

BOOK REVIEWS

A Manual of Cardiology. By THOMAS J. DRY, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota (Mayo Foundation); Consultant in Section on Cardiology, Mayo Clinic. Price \$5.00. Pp. 333 with 97 illustrations. Ed. 2. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1950.

As Dr. Willius states in the preface the author's style is the essence of terseness and it would be invidious to attempt a resume of this book.

Correlation of roentgenograms with electrocardiograms is presented throughout and the chapter dealing with heart size is an unusual and useful feature. Dr. Dry indicates the importance of premature beats with a rapid heart rate as prodromal of ventricular fibrillation and suggests that an understanding of the condition has resulted in the less frequent use of the term "status lymphaticus." He assumes that fibrillation is preventable in most instances. A point is made of the significance of basal thrills with the wisdom of auscultating the basal region first. His classification of cardiac rate, rhythm and conduction is most logical as is that of the congenital malformations which are more easily memorized anatomically than on the basis of degrees of cyanosis.

The role of caronamide, lanatoside C, neosynephrine and procaine in therapy is mentioned and the dangers of pituitrin extract, ergot, epinephrine and excess insulin to cardiac action are noted so that anesthetic agents may not at times be incriminated unjustly.

Some rearrangement of the chapters would have been welcomed in this second edition. The accounts of congestive cardiac failure and the normal

electrocardiogram might well appear earlier in the text. Most clinical descriptions are too concise to be visualized by a student. These are minor criticisms of a book which the modern anesthesiologist must read carefully now that operations for correction of heart disease are becoming commonplace and therefore within his field of care of patients.

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Acute Laryngotracheobronchitis. By A. HARRY NEFFSON, M.D. Price \$5.00. Pp. 179. New York, Grune & Stratton, 1949.

The author has thoroughly covered all aspects of the disease, acute laryngotracheobronchitis. Acute laryngotracheobronchitis, a dangerous and not uncommon disease, has not previously been described so clearly and completely in a single text. Many controversial points regarding this disease are clarified. There is a large section on the treatment in which the author goes into great detail in his description of the various methods currently used. There is also a chapter entitled, "Role of the General Practitioner, the Pediatrician, and the Otolaryngologist." The role of the anesthesiologist might well be added. Of especial interest to anesthesiologists is the description of different types of obstructed breathing. One criticism might be mentioned and that is that too many illustrative cases were used to emphasize a point. This book warrants inclusion in the library of anesthesiologists.

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