BOOK REVIEWS


Most surgeons who are concerned with the clinical care of cancer patients are conscious of a barrier that has risen between them and the experimental biologist who is engaged with more fundamental aspects of malignant growth. To a great extent this barrier that exists is one of communication with a resulting failure to understand purposes and points of view. Any publication that tends to better this situation is always a welcomed one. In "Cancer Cells" Cowdry has made an excellent contribution in this respect.

The author of this book is a distinguished cytologist and an outstanding investigator in the field of cancer research. From the vantage of this experience he discusses the nature of the malignant cell with specific consideration of both nucleus and cytoplasm, the distribution of malignant potentialities in normal cells, agents capable of bringing about malignant transformation and the theories concerning their actions, cellular susceptibility to such actions, factors that modify the formation of cancer and finally a brief consideration of the clinical problems involved both in prevention and treatment of cancer.

This is a tremendous undertaking for a single volume, and on several occasions the author refers to this publication as an elementary one. For the reader who would care to explore a particular subject in greater detail, however, he has prepared a most generous list of references, well over two thousand separate publications with an additional group of carefully selected reviews and monographs. The format is pleasing and the book is attractively bound. There does exist an unusual number of typographical errors, but this is a first printing. This book is strongly recommended to the clinician who takes care of clinical cancer, for it contains much fundamental information of which he should be aware.

NATHAN A. WOMACK, M.D.

ATLAS OF OPERATIONS FOR TRAUMA by Otto Russe, Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, New York, N. Y. 106 pages, $12.50; 1954.

This atlas is 106 pages long and 48 are utilized for illustrations. The illustrations are clearly drawn line-drawings depicting the steps in the procedure under discussion. On the page facing each illustration is a brief description written in German, English and French. Details of the operative procedures are not given.

The book is divided into regions: head and neck, upper limb and lower limb. Principles of accident management in general are sound, but the treatment of shock does not follow the methods in use in this country.

Relatively much space is allotted to such topics as: bone grafting, osteosynthesis, arthrodeses, acrylic prosthesis for the femoral head. These procedures are of doubtful value in the surgery of trauma per se.

ROBERT G. JOHNSON, M.D.


The fourth edition of this monumental work has taken a long time to come into our hands, but it was well worth the long wait! The book is written with infectious enthusiasm and is a sound down-to-earth presentation based on a vast fund of knowledge acquired in a busy lifetime in this field. Many new chapters have been added: open treatment of fractures, intramedullary nailing, wounds, shock and the adaptation syndrome, to mention a few. Great stress is placed on the principles of rehabilitation. Illustrations are numerous and of excellent quality. These volumes should be in every medical library. They can be recommended without reservation to all general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and other physicians that treat patients with fractures and joint injuries or their aftermath.

ROBERT G. JOHNSON, M.D.