

been included. This recurring lack of precision in the therapeutic advice offered could perplex and even confuse the physician seeking authoritative guidance in management.

Despite the claim that this second edition has been updated, it is disappointing to find the only reference to gastric aspiration and lavage in barbiturate poisoning is dated 1942. Exception could be taken to the recommendation on barbiturate poisoning that intravenous infusion of metaraminal (Aramine) 150 mg. in 250 ml. of saline "can be administered at a rate sufficient to maintain the mean arterial pressure between 80 and 85 mm. Hg in patients whose blood pressure is unresponsive to adequate hydration and plasma volume expansion." Farmer's lung and silo filler's disease, the latter due to inhalation of nitrogen dioxide, are in one section said to be synonymous; elsewhere the correct aetiology of farmer's lung is described.

From the aspect of ready availability of information on toxicity of thousands of substances in the home, industry, and agriculture this book is quite outstanding. It should be of immense value in this respect to practitioners, whether they have ready access to a poisons information service or not. For those seeking critical appraisal of various methods of treatment there will be less satisfaction.

HENRY MATTHEW.

## Operating on Children

**An Atlas of Children's Surgery.** Robert E. Gross, M.D. (Pp. 191; 161s. 6d.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

Dr. Robert Gross has used his immense clinical and technical experience at the Children's Hospital in Boston during the last 30 years as the basis for this book. He describes graphically the procedures he has developed in a standard form, using the same steps each time, to create a simplified routine that has become the hallmark of his own superb technique and contributed to the skill of his many pupils. It owes much also to his two clinical artists, the late Miss Etta Piotti, the clarity of whose draughtsmanship is already familiar to readers of *Pediatric Surgery* and his many clinical papers, and her successor, Mr. James Cirulis.

Some surgeons doubt the value of atlases of operative surgery, but in their more humble moments most of them must at times have had reason to seek help and knowledge from clear diagrammatic descrip-

tions of unfamiliar techniques as are shown here.

The illustrations are supplemented and complemented by short clear textual descriptions of the procedures. In fact this is much more than just an atlas—it is a book of operative surgery in the child. About a quarter of the text is concerned with operations on anomalies of the heart and great vessels and more than half with operations on the alimentary tract. There is an excellent bibliography and a good index.

It can be recommended to surgeons who find themselves faced with the necessity to operate on conditions in children with which they are not familiar, and also to all young surgeons in training.

A. W. WILKINSON.

## Remaking the Hand

**Operative Surgery: The Hand.** 2nd edn. Vol. II. Ed. R. Guy Pulvertaft, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 262; 155s.) Butterworths. 1970.

A glance at the list of contributors to this volume gives a foretaste of the quality of the contents. These are grouped under headings of congenital abnormalities; injury; reconstructive procedures; and general, which includes infections, rheumatoid arthritis, and specific operations such as removal of ganglia, excision of the trapezium, amputations, and others. The text is admirably clear throughout, so much so that some of the illustrations, good though they are, could have been omitted without serious disadvantage. In one case, however, the text and the accompanying illustration disagree about the minimum angle of Z-plasty.

The operations described are for the most part standard procedures, and they are accompanied by an introduction dealing with indications, contraindications, and preparation as well as by a brief account of postoperative care. There are in some cases accounts of alternative methods, but a number of useful procedures go unmentioned. Is there no place for nerve grafting; primary excision of burns; screwing of the scaphoid bone or grafting it with cancellous chips inserted through a palmar approach; suction drainage; compression in arthrodies of a fingertip, and decompression of the massive haematoma that sometimes follows crushing injuries without a breach of the skin? The use of a tourniquet is so important that it could justifiably be given a short section of its own rather than passing reference in a number of chapters. It is sad to see neurapraxia misspelt, and if the metric

system is to be used (apart from a one inch osteotome that seems to have escaped notice) it should not be as an exact equivalent of measurements such as a quarter of an inch (0.625 cm.). The way in which the contents are arranged makes the lack of cross-references in the text regrettable. In order to obtain all the information available on some subjects the reader would have to study both the index and the list of contents with care, or read the whole book.

These points detract little from a book that will undoubtedly and deservedly become much consulted in many libraries. The only general criticism is that, like any printed description of operations, it makes them seem so easy.

P. S. LONDON.

## Value of Enzyme Assay

**Diagnostic Enzymology.** Ed. Eugene L. Coodley, M.D. (Pp. 323; 112s.) Henry Kimpton. 1970.

Eighteen contributors, all working in the United States, have joined Dr. Coodley to write a reasonably comprehensive account of how the results of enzyme assays assist in diagnosis and, in some instances, in assessment of response to treatment. Separate chapters are devoted to different organ systems. This convenience for readers with limited interests is achieved at the expense of considerable repetition, and, in particular, the chapters on surgery and malignant disease seem superfluous.

Relatively few enzymes are of specific diagnostic value, and the danger of advancing technology resulting in accumulation of clinically uninterpretable data is clearly stated in the final chapter. It is disappointing, therefore, that there is no organized discussion of the significance of abnormal serum enzyme activities found by routine screening procedures which are already well established in the United States and are being introduced in Britain. A compilation of what little is known about the effects of drugs on the results of serum enzyme assays would have been useful. Several authors give detailed descriptions of enzyme assay methods. In a book of this type these are out of place, and some are useless because of the omission of essential details.

This book contains much standard information of value to clinicians and to clinical biochemists. Those who read it through may well wish that it had been more strictly edited.

G. WALKER.

## Books Received

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later.*

**Rheumatology: An Annual Review.** Vol. 3. The Immunochemistry and Biochemistry of Connective Tissue and Its Disease States. Ed. J. Rotstein. (Pp. 224; DM.67.50.) S. Karger. 1970.

**Planning and Analysis of Clinical Studies.** Walter J. Burdette, Ph.D., M.D., and Edmund A. Gehan, Ph.D. (Pp. 104; \$11.75.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**What We Know About Cancer.** Ed. R. J. C. Harris. (Pp. 240; 50s. Cloth, 35s. Paperback.) George Allen & Unwin. 1970.

**The Dog Exercising Machine.** Edward de Bono, M.D., D.Phil., Ph.D. (Pp. 168; 30s.) Jonathan Cape. 1970.

**Pediatric Neurology.** Ingrid Gamstorp, M.D. (Pp. 394; 180s.) Butterworths. 1970.

**Perspectives in Ophthalmology.** Vol. 2. Ed. J. E. Winkelman and R. A. Crone (Pp. 214; 113s.) Excerpta Medica. 1970.

**Chemical Mutagens: Environmental Effects on Biological Systems.** L. Fishbein *et al.* (Pp. 264; 173s.) Academic Press. 1970.

**Coronary Atheroma: A Diary of Discovery.** Norman G. B. McLetchie, M.B., Ch.B., M.D. (Pp. 114; \$10.00) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**Persistent Pesticides in the Environment.** Clive A. Edwards. (Pp. 78; 100s.) Butterworths. 1970.

**On Death and Dying.** Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, M.D. (Pp. 260; 38s.) Tavistock Publications. 1970.