and physicians who have an interest in this field of medicine.

Although the first edition was published shortly after the discovery of the exo-erythrocytic phase in human malaria and many new techniques have been evolved since then, for all practical purposes the positive diagnosis of the infection depends on the finding and identification of the parasites in blood films.

Dr. Field and Prof. Sandosham have admirably condensed their wide experience of this subject in the new volume and, in addition, have increased the scope to include Plasmodium ovale.

The clinical aspects have not been neglected and the descriptive chapters at the beginning of the book together with the clinical notes on appropriate colour plates will be appreciated.

Yap Long Fong, who was responsible for the illustrations in the first edition, has produced a new set of illustrations for this edition of his usual high standard. In addition the volume has been enhanced by the inclusion of a series of colour plates.

The authors are to be congratulated in producing a study in the best traditions of the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur.