

The pathology of emphysema. LYNNE REID, F.R.A.C.P., M.R.C.P., F.C.Path. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Limited. 1967. Pp. ix + 372. Price £3 10s.

Emphysema is a term which enjoys wide, and often indiscriminate use by clinicians, including general practitioners. It is now agreed that emphysema is a disorder of lung structure which can be identified with certainty only by pathological examination. Therefore, the condition is defined on a pathological basis.

This book has been written by a distinguished pathologist whose work has contributed greatly to our knowledge of chronic bronchitis as well as emphysema. The title is somewhat misleading, for this is much more than a pathological textbook about emphysema. Not only does the book deal with the clinical, radiological and functional abnormalities which occur in emphysema but the vexed problems of aetiology and its relationship to chronic bronchitis are discussed very fully.

An especial merit of this book is the way in which different types of emphysema have been classified. Not only has this clarified what was previously a very difficult subject but it will prove to be of great value in future studies of emphysema. It is a pity, however, that no space has been given to a discussion of whether there are true differences between this country and North America in the aetiology and pathological features of emphysema.

The book is outstanding for the clarity of the text, its beautiful production and the large number of excellent illustrations. While it certainly does not fall into the category of books which can be regarded as indispensable for general practitioners, it will prove an invaluable reference book to all who have a special interest in diseases of the chest.

Cervical spondylosis. Edited by LORD BRAIN, D.M., LL.D., D.C.L., and MARCIA WILKINSON, D.M., F.R.C.P. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. 1967. Pp. ix + 232. Price 55s.

Many, many years ago, in the Golden Age before the telly, London news-vendors had a cry with which they greeted every crisis from the loss of Empire to the loss of Hobbs' wicket at Lords. "Read all about it", they shouted—and the statement was usually overpitched and always disappointing. Applied to this book, however, it would be absolutely accurate, and the operative word would be 'all'.

There is a brief historical *résumé* of the subject—and it is interesting to note that although the syndrome has been known to modern medicine for a mere 20 years, a good description of its symptoms was given some 4,000 years ago. Those of us who are long years away from the dissecting room will be astonished to see that the anatomy of the cervical spine occupies 86 magnificently-illustrated pages. The pathology of the subject—again beautifully illustrated—covers some 23 pages, and symptomatology has to be content with a mere eight. All facets of radiology are dealt with in great depth—we are even told the exact technical methods of examination and the apparatus required. This section covers some 77 pages, and has many illustrations of the highest quality. The book ends with a short section on medical and surgical treatment and prognosis.

This is one of the most elegant volumes to come to hand for a long time, and must be required reading for all specialists in the field of physical medicine—though the suggestion of the publisher that it will be of inestimable value to students leaves the reviewer with the conviction that any student who attempted

to study every syndrome in such detail would have to be a direct descendant of Macaulay's schoolboy; and would be an unconscionable time a-qualifying. Any general practitioner with a dilettante interest in this subject would derive great benefit from this book, but I think that most of us would be better served by a digest accompanied by some of the really splendid illustrations, which for one reader at least, translated some hitherto vague concepts into accurate anatomical visualizations.

Common symptoms of disease in children. R. S. ILLINGWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1967. Pp. ix + 270. Price 40s.

This book could be considered to be the reverse of a normal textbook, since it begins with the symptoms and then suggests the cause. Professor Illingworth's aim is to present an aid to diagnosis in the sick child. This is, therefore, not a textbook of paediatrics, but a book to be used in association with such a book. An important part of each section throughout is the bibliography where principal sources are given, and at the end of the volume there is a list of 'Some relevant books'. About 100 common symptoms are considered, the text being presented in *précis* and note form. The important likely causes are given, indicating the commonest in each case. Suggestions are also made as to suitable investigations which may be performed as a help towards diagnosis. Many of the symptoms considered would not be listed in the index of the usual textbook, e.g. failure to thrive, crying and overactivity. This is not, however, a treatise on rarities, but is as the title states a consideration of common symptoms. A special section is included on the side-effects of drugs, a common cause of confusion. There is also a section, in fact a list, entitled 'Some popular fallacies', e.g. bronchitis and convulsions being due to teething.

This book was written mainly for the general practitioner, both as an aid to his making a diagnosis, and also as a guide as to when to seek specialist advice. It should prove a most useful book for the general practitioner and at 40s. is value for money.

Clinical psychopathology. PROFESSOR FRANK FISH. Bristol. John Wright and Son. 1967. Pp. 106. Price 30s. 0d.

This is a comprehensive description of the signs and symptoms of psychiatric disease. No attempt is made to explain their derivation. The book is timely as doctors other than psychiatrists are becoming aware of the importance of many psychiatric syndromes such as depression, epilepsy and addiction in general medicine. Professor Fish not only has an intimate knowledge of German psychiatric literature but he also puts things very clearly and wastes few words. For example he defines a hysterical symptom as a symptom which is adopted by the patient for the sake of some advantage, although he is not aware of this motivation. Later he suggests "It would be more correct to describe functional psychological disorders as those in which we have been unable to discover any coarse brain disease, but in some of which it is highly likely that we shall find some finer variety of brain disease." It is fascinating to read lucid descriptions of symptoms and syndromes which one comes across albeit rarely in general practice. There are a few small omissions. Many children pass through a