

Reviews of Recent Books



Praktische Gastroenterologie, 2nd ed., by Ernst Hafter. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1962, pp. 478, Dm 59.

This compendium of clinical gastroenterology combines the continuity of one author's writing with the completeness of information usually found in multi-author textbooks. It is a didactic book for the clinician with relatively little consideration given to pathophysiology. Symptomatology and diagnosis of gastrointestinal diseases are particularly well presented. While radiologic technics are thoroughly discussed and beautifully illustrated, the descriptions and interpretations of the results of various laboratory procedures are too brief to be useful. Therapeutic recommendations are sound and largely avoid the polypragmatism that so often plagues medical therapy. The 1,250 references quoted are a carefully chosen and up-to-date summary of the international literature. The chapters on gastritis, biliary dyskinesia and food allergy reflect the great importance attributed to these entities in many areas outside the United States. Only a few minor errors were noticed, e.g., that xylose is not metabolized (page 227) and that exudative enteropathy is accompanied by creatorrhea (page 224). This book is a highly recommended and concise source of clinical information and an English translation probably would be as well received as the Spanish, Italian and Polish editions that have already appeared.

KONRAD SOERGEL

Friend or Enema by Charles F. Clark. Twinkle Press, Roanoke, Va., 1962, pp. 95, \$2.95.

One wishes that both the title and much of the humor in this picture and coloring book for adult delinquents were more original. Nevertheless, it will provide amusement for those in for a brief hospital stay or for unhospitalized but sick-sick patients with a sense of humor.

In addition to good natured barbs thrown at the medical profession, the book includes a translation of medical terms, various types of puzzles (including a medical crossword puzzle),

things to make in bed, book covers (to amuse the doctor when he calls), a glossary of medical terms, rules for writing your own prescriptions, a chart of your own for you to keep and an outline of the number of M&H chartreuse stamps given with all minor and major operations and disabling diseases.

It's all in fun Doc! MARGARET O'NEILL

Secretory Mechanisms of the Gastrointestinal Tract, by R. A. Gregory. Edward Arnold & Co., London, 1962. (The Williams & Wilkins Co., American agents), pp. 248, \$8.00.

This is an account of the mechanisms controlling the responses of the stomach, pancreas and intestinal glands to feeding. It is based almost exclusively on work carried out with the conscious dog. The author discusses only those subjects in which he is actively interested. The chapters on gastrin, on secretin and on the vagal control and the inhibition of gastric secretion are a tribute to the author's facility to explain in simple words what is hidden in a large number of conflicting experimental papers. This monograph will be very valuable to anybody who plans to study gastrointestinal secretory mechanisms in man or animal.

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BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

Books received for review by *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* are acknowledged in this column. As far as practicable, those of special interest are selected, as space permits, for extensive review.

The Year Book of Endocrinology, edited by Gilbert S. Gordan. Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1962, pp. 384, \$8.00.

Maladies de Civilisation et Dirigisme Biologique, by J. Bugard, M. Henry and L. Joubert. Masson et Cie, Paris, 1962, pp. 197, 25NF.

Clinical Nutrition, 2nd ed., edited by N. Jolliffe.

Harper & Bros., New York, 1962, pp. 1012, \$23.50.

Clinical Endocrinology, vol. 2, Thyroid, by T. S. Danowski. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1962, pp. 540, \$17.50.

Enzymes and Drug Action, edited by J. L. Mongar and A. V. S. de Reuck. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1962, pp. 556, \$12.50.

Common Sense About a Starving World, by Ritchie Calder. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1962, pp. 176, \$2.95.

The Consumers Union Report on Family Planning, by editors of Consumer Reports and Alan F. Guttmacher. Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., Mount Vernon, N. Y., 1962, pp. 146, \$1.75.

