BOOK REVIEWS


Volume I of Roentgen Diagnostics is divided into two parts. The amount of material in Part I is immense. It consists of 868 pages of approximately 500 words a page. There are 1,183 illustrations and the price is necessarily high (£12). One-fifth of the volume is devoted to basic radiological principles and normal skeletal structures. The major part covers fractures, inflammatory diseases and congenital anomalies. There are also chapters on atrophy, hypertrophy, dystrophy and circulatory changes. The intention is obviously to provide a book of reference for radiologists and orthopaedic surgeons. In many parts—for example in the chapters on congenital deformities—the mass of detail is greater than the average clinician requires for routine work. This is not a fault; it is an indication of the great care and thoroughness with which the volume has been prepared. The English student will find that he must read slowly. Many words such as infectiosity, anatomicopathologic and brachybasohypophalangia are unfamiliar and the style is taken from the original German. It is refreshing and very instructive to note a classification and approach to disease processes which is new to the reader. The eighteen pages on osteomyelitis form a classic description of the radiological manifestations of the disease and are as good as any previously written. The inclusion of osteoid osteoma and Paget's disease among the inflammatory disorders of bone may be correct but will not have universal approval. There are a few minor faults in the illustrations. Figures 213 and 571 are upside down and Figure 574 shows a radius and ulna not a tibia and fibula. The quality of the reproductions is superb: every print illustrates the essential feature with great clarity. These volumes probably form the most ambitious post-war publications in radiology. A tremendous amount of work has been done in their preparation and they provide the radiologist with an immense store of accumulated knowledge on radiological signs.—F. Campbell Golding.


This monograph is devoted to one of the many methods used for the production of radiographs of soft tissues. It is a continuation of the method of Laurell, whose work was published twenty years earlier. The technical aspects are analysed and the clinical applications of the method are shown in selected cases. The reticulated pattern of subcutaneous tissues and the vascular network is demonstrated in considerable detail. One application of the method is for the study of muscular patterns in the various dystrophies. In many patients this can be shown on plain radiographs by the presence of interstitial fat in excessive amounts; the effect is intensified by contrast injections.—F. Campbell Golding.


Myopathy of distal distribution was reported by Gowers in 1902, and also by Spiller in 1907. Since then cases with this diagnosis have been recorded, from time to time, by some workers; whilst others, such as Wilson (1940) and Critchley (1949) have doubted the truth of this diagnostic label which, they thought, might have been wrongly applied to atypical examples of dystrophia myotonica. In this latter disease myopathy of atrophic or pseudohypertrophic type may occur as an ingredient. Welander, in this monograph, has resolved any doubts about the existence of distal myopathy by much careful work. He has shown, not only that myopathy of distal distribution exists, but also that, in Sweden, it is by no means rare.

Between 1939 and 1948 Welander collected seventy-eight primary cases, for each of which a pedigree was drawn up. Field investigations from these pedigrees revealed 171 secondary cases, every patient being personally examined. A further 150 secondary cases were identified but in

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