
Book Reviews

IMMUNOLOGY FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICINE

Humphrey, J.H. and R.G. White. 3rd Edition (Low — priced Edition) English Language Book Society Oxford and Edinburgh. Price (U.K.) 20 s.

AS A VETERAN of several readings of Humphrey and White's "Immunology for Students of Medicine" in its second edition, I feel pleased and privileged to review the long-awaited third edition.

Since the last edition, in 1964, remarkable new developments have widened and compounded the field of medical immunology. The roles of individual cells in the immune response, thymus function, tissue transplant immunology, and *in vitro* cellular immunity are but a few of the new expansions. Fresh data constantly challenge and force modification of older hypotheses. And each new explanation seems more complex than its predecessor.

Medical people and biologists in general must have some understanding of immunology to appreciate better such diverse topics as host-parasite relationships, growth and retardation of tumours, disease pathogenesis, and to some extent even evolution and ecology. Indeed, immunology is fundamental to biology and medicine.

In clear, readable language, the authors describe the immunological basics, non-specific immunity, specific immune responses, antibodies, cell-mediated immunity, immune tolerance, complement, antigens and antigen-antibody reactions. They then discuss in some detail physiological and pathological aspects of immunology: aberrations in immunoglobulin production, immune protective mechanisms, hypersensitivity, tissue transplants, tumour growth and regulation, auto-immunity, and vaccination and serotherapy.

Although the book is fairly encyclopaedic, the writing style remains tolerable. Individually important but collectively tedious literature citations are omitted in favour of a limited list of salient, usually comprehensive reference articles at chapter endings. Frequent tables, diagrams, and photographs help to clarify and reinforce the text.

The book does not presuppose prior knowledge of immunology on the student's part. Careful reading and study of the text (plus noting some of the references) could adequately teach a medical or biology student basic immunology. However, the

book is at a high level and would capably refresh and enlarge upon the knowledge of those who might have studied immunology in the past.

In view of the rapid and constant changes in immunology and the consequent need for frequent updating of textbooks, not to mention students' customary financial status, the new low-priced edition is particularly welcome. "Immunology for Students of Medicine" is a useful text. It should be read and reread, marked up and underlined, not handled reverently and soon shelved. The paperback edition is very suitable.

T.J. Dondero, Jr.

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS: PARTS I & II 1955 — 1965.

World Health Organisation, Geneva, 1970. Bilingual edition (English and French) pp. 1147. Price: £11.

AMONG ITS NUMEROUS functions, the World Health Organisation undertakes the systematic collection, presentation and dissemination of epidemiological information, and statistical studies on morbidity and mortality.

Malignant neoplasms rank high as a cause of death in many countries of the world and the detailed numerical information on this important health problem should satisfy the many research workers in this field.

An automatic information system on mortality since 1955 from malignant neoplasms by age, sex and site had been set up by W.H.O. using the International Classification of Diseases (1955). This data is presented in this publication to cover the period 1955 — 1965, thus permitting an observation of trends over a decade. A table showing the available data on population by sex and age has been added to allow computation of rates.

Unfortunately, this publication does not include Malaysia. Nevertheless, it should prove a valuable source of information for those engaged in meeting one of the greatest challenges to medical research today.

SEX AND MORALS

C.H. and Winifred M. Whiteley 1967
B.T. Batsford Ltd. Lond. pp. 135, 21s. net.

THIS IS ONE of a series of introductory volumes examining the philosophy and history behind man's most important social, political and moral ideas under the general editorship of Maurice Cranston.

The authors examine the principal types of sexual morality and their roots in the patriarchal, puritan or romantic attitudes of the past and the present to determine the type most suited to the modern society.

They suggest that human society needs a morality of sex, even in this permissive age, to supply the mechanism of family life. If human sexual behaviour were seasonal, if pregnancy lasted a few weeks only and the human infant were as quick to reach independence as a kitten does, there would be no more need for sex morality among us than there is among cats. The best place for sexual experience clearly is within a happy marriage, but it would be altogether too dogmatic to conclude that this is the only proper place for it. The modern publicity given to sex tends to create the belief not only that sexual experience is an important thing (which is obvious) but that for most people it is the supremely important thing, so that nobody can live a satisfactory life that is not centred on it.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA CONGRESS OF MEDICINE

Edited by K.K. Tan & Published by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. 1969. pp. 529 + xxvii

THE ORGANISERS of this fourth Congress deserve to be congratulated on getting more than 150 people to contribute about 100 papers covering a wide range of subjects of interest to the medical profession.

