

FROM OUR BOOK SHELF

THE ORGANISATION OF VENEREAL DISEASES CLINICS. By Socrates De Noronha, Bombay.

The author is to be congratulated on producing a compact book on the organisation of Venereal Diseases Clinics, which will meet a long felt need for students and workers in this field. For a book of its size, it contains a surprising amount of useful information. It is readable and never tedious.

The history of V. D. is traced from early times, and important landmarks in the modern history of these diseases are described. The subject is dealt with under various headings, one chapter being devoted to prostitution, another to education and a third to legislation. Yet another chapter dealing with the running of a Socio-Medical Clinic and also one on hints to lecturers and health visitors contains very valuable information.

The author has a very long experience of the subject as the Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Social Hygiene Council and also Venereologist to the Municipal Corporation of Bombay which he has served with distinction for many years.

A word of caution not to slacken the V. D. prophylaxis is given with world figures showing a tendency for Venereal Diseases to increase.

The book has been well received abroad and Dr. William J. Brown Chief of the Venereal Disease Branch of the Department of Health Education and Welfare Public Health Service U. S. A. has praised the book highly and has made tentative inquiries for the supply to him of 10,000 copies. So popular has the book proved that it is already running into a second edition.

—J. A. F.

DERMATOLOGIE UND VENEROLOGIE, Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. H. A. Gottron und Prof. Dr. W. Schoenfeld Band V/Teill Mit 231 Abbildungen, Seiten 703, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1963, DM 180.

Dermatology and Venerology, Edited by Prof. Dr. H. A. Gottron and Prof. Dr. W. Schoenfeld, Vol. 5, Part I, 231 figures and 703 pages, Published in year 1963 by Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart, W. Germany, Price Rs. 200 (Text is in German Language).

This excellent reference manual ably edited by world renowned dermatologists like Director Prof. Dr. H. A. Gottron, Mainz and Director Prof. Dr. W. Schoenfeld of Heidelberg, W. Germany comprises valuable contributions of experienced dermatologists like Drs. H. Fischer, J. Kimmig, A. G. Kochs, G. W. Korting, R. Richter, H. Ruge, C. Schirren, K. H. Schulz and R. Wehrmann.

The lucid and absorbing text of 703 pages, exhaustively deals with vitamins, hormones, enzymes, tropical skin diseases, leprosy, leishmaniasis, deep mycotic infections of the skin tropical mycotic infections of the skin, filariasis, tropical

ulcer, occupational dermatoses and granuloma annulare. Manifestations of the skin diseases in lungs and vice versa have been dealt with in details in a separate chapter contributed by H. Fischer. At the end of each chapter, a list of references have been given to enhance further reading. All the figures are of high illustrative value. The author as well as subject index of this part will appear in the second part. Get up and printing are superfine and leave no room for criticism. Every German-knowing Dermato-venereologist will appreciate the immense clinical cum research value of this absorbing monograph. This treatise can well be reckoned as a milestone in the World literature on Dermato-venereology. Editors, contributors and Publishers deserve congratulations for bringing out such a nice volume.

—S. J. Yawalkar

HISTORY OF SYPHILIS: By Charles Flayton Dennie; Published by Charles C. Thomas 1962, Springfield, Illinois, U. S. A., Pp. 137, \$7 50.

It is possible that some sophisticated people belonging to the group "Forget the past, Act the present think not of Future" may not bother much about a book that primarily deals with chronological events in the development of a disease and persons connected with it. On the contrary those who believe in theory of Evolution and Planned Progress will welcome a book on historical back ground of even a single disease like syphilis with its ubiquitous manifestations. The book is divided into ten chapters, the first five concerns various European physicians who were primarily concerned with the origin of the disease viz from the New world to the Old world and vice versa. This peep into the 'origin' of each facet of the disease is the hall mark of the book under review. Incidentally the book reveals vividly how perfect observers were the ancients. There are very few modern facts about syphilis which were not known to them. The book also exposes the common trait throughout ages as to the essential human nature to ascribe even a bacterial disease (though not known then as such) like syphilis to the wrath of gods and goddesses or to conspiracy of planets. In short the book contains a mine of information on chronological and what is more important, romantic history of syphilis and touches all aspects of it, and in the process spotlighting various points and personalities connected therewith. The treatise is written in an easily readable style which is also a noteworthy point for such books. Since syphilis, has not died, actually shows signs of increment inspite of great penicillin, this book will provide a lasting attraction to people interested in 'Beginning' and the spectrum in between of things dead and alive.

—T. K. Mehta

YEAR BOOK OF DERMATOLOGY: 1962-1963 Series: Edited by Rudolf L. Baer and Alfred W. Kopf; Published by Year Book Medical Publishers, 35 East Wacker Drive Chicago I (U S. A.) Pp. 484; Price: \$9.50.

The Year book under review is the facimile of its previous editions with a minor change in Associate editorship which will be now shouldered by Dr. Kopf. The subject matter continues to be discussed under the same previous headings.

But this does not detract from its tremendous value to all those who want to refer to the important and significant global literature during the year of compilation of the book. The editors have, in this respect performed an Herculean task, if we remember how time consuming it must be and how critical one has to be in going through and selecting from (for the particular year only) worldwide publications on the subject. And this 'love of labour' they are indulging in in addition to their official and professional duties. Imprints of editor's erudition, scholarship and detailed judgement are clearly visible in the type of articles abstracted in each successive year book and in small-type sharp but sweet comments at the end of a debatable abstract. In the process some stray yet important articles may have been left out. But this is more by default than by design. All the articles bearing on problems of etiology, diagnosis and treatment are included in the text. Besides, some space is allotted to research work also. The practice of issuing a questionnaire on the subjects discussed spotlights all that is new for the year. This materially adds to the reference value of books of this type.

—T. K. Mehta.

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