

Reviews

HISTOPATHOLOGICAL DEFINITION OF BURKITT'S TUMOUR:

C. Berard and others.

**Offprint from the bulletin of the World Health
Organisation**

1969, 40, 601-607. Price 6 sh.

IN THE INTERESTS of accurate typing and diagnosis of cancers, the World Health Organization is sponsoring a series of International Classification of Tumours. The above memorandum is the most recent to be published in this series.

Since Burkitt's original description of this malignant tumour in African children, considerable confusion has arisen about its diagnosis because of semantic differences between pathologists and inaccurate interpretations of inexperienced investigators. In 1967, an international meeting was arranged by WHO in collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer to draw up a definition of Burkitt's tumour, and an attempt was made to include participants representing a wide range of the differing opinions throughout the world.

Of the 18 consultants who participated in the meeting, 16 were convinced that Burkitt's tumour is indeed a pathological entity. A detailed memorandum was prepared, covering its clinical aspects and gross pathology, histo- and cytopathology, histo- and cytochemistry, and ultrastructure. A description of tumours resembling Burkitt's tumour and the differential diagnosis was added.

The memorandum was drafted by C. Berard, G.T. O'Connor, L.B. Thomas and H. Torloni on behalf of the consultants and it has been illustrated with 26 carefully chosen photomicrographs, most of which are in colour. The specimens illustrated have been fixed and stained by a variety of techniques to show the characteristic appearances and cell types of Burkitt's tumour. Two electronmicrographs are included.

Since Burkitt's tumour appears to be the commonest malignant oral tumour in children in West Malaysia and the actual incidence seems to be much more than the number of recorded cases, this

memorandum, with its detailed description of the tumour and the excellent photographs, should prove to be a valuable diagnostic tool for pathologists and a convenient handbook for paediatricians. This lowly-priced memorandum should find a ready place in the book-shelves of pathologists and paediatricians.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL 1969

Edited by Sir Ronald Bodley Scott

K.C.V.D., M.A., F.R.C.P. and

R. Milnes Walker

C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. (Hon.)

John Wright & Sons Ltd. Bristol.

644 pp. 143 illus. 63 s.

THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH ISSUE of this book of treatment has maintained its usual high standard and reviews of the year's work and brings to the medical public up-to-date information on a wide variety of diseases. There are special articles on 'The concept of alcoholism,' 'Some problems in medical care,' 'Uses of extra-corporeal circulation' and 'Indigestion'.

'Tropical Diseases' by Sir Robert Drew deals with 'Metronidazole treatment of amoebiasis', 'Malaria', 'Echinococcosis (hydatidosis)' and 'Surgical management of hydatid disease in Iraq'.

The Practitioner's Index gives short descriptions of Ethical Proprietaries and Medical and Surgical Instruments and Appliances which have been introduced during the past year. This is followed by a list of English and American medical works and new editions published during the preceding twelve months. There is a comprehensive general index, the more important articles being in heavy type.

Those who get the Medical Annual regularly need no recommendation but those who do not do so are strongly advised to get the 1969 volume; they will find it a sound investment.

VENEREAL DISEASES

by Ambrose King T.D., M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S.

and Claude Nicol T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Bailliere Tindall and Cassell, Lond. 1969.

Second Edn. 340 pp. 175 illus. 75 s. nett.

IN SPITE of the availability of potent therapeutic drugs, venereal diseases continue to present serious problems of incidence, diagnosis and treatment as well as the important social problem inherent in the control of the disease. This is no doubt due to habitual promiscuity being more widespread than

formerly, especially among the younger people who lack the discipline and the care and affection of a satisfactory home life.

The book gives a comprehensive, well-written and up-to-date account of the epidemiology, pathology, diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases which the medical student, general practitioner and venereologist will find profitable reading.

The authors include trichomoniasis, nongonococcal wrehthritis and Reiter's disease in this volume on the grounds that these conditions are related to sexual intercourse. The inclusion of other lesions of the genitalia should be of help in differential diagnosis. There is a chapter on the public health control of venereal disease and an appendix on routine investigation of new patients. The book is well illustrated, including 4 colour plates and 7 monochrome plates. References are included for each chapter which will give guidance for further reading. There is an adequate index.

GERIATRICS AND THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER TEAM

By M.K. Thompson

Bailliere, Tindall and Cassell, Lond. 1969.

128 pp. 4 plates. 20 s.

THE NEED for the general practitioner to be conversant with geriatric problems is becoming more obvious to-day with an ever-increasing number of people living on with age. This little book aims to awaken the interest of the reader and make him aware of the importance of subjects which he might previously have thought irrelevant.

The book had its origin in a series of tapes on geriatric care in the work of the family doctor prepared by Dr. Thompson for the Medical Recording Service of the Royal College of General Practitioners. It is a readable survey of some practical aspects, such as diagnosis and care of a subject of great importance to the practitioner. Dr. Trevor Howell has contributed a chapter for the consultants' point of view.

ELEMENTARY STATISTICS, A WORKBOOK

By K. Hope M.A., Ph.D.

Pergamon Press, Oxford. 1967.

101 pp. 25 s. net.

OUR VIEWS on this book stem from the remarks made in the Foreword that it is designed for people "who have to overcome a severe emotional block"

and that "learning to use statistics means learning to walk both ways" across the bridge between empirical science and mathematics.