They set a high standard and it is not surprising that the participants at the Congress came not only from Malaysia and Singapore but also from Australia, Canada, Hongkong, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

The attractively printed volume will be a valuable addition to the book shelves of all libraries and medical workers interested in medicine (in its widest term) of this part of the world.

CONTROL OF HUMAN FERTILITY

Edited by G.I.M. Swyer, *British Med. Bull.* Vol. 26 No. 1 1970. The British Council, 97 & 99 Park St. London. Price: £2

FERTILITY CONTROL is a subject of growing importance in view of the greatly increased survival rate of man, leading to population growth beyond our ability to maintain satisfactory standards of living. Fertility control is also essential for the limitation and spacing of births in the best interests of the family.

As pointed out in this introduction by Sir Alan Parkes, one of the world's leading authorities on the subject, fertility control is necessary for both the national welfare and individual happiness. Because of its great importance and the rapid expansion and development of its technology, this authoritative review by 19 distinguished British workers is most timely and welcome. It should have a wide appeal, not only to family planners and gynaecologists, but also to physiologists, pharmacologists and endocrinologists.

RECENT RESEARCH ON THE RETINA

Edited by E.S. Perkins. *British Med. Bull.* Vol. 26 No. 2 1970
The British Council, 97 & 99 Park St. London. £2

THE GREAT TECHNOLOGICAL advances of modern times have made possible a fuller and deeper appreciation of the intricacies of the structure, function and pathology of the retina. The British Medical Bulletin has done a great service to the profession by bringing a number of distinguished British authorities in their respective fields to review the recent advances in our knowledge of the structure and function of the retina and the grave visual disorders resulting from its impairment in disease.

This publication would be welcomed by all ophthalmologists, neurophysiologists and pathologists.

"TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE SURGERY"

Eric L. Farquharson — 4th Edition 1969
E & S. Livingstone Edin. pp. 972, 1,049 illns. £7/-

MANY BOOKS ON Operative Surgery have appeared in recent times, but "Textbook of Operative Sur-

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gery", by Eric L. Farquharson, has kept its place through the years as an acknowledged classic and reference volume in surgery.

The great advantage of the book is that unlike many others on the subject, the whole field of operative surgery has been covered by one author, an experienced general surgeon and an acknowledged teacher. Both general surgery and the specialities are treated alike to produce a balanced perspective of the whole field of operative surgery, ideal for the surgical trainee and eminently suitable for the postgraduate student.

The young surgeon in training will find invaluable help in this book, as it covers almost every aspect of operative surgery that he is likely to face; it tells him precisely how to deal with every situation he is likely to meet. For the students, the classical presentation of surgical anatomy, indications and contra-indications, pre- and post-operative management,

together with the profusely illustrated description of the actual operation itself, makes the book an invaluable companion in his preparation for higher surgical degrees.

The fourth edition of the book has been brought out by the English Literature Book Society, in a very much cheaper form while maintaining the excellent standard of text and illustrations, bringing this valuable surgical work well within the means of every medical student.

There is no doubt that Farquharson's Operative Surgery will find a prominent place in every medical library and will continue to be the popular work that it has been, not only with the students, but with registrars and aspiring young surgeons. The latest edition continues to maintain its world-wide reputation of being an outstanding work on operative surgery.

K.A. Menon

important books

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dilling's Clinical Pharmacology
S. ALSTEAD and T.J. THOMSON
22nd ed 772 pp ■ Trowell's Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases in the Tropics
H.C. TROWELL revised by J.R. BILLINGHURST
4th ed 320 pp 37 illus ■ Paterson's Sick Children: Diagnosis and Treatment
R. LIGHTWOOD, F. BRIMBLECOMBE and D. BARLTROP
9th ed approx 700 pp 140 illus ■ May and Worth's Manual of Diseases of the Eye
T. KEITH LYLE, A.G. CROSS and C.A.G. COOK
13th ed 808 pp 344 illus 24 col plates ■ Manson's Tropical Diseases
Sir PHILIP H. MANSON-BAHR
16th ed 1083pp 457 illus 29 plates
English Language Book Society edition ■ Clinical Psychiatry
W. MAYER-GROSS, ELIOT SLATER and MARTIN ROTH
3rd ed 904 pp 17 plates ■ Bacteriology and Immunology for Students of Medicines
F.S. STEWART
9th ed 610 pp 76 illus 3 col plates ■ English Language Book Society edition | <p>50s</p> <p>20s</p> <p>approx 95s</p> <p>75s</p> <p>130s</p> <p>40s</p> <p>140s</p> <p>60s</p> <p>20s</p> |
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