

Book Reviews

AN AID TO CLINICAL SURGERY

by Peter R.Scott: Churchill Livingstone, Edin. & Lond. 1971 Paper back edn. 1973. pp. 324. Figs. 60.

The author, a member of the surgical staff of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, is engaged in clinical teaching of undergraduates and post-graduate trainees preparing for the Australian Fellowship Examinations in surgery. Accordingly, his approach has been to provide a concise aid to the study of clinical surgery with deliberate restriction of the subject matter to common conditions. Much of the subject matter is considered in relation to commonly encountered symptoms, such as upper abdominal pain, rectal haemorrhage, or nipple discharge making the volume most useful as a clinical guide.

It is recommended as a reliable student handbook for use in conjunction with the fuller standard texts on clinical surgery.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY APPLIED TO NURSING

by Janet T.E.Riddle. Churchill Livingstone, 4th Edn. 1974 pp. 149.

This is an attempt to give the student nurse a simple overall picture of the human body and physiology made interesting by stressing the practical application of the knowledge to nursing in the wards. It is based on lectures given to the nurses at Killearn Hospital but other students as well as their teachers will find this well written and excellently illustrated little book very useful.

FAMILY PLANNING HANDBOOK FOR DOCTORS
published by International Planned Parenthood Federation. 4th Edn. 1974 pp. 173, USA \$ 3.75 or £ 1.50

This book is available free of charge to doctors and is a handy little book to have in the library. This is the fourth edition and the title is new. It used to be called the IPPF Medical Handbook. In the last 12 years the book has grown considerably in size. It covers a very wide range of Family Planning topics. In fact it is virtually an encyclopaedia in Family Planning work. However, it is strictly a handbook in the sense that it is more for quick reference than for academic studies. In addition the book also has chapters on sub-fertility, Sexually transmitted diseases, cervical and vaginal cytology, the equipping and running of Family Planning clinics.

As is expected, Induced Abortion takes a prominent place in this Handbook. Induced Abortion whether legal or otherwise, whether termed termination of pregnancy or menstrual regulation is now an important procedure for doctors in the world over. This is very evident from the papers presented in the recent 6th Asian Congress of Obstetrics & Gynaecology held in Kuala Lumpur. At the exhibition in this Congress, the one stall which sold Karmen suction curettes had roaring business and in fact the curettes were sold out before the Congress was over.

The book is very readable and very complete in the sense that it does not ignore commonly practiced methods of Family Planning like Coitus interruptus, the Condoms, the Caps and Spermicides. However, this book fails in many instances to give an idea of the safety of each method with regards to protection from pregnancy. For instance it discusses the rhythm method in great detail and mentions that

varying results have been reported. It fails to mention that the rhythm method can be a 100% safe in animals caged in separate cages separately; but where the human emotions of two people are concerned it requires very strong will-power. My personal experience is that the rhythm method is fraught with failure unless the couple in question have very strong will-power. The chapter on systemic contraception brings forth a new idea. This is a community-based distribution of the oral contraceptive. Whilst the idea is very good and has worked in many places, it is susceptible to unscrupulous businessmen. Here in Malaysia we have already known of fake contraceptive pills being sold to the public. If this community-based system is introduced, there will be wide spread sale of fake pills. The only way to avoid this will be to make the pill so cheap that it is virtually impossible for anyone to imitate and yet make a profit.

Vasectomy is also discussed in fair detail as it should be. Unfortunately, it describes the two incision method which few of us now practice.

The one incision method is just as easily done. The other point is, it does not lay stress on any special treatment for the cut ends of the vas. This is a very important aspect of the operation. If the ends are not properly managed, re-canalisation of the vas will take place very easily.

All the information given in the book may be found in one's reading elsewhere. It is seldom that such a vast amount of information on one topic is found in a little handbook.

This book is worth reading for all ancillary medical staffs, medical students and general practitioners who are involved in Family Planning work.

The gynaecologists may perhaps find parts of the book somewhat boring.

K.B. KUAH.

UK £1.00 nett.

The use of cylinder gases for the administration has largely superceded all other forms of apparatus in almost all parts of the world. However, on occasions, even in Malaysia, the supply of gases has been interrupted by transportation problems or non-cooperation by the supplier's employees over wage disputes.

During such "gas-less" occasions, anaesthesiologists have invariably resorted either to the use of the Epstein-Macintosh-Oxford (EMO) apparatus to provide general anaesthesia or to the application of local block for analgesia.

In this well-written book, a whole chapter has been devoted to the detailed description of the EMO system, including its possible faults and suggested remedies. Further, in page 107, the reader is given help in setting up the apparatus with numerous accessories which are principally products of the Oxford School of Anaesthesia. Trainees in anaesthesiology would, in my opinion, be doing themselves a favour to read this account of the EMO system carefully.

As expected, the first half of the book features a precise presentation of circulatory and respiratory physiology, fluid balance, pharmacology of the commonly used anaesthetic drugs and the practical aspects of controlled ventilation of the lungs. Medical practitioners who give the occasional anaesthetic will find particularly helpful the later chapters of the book in which the author treats in sequential order the anaesthetic procedure ordinarily followed, that is, the pre-operative preparation and assessment, induction techniques, maintenance and end of anaesthesia. A liberal list of references and a useful index have also been included.

Altogether, this well-illustrated and informative book on the essentials of anaesthesia should be read by all practitioners who fear that they may be called upon to administer an anaesthetic in situations or occasions where the familiar piped gases or cylinder gases are unobtainable.

ANAESTHESIA AND THE E.M.O. SYSTEM

by John V. Farman. 1st Printing, The English Universities Press Ltd. 1973, pp. 184, illus. 89.

LIM SAY WAN

OBSTETRICS FOR THE FAMILY DOCTOR published by International Planned Parenthood Federation.

This Book is a very useful and concise one for the Family Doctor practising Obstetrics. The Author avoids theories and writes in details a guide to Antenatal Care and Management of Patients. A careful selection of cases for deliveries and close liaison with the Specialist in Hospitals is stressed. The various chapters of complications during pregnancy and labour are lucidly written and practical guide to management detailed. The author stressed that with systematic management and care to pregnant mother and the close harmony between the Family Doctor and Specialist will greatly reduce the Maternal and Perinatal mortality.

This Book is a must for the General Practitioners practising Obstetrics.

S.LOURDENADIN

PRACTICAL OPHTHALMOLOGIST by Arthur Lim Siew Ming and Khoo Chong Yew, published P.G. Medical Book Store, Singapore. Ref. 170 pg.

The first of the four volumes of Practical Ophthalmologist has just appeared. Both the authors are local ophthalmologist and are to be congratulated on its production as this is the first medical text to be published by local authors. This first volume is dedicated to Professor Ida Mann, who has been described as the "greatest ophthalmological woman in the World", by none other than Sir Steward Duke Elder, the Presidnet of the Institute Ophthalmologist, London.

The first volume discusses four subjects with sections on Cataract Surgery, Acute Primary Closed-Angle Glaucoma, Soft Contact Lenses and Acupunctural Anaesthesia. After giving brief introductions on these subjects the authors have been able to obtain the views of number of experienced ophthalmologist spread round the world to discuss these subjects in question and answer form. Very candid and precise opinions on many practical points and details in treatment are given by the ophthalmologists from their own experiences.

The book is very readable, well illustrated and should form a valuable addition to the library of an ophthalmologist.

KESHMAHINDER SINGH