
This second edition of "The Principles and Practice of Rectal Surgery" by Mr. Gabriel is presented five years after the publication of his first edition, and is a detailed record of the experience and progress in the diagnosis of rectal ailments and the practice of this branch of surgery, which the author has collected since 1920. The whole field of rectal surgery is covered in a most thorough manner. The volume is noted particularly for the newer work on surgical anatomy contributed in collaboration with Mr. O. V. Lloyd-Davies. Mr. Gabriel has made the timely observation that a certain percentage of in-ano eventually become malignant. In the new material one notes: the rôle of epidermophytosis in puritus ani; injuries of the rectum; lymphgranuloma inguinale, and many new refinements of technique and post-operative care. The work is admirably composed and written. The book is cardiac and vascular dynamics. It is not a new approach. Harrison in his "Failure of the Heart," discusses the various problems from a different point of view and his classification of hyperkinetic, hypokinetic, and dyskinetic syndromes is accepted and further developed in the author's division of failure into hypoeystolic and hypodiastolic types of cardiac failure and failure of the peripheral circulation. This division into types is carried throughout the book and applied specifically to the effects of the various types of structural change and to the explanation of clinical signs and phenomena. The importance and practicability of venous pressure, observations and estimations, are a feature throughout.

The Principles and Practice of Rectal Surgery is, as its title implies, a book on failure of the heart and of the circulation, with the two as one entity. The theme of the book is cardiac and vascular dynamics. It is not a new approach. Harrison in his "Failure of the Circulation," discusses the various problems from a different point of view and his classification of hyperkinetic, hypokinetic, and dyskinetic syndromes is accepted and further developed in the author's division of failure into hypoeystolic and hypodiastolic types of cardiac failure and failure of the peripheral circulation. This division into types is carried throughout the book and applied specifically to the effects of the various types of structural change and to the explanation of clinical signs and phenomena. The importance and practicability of venous pressure, observations and estimations, are a feature throughout.

The first few chapters are given to the physiology and the pathological physiology of the circulation. This is possibly the most valuable part of the book. It has the clinical viewpoint and a number of practical methods of measuring various functions of the circulation are clearly described. The next few chapters deal with the various types of dyspepsia and then cyanosis, oedema, and pulmonary engorgement. The chapter on gallop rhythm is good. The portion dealing with peripheral failure—shock—vies with the first portion of the book in interest and importance. Treatment occupies the final section and while the principles there are pretty well orthodox they are derived from previous discussion and follow logically.

The book is written in textbook fashion and the style is clear. The limits of present day knowledge in this field are well defined. The author exhibits a wide familiarity with the literature, and the bibliography is quite full. It is stated in the preface that the work is for the general practitioner, but most decidedly it has an important place on the shelves of the internist as well.


This work is one of the General Practice Series. The preface states that it is an attempt to teach the principles of ear, throat and nose work. Within the limitations of a volume of this size it has fulfilled its purpose admirably, and the busy general practitioner will find it very useful for quick reference. The descriptions of surgical operations cannot of necessity be given in detail but will give the practitioner an intelligent understanding of the problems involved. One would like to see more attention given to the management of hemorrhage, the bugbear of this field of medicine.


This broad survey of neuropathology as it applies to the problems of the surgeon, physician, ophthalmologist, obstetrician, and pediatrician makes readily available a wealth of neuropathological data. The incidence of the various lesions has been compiled on the basis of 15,000 autopsies from a general hospital. The range of subject matter is wide and emphasis is laid constantly upon the pathogenesis of disease of the central nervous system. The treatment of brain abscesses is...
particularly happy in this regard. There is but little space devoted to the relationship of pathological processes to signs and symptoms. A chapter devoted to the cerebrospinal fluid has not been included, and its varying responses during life to pathological processes of the central nervous system have not been stressed. Deficiencies here are disproporionate rather briefly.

This work appeals to the reviewer as a suitable book of reference for student and practitioner, providing as it does a foundation for consideration of clinical problems together with many indispensable key references.


The author has given the name "Protoformative Incert" to an extract prepared in accord with the most recent technique from embryo corresponding to the period of greatest biological activity, which he claims takes place at the end of the third or beginning of the fourth month in the human being. Experimental work was carried on with guinea-pigs since 1929 intramuscular injections of the incert have been given to about 1,200 human patients. This has been prepared in two extracts, one containing that of all body tissues with the exception of the recognized endocrine glands, and the other that of the other body. He hypothesizes a cellular life in which all cells of a species have hormonal activity with later development of specific hormones for specialized organs. There is a claim of priority in concept and in experiment in reference to the most recent thesis on internal secretory hormones, antihormones, pro-hormones and activators. He accepts the physiological activities of the pituitary gland as a most prominent governing rôle.

