

Books

Ocular Syndromes. Walter J. Geeraets. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1965. 211 pp. \$7.50.

The cardinal manifestations of ocular syndromes and their associated systemic features are described in this manual. As a handy reference book for ophthalmologists, house officers and students it fulfills its purpose admirably.

The wording is so telegraphic in places that the reader may misinterpret the meaning, *eg.* "nuclear lesion involving the pyramidal tract" (p. 112) is contradictory and should read "lesion involving the nucleus and pyramidal tract." The phrase "male linkage" (p. 113) should read "more common in males" to avoid the genetic implications of the word "linkage."

The material is presented in five parts with an exceptionally complete system of cross-references. In the first part a one-page description of each syndrome includes synonyms, general information, ocular findings, other clinical features and bibliography. The ocular manifestations are tabulated according to the anatomical parts affected and the abnormalities of vision, motility and ocular tension. This descriptive formula permits tabulation of the positive and the negative findings and stresses a systematic approach to ocular examination; the empty spaces might have been used better to define more esoteric ophthalmological terms such as "iridodonesis" (p. 87) for the uninitiated reader.

A glossary of ophthalmological terms would have increased the usefulness of this manual. The author makes no claim to completeness and the book is obviously intended for those who have mastered the basic principles of medicine,

genetics and ophthalmology. It deserves a place in the reference library of every internist, pediatrician and ophthalmologist; residents training in these areas will find this manual invaluable as a clinical pocket book.

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Physiology and Biophysics of the Circulation. Alan C Burton. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1965. 217 pp. \$8.50.

Professor Burton studied physics with Helmholtz, physiology with Bazett, and humor with W. Rogers. This text is a marvelously clear, concise introduction to circulatory physiology by an outstanding contributor to knowledge of the physical basis for cardiovascular function. Dr. Burton's confident mastery of the subject facilitates understanding of the material. Though designed for the medical student, this book is a treasure-store of knowledge for the physician whose cardiovascular physiology needs refreshing, and a source of valuable material for the teacher interested in clear exposition. An additional bonus is humor; the book is hilarious. A minor drawback is the author's inclusion of deliberately dogmatic statements within arrowheads in the text; considerable burrowing in the preface is required to decipher this secret code. Chapter 1, the introduction, is a delightful summary which should be required reading for all physicians. The book as a whole is good news for everybody.

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Physiology of Respiration. Julius H. Comroe, Jr. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1965. 245 pp. \$8.50.

This is unquestionably the ideal introductory text on respiratory physiology for all "students of medicine." What makes this book ideal is that it is written at once by a master teacher and a master investigator. Dr. Comroe can express difficult concepts of physiology in a language that makes excellent sense to medical students and physicians. But this he does not do at the risk of easy generalizations or oversimplifications. On the contrary, throughout the book, he maintains a clear distinction between experimental evidence, clinical observation, and hypothesis, and shows how each new deduction is reached from a given piece of evidence. This approach succeeds in giving the reader an active role in learning.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Comroe, his associates and immediate students, have contributed a considerable portion of present-day knowledge of respiratory physiology, particularly as it applies to disease. The book is therefore not a digest of the literature, but a first-hand account of an exciting and rapidly growing science by one of its foremost leaders.

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