BOOK REVIEWS

Part II deals with the treatment of shock and the early surgical procedures in cleansing and grafting of burns, including treatment of the type often carried out in medical departments in industry.

Part III is written for surgeons not specially trained in the treatment of burns and describes the surgical procedures which would be carried out in hospital. It includes some of the early plastic procedures involved in reconstruction and also an account of complications such as toxaemia, anaemia, and infection.

Part IV poses the problem of treating large numbers of burns such as might occur in thermo-nuclear air attacks.

This very readable and instructive little book should be of great interest and value to doctors, nurses, and first aid workers in industry, as well as to all those in the hospital service who have to treat burns. General practitioners may have little call on their services to deal with any but minor burns. This book would certainly bring them up to date if such a catastrophe should occur.

R. A. TREVETHICK


Professor Conway’s valuable textbook describes in minute detail the principles of microdiffusion analysis and its application to the determination of a large variety of substances. The technique is particularly useful for the study of clinical and biochemical problems. A most useful section is the 91 pages devoted to the consideration of the errors of volumetric titration; this is of value to all analysts.

This new edition illustrates recently developed microdiffusion units and also describes the use of a vibrating table, the use of which considerably decreases the reaction time. A carefully designed distillation unit is also described which allows the use of the technique at elevated temperatures. The diffusion technique can now be used as a routine laboratory procedure for the determination of blood ammonium; recent developments in methods are discussed. A new catalytic Kjeldahl method for nitrogen estimation is given. Among the substances which may be determined by the new methods are glutamine, monamine oxidase, histamine, cyanide, sulphide, phenols, methanol, isopropyl, alcohol, azide, methane, formaldehydogenic steroids, glycine, and acetaceldyly. Improved methods for the estimation of lactic acid in blood, of carbon monoxide, and halogens are also included.

Every analyst dealing with small quantities of material should be well acquainted with the microdiffusion principle and to them Professor Conway’s book is virtually essential.

B. T. COMMINS

Books Received

(Book review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books received.)


Many of the lessons learned in war are forgotten in the peace which follows. It is encouraging to see that this pamphlet published by the Air Ministry places on record the vast experience and latest thought gained in treating severely burned airmen by the R.A.F. Medical Service. Ignorance and careless handling in the early stages are held responsible for some poor results in burned patients.

With this in mind the book is divided into four sections:

Part I deals with prevention of burns, enumerating well-known principles. Later chapters deal with first aid in a logical manner, emphasis being laid on preserving life, preventing extension of the injury, and the securing of medical help.
Microdiffusion Analysis and Volumetric Error

B. T. Commins

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