

: : BOOK REVIEWS : :

Fluids and Electrolytes in Practice

J. B. Lippincott Company, Price \$5.00

Harry Statland, M.D.

Associat in Medicine

University of Kansas School of Medicine
There is no doubt, today, about the value of a working knowledge of the principles of the physiology of body fluids and electrolytes. That this was not realized earlier can be, perhaps, partly attributed to the complex physical and physicochemical work that was connected to such biochemistry and, consequently, the clinicians felt that it lay without their practice. The early workers and pioneers of this branch necessarily described such complexities and, thus, the books of Gamble, Darrow, Bodansky, Peters et al, were more technical than clinical. In Statland's book there is an ideal compromise as the author outlines the general principles of fluid and electrolyte physiology in the first section of the book and applies these principles to the treatment of special clinical states in the second part of the book, which contains, in all, two hundred and six printed pages.

Actually most of the material in this work was the lecture material that Dr. Statland gave to his students. Through their expressed desire, he organized and revised the matter for this present book form. Thus as for student and practical clinical teaching he adheres to fairly simple and basic explanations, and avoids too detailed discussion that may confuse the reader. The topics discussed under the heading of "Application to Special Conditions" include heart disease, kidney and urological diseases, pediatric fluid balance, diabetic acidosis and the more common clinical syndromes. There are ample illustrations, explanatory notes and 161 references, all of which aid in the clear presentation of this book, which should be on your shelf.

D. T. J.

Saddlebag Surgeon

J. M. Dent and Sons (Canada) Ltd.

Robert Tyre

This fascinating biography is the story of Murrrough O'Brien, M.D., the Canadian West's oldest practicing country doctor. Much of the story is quoted in Dr. O'Brien's colorful language as he vividly recalls a lifetime that has left him rich in experience, if not in material wealth.

Born in India in 1868 of an old and distinguished Irish family, he seemed destined to follow the family tradition and become an army officer or to serve the Queen in some other important capacity. But he rebelled, not once but several times. He entered the most noble of all professions, medicine, and after failing in his final year at St. Mary's Hospital in London, and financially disowned by his father, he came to Canada where he received his M.D. from the Manitoba Medical School.

He then embarked on a life voyage which proved to be a rough one, but there were few tasks to which the resourcefulness and ingenuity of Murrrough O'Brien was unequal. He met all emergencies with unflinching courage, and many of these were not without a humorous side.

To the prospective reader I would say two things: firstly, don't pick up this book if some matter of pressing urgency requires your attention within three hours' time; secondly, despite the waning necessity of ingenuity beyond setting up an occasional "I.V.", the student will find that Dr. O'Brien's experiences will add vastly to his armamentarium of resourcefulness.

Robert Tyre has handled this biography in an absorbing and humorous style which reduces fiction, by comparison to the level of a dull soap opera.

If further stimulation is necessary to spur the reader, it might be well to consider, when as a student, he lived with three prostitutes; or when, as an anatomy student, he made a cadaver sandwich for the porter in the Anatomy laboratory.

B. Z. Aylward, '57.

THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF THE ACUTE ABDOMEN

ZACHARY COPE, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Oxford Medical Publications, 10th Edition

One cannot add much more, in the way of praise, that hasn't already been bestowed on this book. Every aspect of the text, its clarity, conciseness and quality, is more than rewarding to the few hours required to read it. Because of so much information imparted to the reader, one gets the impression that diagnosis of ab-

dominal crisis is relatively easy, because the book has such a scientific approach to the evaluation of signs and symptoms. However, Dr. Cope, often enough, reminds the reader of the pitfalls that may lead to a wrong diagnosis.

The first three chapters of the book outlines the principles of diagnosis in acute abdominal diseases and the methods of diagnosis, through the history and physical examination. Then listed such conditions as appendicitis, acute pancreatitis, perforated peptic ulcers, acute intestinal obstruction, ectopic pregnancy, the colics and a list of other disorders that may confront the clinician. With many of the conditions a differential diagnosis is also listed.

The use of large typing and anatomical sketches makes the book easy to read, and the material within is classical.

D. T. J.

*Wishing the Dalhousie Medical Journal continued success and
best wishes from*

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