

are included on General Symptoms, Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders, Collagen Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Diseases due to Physical Agents and Poisons. Appendices cover Unestablished Drugs, Recently Introduced Drugs, Glossary of Genetic Terms, Chemical Analysis of Blood and Body Fluids, Liver and Renal Function Tests. References to the literature follow each section, with general biographies at the end of each chapter.

In their preface the editors state that the book is intended to serve the practising physician as a useful reference book and not as a text-book of medicine. With this disclaimer they do themselves less than justice, for though compressed the text is eminently readable and conducive to browsing.

Skilful editing has resulted in a uniform presentation of a vast amount of material. Wherever practicable diseases are considered under the following headings: Essentials of Diagnosis, General Considerations, Clinical Laboratory and X-ray Findings, Differential Diagnosis, Complications and Treatment.

The following principles, which have been adhered to in the drug sections of the book, are worth noting. Proprietary combinations of drugs have, in general, been omitted. Repeat-dosage and prolonged-dosage preparations have not been listed on the grounds that such preparations are unpredictable in their behaviour and that most of them appear to release their total dose at once. Standard, well established and familiar drugs have in general been preferred. Drugs whose usefulness has not been established by conventional and approved pharmacological and clinical techniques have not been recommended.

In a work of this kind a more comprehensive index would be welcome. It is frustrating not to find sciatica indexed as such or under 'disc'. It has to be looked up under 'intervertebral disc' or 'herniation, intervertebral disc'. Again, the only 'pain, abdominal' referred to in the index is that of pregnancy, although there are sections on acute peritonitis and other causes of the acute abdomen in the chapter on the Gastro-intestinal Tract and Liver.

Cheaply produced paper-back text books of this kind designed for frequent replacement before they become out-dated are a great boon and it is not surprising that this series of books has found a wide acceptance in the United States. It deserves a similar success in this country.

**Synopsis of Respiratory Diseases.** J. SMART, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. Pp. 154. Price 22s. 6d.

This is one of the synopsis series published by John Wright. They are written in note form for students and postgraduates and their success must be determined by the lack of ambiguity and the clarity of the facts presented in this abbreviated way.

The synopsis of respiratory diseases succeeds in most of the subjects dealt with, though less well in the complicated subject of respiratory physiology than other chapters. The diagrams representing radiographs are clear, and the absence of the originals not missed. The paucity of symptoms and signs in bronchopneumonia in the elderly is not mentioned nor, surprisingly, pneumoconiosis due to coal dust. Methicillin and

cloxacillin are not mentioned in the treatment of penicillin-resistant staphylococcal infections, and daranide is misspelt. The chapter on tuberculosis is extremely well done.

As with others in this series this is a valuable reference book when considering differential diagnosis, or refreshing the memory quickly.

**Neurological Manifestations of General Diseases.** JOHN A. AITA, M.D., PH.D. Illinois, U.S.A. Charles C. Thomas. 1964. Pp. xiii + 921. Price \$24.50.

In his preface to this remarkable work, Dr Aita explains his objectives. "A wealth of neurological phenomena appear in diseases not traditionally considered neurologic diseases. Neurologic manifestations of many diseases have long been lost in the borderlands between specialities, the concern of only the occasional worker who has sought and studied them."

The author rightly believes that every doctor should have access to a very wide and fully documented field of information concerning these nervous aspects of many illnesses usually first cared for by general surgeons and physicians in their routine practice. It is plain that Dr Aita has faced successfully a formidable task in producing this book, which imparts information to its reader with the relentless accuracy of a computer, and which carries at the end of each section an unusual number of comprehensive references.

Here is a most valuable book for the hospital library. It will be well thumbed on those too familiar occasions when the diagnosis is still in doubt, and signs of nervous disease add to our perplexity. Admiration for the author is increased by the humility, as well as the determination, with which this book faces the many present gaps in our clinical knowledge; and we are grateful for his insight as well as for his help and encouragement in our often difficult performance as, "the neurologist-of-necessity".

**Clinical Neurology.** LORD BRAIN, D.M., F.R.C.P. Second edition. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1964. Pp. i + 400. Price 38s.

To some general practitioners, even the title of this comprehensive work by its most distinguished author is a little formidable, but closer examination will quickly serve to reassure. The price of this beautifully produced book is moderate, and its illustrations and scholarship make reading it a pleasure. Both the author and his publishers are to be congratulated on this second edition of a volume that has already won high praise from our profession, and which has much in common with Lord Brain's larger work *Diseases of the Nervous System*.

The general practitioner realizes how deeply he is involved in the complex neurological problems of his patients, and he is grateful to Lord Brain for setting out clearly the most modern methods for the management and successful treatment of many diseases that are common in daily practice, often running a very protracted course. In each illness a clear explanation is given as to what the clinician should do, and also why he