Book reviews


A guide for the conscientious administrator—medical or lay—who is responsible for all aspects of the haemophlias. All is included from clinical states through laboratory tests to management, genetic counselling, and special schools. The main criticism of this and other WHO reports must be the lack of references. One page of review or book references would greatly enhance their value.

H. E. M. KAY


This is a report of a two-day symposium at the Brompton Hospital supported by the British Medical Association held in May 1971, ie, one year and four months before publication. It includes 13 papers on a variety of subjects, each followed by discussion which was tape recorded at the time. There is a final open forum discussion.

Five papers were given by medical microbiologists and eight by non-medical. Among the subjects covered are virus diagnosis by electron microscopy, with very beautiful pictures; computer indentification of Gram-negative rods; automation in bacteriology; antifungal drugs; rapid techniques, micro-methods, and work flow in bacteriology. Inevitably, as in any symposium, the standard of presentation and content is very variable and much of it has now been published elsewhere. It is doubtful whether many people would wish to spend £5 on a paperback publication containing little which is new although those who took part may well wish to do so to remind them of what was evidently a happy occasion.

If, as the Editor hopes, this symposium is the forerunner of many, a less ambitious account published within a few months much less expensively would be of greater value to those working in this field.

E. J. STOKES


The author considers a fundamental knowledge of general pathology as essential for the members of the paramedical professions. The aim of this book is to provide such knowledge. Unfortunately this is not achieved in this curiously uneven text. The first 10 chapters are devoted to general mechanisms of disease and present a somewhat panoramic view of such processes as inflammation, repair, and neoplasia. This is one of the most satisfactory sections of the book and many of the photomicrographs are of good quality. The subsequent chapters on special pathology are frankly weak and misleading, eg, the section on pulmonary embolism consists of five lines devoted to an inadequate description of amniotic fluid embolism. This book cannot be recommended for the audience for which it is intended, always supposing such an audience exists.

M. S. DUNNILL


This book is an attempt by a single author to present to surgeons the whole of the laboratory practice on which they depend for many of their decisions. As such it inevitably suffers from being rather superficial, but it could be useful to the trainee surgeon and possibly the senior medical student. This book is not suitable for pathologists at any stage of development, but then it makes no such claim.

B. C. MORSON

Multiple Sclerosis. A Reappraisal 2nd Ed. By Douglas McAlpine, Charles E. Lumsden, and E. D. Acheson (Pp. x + 653; 74 tables; 44 figures. £6.00.) Edin-

A. J. S. DAVIES

merits a place on the library shelves of all those interested in teaching or research in immunology.

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