The workbook does achieve its primary aim of overcoming the "emotional block" but it leaves a state of askance in the mind of the reader who is wholly unacquainted with the "numerosity" of the subject of numbers. In any case, the book can be profitably used by uninitiated students of mathematics with adequate guidance from a teacher.

However, the amount of space devoted to "Factor Analysis" exaggerates the importance given to the book title "Elementary Statistics." Those without any knowledge of mathematics are expected to be conversant after reading "Matrices", which precedes the chapter on "Factor Analysis". Though a fair amount of detail is included in "Factor Analysis", equal importance should have been given to basic sampling techniques and other methods of experimentation procedures that are conveniently used by students of the social and biological sciences.

A favourable comment may be made here of the "Bibliography" which lists the books and articles which are "clearest and easiest" for non-mathematicians. The comments accompanying the references are not only handy to non-statistical students but also to learned members of the statistical profession who are called upon to solve problems in fields beyond their competence.

DISEASES THAT PLAGUE MODERN MAN

by Richard Gallagher

Oceana Publications, Inc. New York 1969

288 pp. US \$6.00

THIS IS an interestingly written history of ten communicable diseases that still afflict man; they are: cholera, influenza, leprosy, malaria, bilharziasis, onchocerciasis, plague, smallpox, syphilis and tuberculosis. It retraces from the earliest times to the present, the history covering the misconceptions, epidemics, and the economic and social significance of each disease. It is essentially addressed to the layman but is nevertheless accurate and informative and should appeal to health officers also. It contains a number of unusual early illustrations which enhance its interest to the reader.

It is pointed out that an area's health involves food, clean water, education, disease prevention, therapy and control. The prosperous countries can usually provide these for themselves but the nations most in need are least able to help themselves, but to

be effective, what is done in one country must be done in neighbouring areas as well. Our hope lies in international health effort and an account is given of the scope of the work carried out by WHO — our only hope.

**THE MEDICAL JOURNAL OF MALAYA (add)
"AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY"**

by J. H. Green
2nd Edition

Oxford University Press, London
pp. 170, Illustrations 211, 28s. net.

THERE IS a considerable gap existing between the Matriculation Biology and the first year Medical Physiology courses in this country. The situation is further accentuated by the scarcity of a suitable introductory book on human physiology. With the new edition of this book, a long felt need for a succinct, up-to-date account of basic physiologic knowledge within a brief compass may perhaps be filled. Written in a simple, concise manner and unobscured by controversy, this book provides the fundamental concepts of human physiology to which additional knowledge or interests may be added by consulting the more detailed and elaborate texts or original papers. Despite its simplicity, a reasonable level between main facts and fine detail has, nevertheless, been maintained. The idea of inserting simplified accounts of many new laboratory techniques to integrate the practical experiments with the theory is excellent and stimulating.

Two new chapters "Respiration and hydrogen ion concentration" and "The control of respiration" have been added in this edition. Updated information on phonocardiography, auto-immunity, DNA, hepatic insufficiency, renal failure, thyrocalcitonin, brown adipose tissue, EEG, synapse, nerve cell potentials and the function of the hypothalamus, has been included. though this book is too concise to be acceptable as a major textbook for medical students, nevertheless, as an introductory, it is highly recommended.

"BASIC CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY"

by J. H. Green

Oxford University Press, London
pp. 135 Illustrations 169 25s. net.

THIS BOOK is written by the same author of "An Introduction to Human Physiology" and bears many resemblances to its antecedent, both in its content

and in its style of writing, aided by profuse and comprehensive illustrations. As this book is meant for the student nurses in the study of human physiology, it is more simplified and the emphasis is basis upon the integration with the clinical medicine. For the requirements laid down in the statutory syllabus for general nursing in Malaysia, the material is more than adequate, while for those seeking more detail, it provides a sound and stimulating basis. With every confidence, this book can be certainly recommended.

T. T. Loh

BRITISH MEDICAL BULLETIN
Publ. by the British Council. Lond. 1969 £2.

NEW ASPECTS OF HUMAN GENETICS.

Vol. 25, No. 1, Jan. 1969.

Edited by C.E. Ford and H.Harris, 118 pp.

THE 16 PAPERS included are by 19 leading geneticists, who cover common malformations and common disorders as well as thalassaemia, haemocystinures and porphyria. They provide critical reviews of work accomplished and indicate fruitful lines of enquiry. The symposium was planned by a Committee headed by the late Professor W.M. Court-Brown and edited by Dr. C.E. Ford F.R.S. and Professor H. Harris F.R.S. Professor L.S. Penrose has written an illuminating introduction.

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Edited by D.G. Evans. 100 pp.

Vol. 25, No. 2, May 1969.

PROFESSOR D.G. EVANS F.R.S. was chairman of the Committee which planned this comprehensive symposium and assembled a group of 17 eminent British scientists to elucidate the problems of immunization. They have tried to evaluate the results of current research and point out the perplexities and problems of interpretation and pinpointed the lives along which future research may most profitably proceed. The Scientific Editor was Professor Evans who summarises the achievements in a challenging introduction.

MECHANISMS OF TOXICITY

Edited by W.N. Aldridge

94 pp. Vol 25 No.3 Sept. 1969.

DR. J.R. BARNES who writes the introduction has brought together 23 specialists to discuss the various

aspects of the mechanisms of toxicity in this symposium. This is a valuable contribution, especially at the present time, when there is much concern about toxic hazards in the human environment. Of particular

interest to the medical man are the discussions on the metabolism of toxic substances, diet and toxicity, toxic activities of microbes and actions of some toxic substances on the CNS.
