

University School of Medicine at St. Louis holding positions equivalent to our senior registrars or junior lecturers. The result is an enthusiastic look at the growing points of medicine, a remarkable lack of verbosity, and a minimum of speculation. Indeed the way in which they stick to their brief—the evaluation of advances in the last two years or so—is a credit to their editor and to the single-mindedness of the group. On the other hand, it is probably inevitable that an approach based largely on other people's work tends at times to be inconclusive: this is exemplified, for example, by the chapter on pyelonephritis, in which one searches in vain for a practical solution to the problem.

Other chapters deal with eye conditions—a stroke of genius to start the book with a discussion of medical ophthalmology—cardiovascular and pulmonary disease, gastroenterology, liver disease, endocrinology, and haematology. Obviously there is considerable personal bias and not everyone will agree with the topics selected or with the emphasis given to each. The chapter on neurology, for instance, is made up of neuropathy (28 pages), epilepsy (18 pages), and ischaemic cerebrovascular disease (20 pages). By contrast the final chapter on rheumatic diseases seems too short. I was surprised to find no reference to calcium metabolism or disaccharide intolerance. Nevertheless it is just the book for the examination candidate and for his mentor, and it fits easily in the pocket. At first sight the price may seem a little steep, but it works out at just over twopence a page of innumerable facts and valuable references.

A. PATON.

Biology of Skin

Advances in Biology of Skin. Vol. 4. Aging. Edited by William Montagna. (Pp. 273 + xv; illustrated. £5.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1965.

This is another of the excellent series of volumes reporting papers presented at symposia on the biology of skin held at the University of Oregon Medical School. It suffers from the usual defects of such volumes in that there is a certain lack of cohesion between the papers presented by individual contributors, and there are some inevitable omissions; nevertheless it is packed with extremely useful information. It is somewhat heavily weighted on the morphological aspects of the ageing skin and appendages, but there is little information

concerning the ultrastructure of the skin. The morphological studies also cover the effects of age on the nerve endings, receptor organs, and melanocyte system. Physiological studies include those of the sebaceous activity, eccrine sweating, and percutaneous absorption. There are papers on changes in the biophysical properties of ageing skin and very useful contributions on the structure and metabolism of mucopolysaccharides and their relationships to the ageing and chronic sun damage of connective tissue.

The individual papers are well documented and include good reviews of the literature. The volume will be of great value to the dermatologist, basic biological scientist, and gerontologist.

C. N. D. CRUICKSHANK.

Notes for the Intern

Intern's Manual. (Cook County Hospital.) 3rd edition. By Arthur Bernstein, M.D. (Pp. 357 + ix. 27s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. London: Lloyd-Luke. 1965.

This small (18×11 cm.) but thick (2 cm.) stiff paper-back is a vast store of alphabetically arranged information for the intern, but is not altogether suitable for the pre-registration houseman in Britain. It is based on mimeographed directions to interns at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, and is written by the hospital's assistant medical superintendent.

While most of the advice given would be acceptable anywhere, some items call for criticism. The longest section (68 pages) is about fractures, but as it admits that "most fractures take two men to treat and handle" it seems doubtful whether the necessarily abbreviated advice is needed for the houseman who will call the orthopaedic registrar for all but the most trivial fractures and learn from him.

The notes on what to do for poisoning by a large number of substances gives the impression that there are special measures for each. This detracts from the basic principles of eliminating the poison and keeping the patient alive. It is felt that the space would be better used by giving more details about the three or four common poisons. The use of picrotoxin for barbiturate poisoning, albeit with caution, would be considered too drastic here, where gentler methods are practised. Tetanus vaccine is mentioned under burns, but for compound fractures only antitoxin is advised despite its possible harmful effects.

The section on cardiac resuscitation is excellent and makes the useful distinction between iatrogenic arrest in the operating room and that due to natural disease processes. It is refreshing to see that the promiscuous taking of films regardless of the patient's condition is condemned.

When using the book I have found it exasperating to search for and find a subject only to be started on another search for its page under another name. If the first reference gave the page of the second, the book would be easier to use. Some words, like vomiting and haematemesis, are not indexed though they are dealt with under other headings.

Despite these criticisms the book will give confidence to the intern in America, and many housemen here will feel that it is worth the money.

C. ALLAN BIRCH.

Conference on Diabetes

On the Nature and Treatment of Diabetes. Edited by B. S. Leibel and G. A. Wrenshall. (Pp. 804 + xix; illustrated. £9.) Amsterdam, New York, London, Milan, Tokyo, and Buenos Aires: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1965.

The rather high-flown title of this book covers the proceedings of the 5th Conference of the International Diabetes Federation held in Toronto in July 1964. There are 56 chapters, each an invited contribution to the congress and each followed by discussion. All aspects are included—electron microscopy, cell metabolism, biochemical interrelationships, synthesis of insulin, insulin assay, antagonists and action, as well as the more familiar clinical considerations which occupy about half of the volume. The papers are generally clear and comprehensive accounts which give a useful picture of the present state of knowledge in the field, but many, it must be admitted, contain little new and most are reviews of published work.

The editing is excellent. The quality of the production is also high, perhaps too high. There are now so many international conferences whose proceedings will have to be acquired for libraries and individuals that one wonders whether they should be produced in this style, at this price, and at this weight. The volume weighs over 4 lb. and costs 3s. 6d. to send by post. The price would apparently have been even higher but for a grant from a drug company.

D. A. PYKE.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Report of Study Tour of Hospitals in Israel. 1-13 November 1964. (Pp. 122; illustrated. £1. Members 15s.) London: International Hospital Federation. 1966.

Dermatology. A Functional Introduction. By A. Jarrett, M.B., D.Sc.(Lond.), M.C.Path., F.R.C.P.(Edin.), R. I. C. Spearman, B.Sc., Ph.D.(Lond.), M.I.Biol., and P. A. Riley, M.B., B.S., Ph.D.(Lond.). (Pp. 246 + x; illustrated. 30s. Paperback 20s.) London: English Universities Press. 1966.

The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child. Vol. 20. Edited by Ruth S. Eissler, M.D., Anna Freud, LL.D., D.Sc., Heinz Hartmann, M.D., and Marianne Kris, M.D. (Pp. 566. 84s.) London: Hogarth. 1966.

The Nameless. Abortion in Britain Today. By Paul Ferris. (Pp. 173. 21s.) London: Hutchinson. 1966.

The Dentist and His World. By Leslie J. Godden. (Pp. 128. 15s.) London: Gollancz. 1966.

Chemical Aspects of Polypeptide Chain Structures and the Cyclol Theory. By Dorothy Wrinch, M.A., D.Sc., D.Sc. (Pp. 195. \$9.50.) New York: Plenum. 1965.

Current Medical Research. Reprint of Articles in the Report of the Medical Research Council. October 1963-March 1965 (Cmnd. 2787). (Pp. 64 + iv; illustrated. 6s. 6d.) London: H.M.S.O. 1966.

New Directions in Human Genetics. Symposium, New York, 1965. Birth Defects Original Article Series. Edited by Daniel Bergsma, M.D. (Pp. 84; illustrated. Free on request.) New York: National Foundation-March of Dimes. 1965.

Rickettsii si Rickettsioze. By St. S. Nicolau and N. Constantinescu. (Pp. 801; illustrated. No price given.) Bucharest: Academiei Republicii Socialiste Romania. 1965.