
This monograph is based upon the study of sixteen cases of the group of syndromes that have been variously called Hand-Schüller-Christian disease, Letterer-Siwe disease and eosinophilic granuloma of bone. The patients were collected from the clientele of Radiumhemmet in Stockholm, and the rarity of the syndromes is illustrated by the fact that it took twenty-five years to collect them. There was histological support for the diagnosis in only twelve, and four of the cases presented solitary skeletal lesions. The cases are described in some detail with good illustrations of well reproduced radiographs. The histological illustrations are as good as one can expect from black and white reproduction of stained sections, but they serve more to demonstrate the need for colour in reproducing histology than to do such illustrations in many other diseases. The variability of the radiographic appearances is well shown. X-ray therapy is advised; the writers find “little justification” for operative treatment. The authors’ conclusion, which will not be questioned by anyone to-day, is that all these syndromes are aspects of the same disease. In this they agree with many previous writers, including, of course, Lichtenstein (1953), whose title “histiocytosis X” they do not adopt, preferring that suggested by Wallgren in 1940. The monograph is well written in good English (though I find one mistake in Latin and another in Greek), and it makes a useful source of information about sixteen cases of what is really quite a rare disease.—D. Ll. Griffiths.

REFERENCES

Lichtenstein, L. (1953): Histiocytosis X. Archives of Pathology, 56, 84.


The first edition of this book has been received favourably, as was predicted in the review published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in May 1957. The need for a second edition, only eighteen months later, indicates the demand by undergraduates and general practitioners, for whom the book was written. The text has been revised extensively and amplified by new illustrations, a chapter on the special features of fractures in children, and minor additions to many subjects to make them clearer. There is no doubt that this compact text-book on fractures will continue to fulfil a need and we predict that further editions will appear regularly. Mr Crawford Adams is to be congratulated on his ability to keep his book concise and clear, and free from unnecessary details.—L. W. Plewes.


This handbook on fractures was first produced in 1943. The fourth edition has now appeared in response to a continued demand for a small and compact manual by medical students and general practitioners who have to do their own fracture work. This latest edition includes descriptions of skeletal traction for comminuted Colles fracture, management of necrosis of the femoral head and non-union of fractures of the carpal scaphoid bone. The authors do not claim to have produced a complete volume on fractures and they say in their preface, “The student and practitioner should be aware of the value of definitive treatment that can be obtained through consultation.” They have succeeded in keeping the book a small one and the newly added line drawings are well up to the high standard in previous editions.—L. W. Plewes.