seeking higher honours, this virile little volume packs into its 450 pages a systematic approach to medical practice without which our efforts would be sadly wasted.

This book was never intended as a textbook of medicine; true to the intentions of its original authors, it still adheres to the principle of stressing, above all things, the simple but careful steps that the clinician should take in his investigation of the human problem facing him. It is this approach to the patient that is all too easily forgotten in the midst of the increasingly complex diagnostic features of contemporary medicine, and it is in reminding us, throughout this book, to consider the real basis of clinical investigation, namely the details of history taking and the critical observation of the patient, that the authors perform their greatest service.

Such a guide is indispensable to the student, whose whole future depends on the quality of his first lessons by the bedside; it is also a gentle reminder to all practitioners not to ignore the obvious, nor to take unwarranted short cuts which seldom save time in the long run. To those who choose to pursue their medical studies for higher examinations or who are returning to clinical medicine, this book is excellent both for the quick revision which is required initially and for helping to retain a stable and simple outlook on medical practice, at a time when so much knowledge has to be acquired.

The text of this edition has been substantially revised and together with the progress already made in the last edition, the style is now contemporary and pleasantly readable. The detailed revision of the neurological section is excellent and the new illustrations here are a great improvement on those published previously. Equally satisfactory are the additions and alterations made to the chapter on the cardiovascular system, and the inclusion of greater detail in the interpretation of electrocardiograms should be of considerable value.

Altogether the many improvements of this edition will give Clinical Methods new life and enhance its already well-deserved reputation.

What has this book to offer the industrial medical officer? Certainly this is primarily a clinician’s guide, but to those medical officers whose duty it is to protect employees in the toxicological field or who are engaged in the routine inspection of employees as part of a positive health scheme, this book still carries its important message. Routine investigations and examinations are useless if the clinical methods employed become in any way sloppy and ill-defined. Here then is the industrial physician’s conscience for scrupulous attention to those standards which he must set himself in his work amongst the potentially healthy members of society. In addition this book will provide him with most of the details of those techniques which he can well employ to advantage in the medical centre of his own particular industry.

P. R. BOYD


This annual report for 1955, produced in a smaller format than that for 1954, appears in Cambridge blue—e tenetibus lux, as the motto on the crest on the cover puts it. The contents, however, follow the main lines for the previous report and indicate the extent of the National Coal Board’s research interests. These range from the accuracy of the description of jobs on death certificates to miners’ rescue breathing apparatus; from field surveys of pneumoconiosis to the physiological and psychological effects of work in hot and humid atmospheres; and from dermatitis and epidermophytosis in coal-miners to lung and bladder cancer in coke-oven workers. The cognate problems include statistical studies of the factors affecting attendance, investigation of compensatable accidents, and the mobility of mining populations. Some of the research described in this report has been carried out by outside organizations receiving financial and other assistance from the National Coal Board. This is clearly indicated in the text and references to published work are given under the appropriate sections.

Certain important administrative changes are described. Two new committees concerned with human problems and technical research and development are expected to lead to an increased interest in research in these fields and the replacement of the Interdepartmental Research Committee by a new Advisory Committee on Human Problems under the Board member for science and the medical service should ensure coordination of these services. The report ends with a list of the members of the four advisory panels on epidemiology, industrial medicine, physiology, and psychology.

I. T. T. HIGGINS


There is now widespread recognition that work in this field demands special study and application if worthwhile results are to be obtained. All over the world there has been a general improvement in hand surgery, especially over the last 10 years. Much of this progress is due to the dissemination of knowledge and experience gained by such pioneers as Dr. Sterling Bunnell. It is fitting, therefore, that we should welcome the third edition of Dr. Bunnell’s book. First published in 1944, and appearing again in 1948, it now emerges in a larger and more complete form, though retaining its original format and style.

The book is a complete treatise on all aspects of disease and injury of the upper extremity, set against a background of the relevant anatomy, physiology and pathology. Every conceivable aspect of the subject receives thorough and complete consideration. Each procedure is adequately illustrated by case notes and diagrams or photographs; a complete bibliography is appended. Thus the book can be described, without irreverence, as the “Bible” of hand surgery. It is certain that anyone whose work involves the surgery of the upper limb cannot possibly be fully equipped if they have not read it.
BOOK REVIEWS

All existing chapters have been completely revised and new sections have been added on the use of antibiotics in infective lesions, cross finger flaps for acute injuries, reconstruction of the damaged thumb, burns of the hand and arm, and a valuable section on the surgery of rheumatoid arthritis. In addition there are over 200 new illustrations.

Its size and price (7 guineas) may put it beyond the reach of many who would wish to possess it, but as a work of reference it could hardly be bettered, and it can be recommended without reserve.

HAROLD BOLTON


This well-known textbook has been enlarged and now includes an excellent section on industrial radiography. It was originally published as an introduction to basic and radiation physics and x-ray apparatus construction; these chapters are comprehensive and with the aid of the diagrams and illustrations it is possible to obtain a good understanding of the fundamentals of x-ray physics, but the style of writing is “chatty” and often confusing.

The chapters on film technique and diagnosis are too general and require revision to bring them up to date; the serious reader would be well advised to refer to more experienced writers in these subjects. On page 200, it is stated “in medical radiography the density (photographic) is always very low—well below 1.” Actually in chest radiography the density range is 0.3-1.5. The factors given in the exposure table (page 239) should be used with caution, especially the suggestion of using focal-film distance of 27 in. for bone radiography. Silver recovery by precipitation (page 211) is impracticable, and no mention is made of the modern method of electrolysis now in use in most large departments. On page 287 microradiography is described under the heading of “microradiography”.

The tables at the end of the book are very useful but few radiologists would agree that chest screening (Table 18) may be carried out for a maximum of up to 60 minutes per three-week period. The inclusion of a bibliography would be helpful. The book can be highly recommended for the sections on basic and radiation physics, therapy, and x rays in industry. The chapters on the practical applications in the medical field require drastic revision. It is very well produced; the excellent illustrations contribute much to the value of this edition.

WILLIAM G. CLARKE

Books Received

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


Médecine du Travail, 2nd ed. Edited by Prof. C. Simonin con collaboration with various authors. (Pp. xii + 1406; 326 figures. Fr. frs. 6,800.–.) Paris: Librarie Maloine. 1956.


