

graduate and graduate medical students, as well as for any physician dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of lesions of the esophagus.

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Myasthenia Gravis. BY KERMIT E. OSSERMAN, M.D. Pp. 286, with 58 illustrations. Grune and Stratton, New York and London, 1958.

The author is the Physician in Charge of the Myasthenia Gravis Clinic of the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and Vice-Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, Inc. This book is the first English language monograph on myasthenia gravis. It was written on the basis of many years of experience with several hundred myasthenic patients by an individual who is a recognized international authority in that field. The book is primarily intended for practicing physicians interested in the diagnosis and treatment of myasthenia gravis, but it will also satisfy the need of medical students who desire to obtain more information on myasthenia gravis than that available in textbooks of medicine or neurology. The emphasis throughout has been placed on practical considerations in the diagnosis and treatment of myasthenia. However, in the chapters on pathology and physiology, there is an adequate summary of the present day knowledge in the basic sciences related to myasthenia gravis. After a brief history, the physiology of neuromuscular transmission and the pathological aspects of myasthenia gravis are considered. In the ensuing chapters, diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management are discussed. Besides the use of anticholinesterases and other drugs, the endocrine, roentgenographic and surgical treatment of the disease are also reviewed. A special section deals with the treatment of myasthenic and cholinergic crisis. The chapter on the care of the myasthenic patient undergoing surgery includes a discussion on the choice and management of anesthesia and is especially valuable for anesthesiologists. There are separate chapters on the psychotherapy of myasthenia, the obstetrical management of the myasthenic patient and the treatment of neonatal and juvenile myasthenia.

This book is well-written and illustrated. The style is simple and easily understandable. There is a separate bibliography at the end of each chapter in which the references are compiled in the order in which they appear in the text. There is a subject index at the end of the book, but no author's index. It is evident that the author had at his finger tips the information necessary for a compilation of such a monograph. His statements are reliable and in agreement with the presently accepted concepts. It is the reviewer's opinion that alphabetically arranged references at the end of this book, and an author's index would increase the usefulness of the book, especially for those who are conducting research. Since the anesthetic management of myasthenic patients may present considerable difficulty, the anesthesiologist should be well versed in the diagnosis and treatment of this disease. Since there is no other available source where so much information can be obtained, this book is a worthwhile addition, not only to the libraries of anesthesia departments where residents are being trained, but also to the bookshelf of the individual anesthesiologist.

FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D.

The Evaluation of Drug Toxicity. BY A. L. WALPOLE, PH.D., B.Sc., AND A. SPINKS, M.A., PH.D., B.Sc. Editors for Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals Division). Cloth \$5.50. Pp. 138, with 58 illustrations, and 12 tables. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Mass., and J. and A. Churchill Ltd., 104 Gloucester Place, London, W. 1, England, 1958.

In the development of new drugs the final goal is clinical utility. The problems of testing for effectiveness and the problems of side reactions must be evaluated. This symposium approaches the subject of testing and clinical screening from a basic viewpoint. Systemic toxicity testing, mechanics of allergic response, and determination of efficacy are presented. The scope of this publication is limited, and is of most interest to those anesthesiologists engaged in pharmacological investigations.

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