ABSTRACTS OF CARDIOLOGY

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Cardiac Catheterization in Congenital and Acquired Heart Lesions. (Der Herzkatheterismus bei angeborenen und erworbenen Herzfehlern.) OTTO BAYER, FRANZ LODGEN, H. HELMUTH WOLTER. 1954. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. 191 pages. 111 illustrations. DM 36.

Catheterization of the heart is described in both acquired and congenital lesions. In the course of five years the workers at Düsseldorf have examined some eight hundred cases. There is a full account of the methods of computing the areas of the pulmonary and mitral openings; it would have been valuable to have had more actual consideration of the value and accuracy of these procedures. Nearly all the various congenital defects have been described. All this is well done. There are good skiagrams and the pressure curves are mostly clear. The standard and chest leads are given in the cardiograms; some are marred by interference. The diagrams of the circulation are not so clear as they might be. The acquired defects are tricuspid incompetence, pulmonary incompetence and mitral lesions. There is a full list of references, not well-linked to the text. Altogether this work presents well the information to be obtained by modern methods of cardiac catheterization, and can be recommended. The information is well set out and easily found.

Terence East

Angina Pectoris. W. H. HAUSS. 1954. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. 394 pages. 127 illustrations. DM 59.40.

Angina Pectoris by Prof. W. H. Hauss starts with an historical survey and the name of William Heberden, but Allan Burns hardly has full credit for his brilliant theory. The pathological and clinical aspects are fully considered; the familial incidence is stressed. It is interesting to read that infarction in 1937 was 0.3 per cent in Frankfurt, and in 1953 it had risen to 2.3 per cent of total inpatients. The cardiograms are clear and plentiful. It would have been easier to study them if fewer complexes had been shown, and the arrangement had been across the paper. Neb's triangle seems to replace the unipolar limb leads. In the treatment section there are many drugs mentioned, but no detailed account of the relative values is given. This rather mars the book throughout; there is much information, but not enough of summary and conclusion to make it easily assimilated. The paper is good and there is a full index, but the references omit many papers that are familiar enough outside Germany.

Terence East

Lehrbuch der Auskultation und Perkussion. K. HOLL-DACK. 1955. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. 195 pages. 83 illustrations. DM 27.

This "Text Book of Auscultation and Percussion" discusses the older methods of physical examination in the light of modern knowledge. The title is hardly a good indication of the contents, for inspection is included too, and comes first—and palpation comes last. At least, this is the first arrangement as regards the head and neck.

In the examination of the thorax, inspection and palpation come first. The suggestion is made that percussion is but little used in the Anglo-Saxon lands, particularly as regards the heart. But here it seems odd to us that anyone should use the percussion hammer and pleximeter nowadays. Too little is given, in small print, about funnel sternum. As one of the two procedures that form the title of this book has little value in abdominal examination, this part of the body received small attention. The nervous system gets more. Very little is said about the palpation of the arteries; the method of examining the liver (Fig. 60) is curious. Do the finger tips really appreciate temperature better than their backs? It is doubtful whether the student of clinical medicine in this country has much to learn from this book.

Terence East

Cardiac Auscultation. J. SCOTT BUTTERWORTH, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; MAURICE R. CHASSIN, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; ROBERT MCGRATH, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School. Grune & Stratton. Pp. 105. \$4.50.

This is a short book, well illustrated and written and nicely reproduced. The findings of auscultation are described very clearly and are demonstrated by phonocardiograms. This should be a valuable method of teaching and is already used by many clinicians when they draw their auscultatory impressions. Therefore one approaches this book with a good deal of hopeful anticipation and, while its principle is commended, it is unfortunate that there are some criticisms to be made. The outlook tends to be anatomical and the book would be improved for teaching purposes if there were more haemodynamic principles. The current impressions that auricular and third heart sounds are "filling sounds" is not mentioned and gallop rhythm is said to occur almost invariably with heart rates of 100 or more, so that by this definition only summation gallop can be considered. Each illustration consists of a single phonocardiogram without time-marker or reference tracing. This contributes to clarity but has resulted in failure to show some valuable clinical points. The aortic and pulmonary components of the second sound cannot be identified, and there is no description of the wide splitting of the second sound in the pulmonary area which is so useful in the diagnosis of atrial septal defect and bundle-branch block. There is no mention of the European literature on auscultation since Laennec, perhaps with purpose, since it is stated that the monaural wooden stethoscope is still commonly used in European countries.

Thus, the clinical side is seen to be disappointing but the discussion of the principles of hearing and of the stethoscope at the beginning of the book is excellent and is recommended.

Aubrey Leatham