The results from his clinical work, and that of his collaborators, are truly surprising. They have been carefully classified. If the clinical results can be duplicated and substantiated and the incerts prepared in sufficient amounts our present concepts of prevention and treatment of disease will undergo a change for the better. His work is indeed broad in its biological conception of life processes. Every physician who uses endocrine extracts should read this book; it is stimulating; it is critical; and it is constructive.

Biological and Clinical Chemistry. M. Steel, Ph.D. 770 pp., illus., $8.00. Lea & Febiger, Phila., 1937.

"In the present text the author has attempted to blend theoretical and practical biochemistry and biophysics with chemical pathology and clinico-chemical methods". To this excerpt from the preface it may be added that this book covers the fields of both biochemical and pathological chemistry, as known in several of our own universities, and includes instructions for laboratory work interspersed with the theoretical treatment of these subjects. The subject-matter of the book is extensive and supplemented with adequate references; the subject-form of the book is open to criticism. For example, vitamins and hormones are treated in both their academic and pathological aspects in Chapters XI and XII, and nutrition and normal protein metabolism not till Chapters XVIII and XXI respectively.

The dialectical relationship of theory and practice, of lectures and laboratory, is recognized by all teachers in the sciences, but is met in different ways. Through a keen desire, no doubt, to keep the experimental evidence before the too speculative mind, Professor Steel has attempted to include his practice with his theory. More strictly he has given us a mixture of theory and theory of practice: for reading about an experiment can never be the same thing as doing it, or, conversely, the reading of textbooks is not a usual part of laboratory work. Detailed directions for experiments are distracting to the mind on a definite train of thought. The incorporation of experimental evidence in the theoretical treatment of a subject is quite a different matter from the addition of details—often requiring quite different theory—as to how that experimental evidence is attained. Thus, in the reviewer's opinion this book would have been better without its experiments, although these appear to be well enough chosen and adequately described. The book contains much up-to-date and accurate information, and will be found useful by both students and medical practitioners.


The authors' aim was to treat adequately but concisely the everyday problems requiring chemical investigation. The value as well as the limitations of these investigations are clearly pointed out and the authors wisely emphasize the fact that the results of biochemical investigations must always be considered in conjunction with those of clinical examination, that that alone can rarely, if ever, justify a diagnosis. This second addition is somewhat revised. Some tests have been wisely omitted, others advantageously added. It should prove of value to the practitioner and student.


Only in the last decade has it been possible to evaluate with any degree of certainty the diagnostic significance of completely examined cerebrospinal fluid. Such progress has resulted from careful correlation of cerebrospinal fluid studies with detailed clinical case records and verified diagnoses. Merritt and Fremont-Smith, through their long association with the Cerebrospinal Fluid Laboratory of the Boston City Hospital, have contributed much toward this advance. In this book they have made a thorough analysis of over 21,000 fluids, to show how this examination can be used in the differential diagnosis of disease. The chemistry and pathological physiology of cerebrospinal fluids are considered in moderate detail, and the routine methods of testing briefly clearly set forth. The technique of lumbar and of cistern puncture are carefully considered. The greater and most valuable part of the book deals with the cerebrospinal fluid syndromes in every condition in which such an examination might conceivably be used. In each syndrome the possible variation in the pressure, appearance, cell count, and chemical nature of the fluid is concisely presented, followed as a rule by a discussion of the differential diagnosis. In many conditions the authors present the changing pattern as the case progresses, and show the effect of treatment upon the spinal fluid. A chapter is included on the methods of rhinogastronomy of the ventricle-subarachnoid space, more particularly on encephalography. This is informative but too restricted in scope, as well as insufficiently illustrated, to be of practical value, and might well have been left out. Not only as a comprehensive reference book but as a very practical handy guide this text should be of great value to pathologists, technicians, and neurologists, as well as to anyone whose clinical work entails a frequent consideration of the cerebrospinal fluid.

Short Years, the Life and Letters of John Bruce MacCallum, M.D., 1876-1906. A. Malloch. 343 pp., $3.50. Normandie House, Chicago, 1938.

Omnibus the tubercle bacillus! Onler wrote of the subject of this fine memoir that he was "one of the most brilliant young men it has ever been my lot to