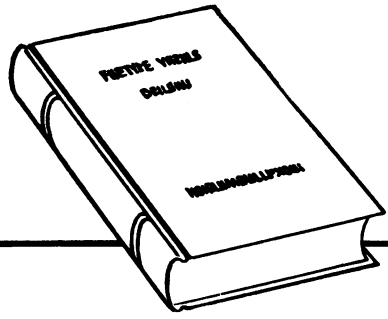

THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

CANCER—Diagnosis and Treatment—Edited by John B. Field, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California; with 28 Contributors. Little, Brown & Company, Boston 6, 1959. 796 pages, $18.50.

This volume represents an effort to cover the field of diagnosis and treatment of cancer in a comprehensive fashion. There are 20 chapters, 15 of which are devoted to cancer and allied diseases occurring in anatomical portions of the body and systems. There is an excellent chapter on the history of diagnosis and treatment of cancer concluding with a general summary of the problem as it confronts the physician of today. There are chapters dealing with Medical Care of the Patient, Cancer in Children, Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy.

There are 28 contributors, including co-authors of the various chapters. These include the names of many who are distinguished in the cancer field. Among these are Slaughter, Taylor, Haagensen, Churchill, Ochsner, Rankin, Coley and others.

The presentations are well balanced, on the whole. The standard procedures of diagnosis and treatment are delineated. In certain chapters the authors stress individual points of view which may not have general acceptance.

The work adds nothing to the existing knowledge of cancer. It represents a compendium of current knowledge and presents much valuable information in a single volume. The bibliography is fairly extensive.

It will serve as a useful, ready reference for those whose knowledge of the cancer field is not detailed.

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TOTAL SURGICAL MANAGEMENT (Modern Surgical Monographs—Editor-in-Chief: I. S. Ravdin, M.D.; Consulting Editor: Richard H. Orr, M.D.).—James D. Hardy, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1959. 292 pages, $9.50.

Many people are interested in the brief exposition of standard methods of pre-operative, and post-operative care. This short book summarizes the procedures suggested and employed in a large surgical service at Mississippi. There is little general discussion of the problems involved. It is didactic, cook book in style, short, and clearly written. It fails, however, to give the reader the type of understanding necessary for biological variations which occur in any preoperative, operative, or postoperative state.

For the value contained I would much prefer Dr. Hardy's other excellent book on the Pathophysiology of Surgery. This book is for interns or house officers who wish to rapidly learn a set of routine orders and methods which will enable them to give the patient care without understanding.

As compared with other similar books on the market it is good, but the reviewer finds too little of value in the book to recommend it over the usual hospital outlines afforded by every good surgical service.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY IN SURGERY—James D. Hardy, M.S. (Chem.), M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, and Director of Surgical Research, University of Mississippi Medical Center; Surgeon-in-Chief, Hospital of the University of Mississippi; Chief Surgical Consultant, Jackson Veterans Hospital and Mississippi Tuberculosis Sanatorium. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1958. 704 pages, $19.00.

This is the fourth or fifth book from the surgical pen of James Hardy, Professor of Surgery at the University of Mississippi. He is undoubtedly one of the most prolific authors on surgical principles today. He has a knack for synthesizing large amounts of knowledge into an understandable body of usable information. His style is clear, comprehensible, and brief. His skills are, therefore, particularly suited to a work on the pathophysiology of surgery.

There are two general ways of looking at surgery. One is to regard it as a highly technical discipline in which the experienced operator should always know and be certain of what he is doing. This type of knowledge affords the competent surgeon a generous measure of success without the necessity of thinking, but it is essentially a static and retrogressive approach to surgical advance. The other approach to surgery is to regard it as an ancillary therapeutic arm to medicine founded upon changing and advancing scientific principles. This approach requires a solid and basic understanding of the nature of disease, is flexible and imaginative in its scope. Dr. Hardy's book is an effort to impart the latter type of thinking and approach to the art of surgery.

The book is well done, covers a broad variety of general surgical topics ranging from the usual burn, fluid and electrolyte problems to those of the complicated pathophysiology of the liver and adrenals. The material is well organized and nicely presented. The book should appeal to students, house physicians, and surgeons desiring a physiological approach to their discipline. It is heartily recommended by the reviewer.

VICTOR RICHARDS

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SHAKESPEARE AND MEDICINE—by R. R. Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.Ed. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1959. Distributed in the United States by The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland. 267 pages, $6.90.

One is surprised by the author's statement in the introduction (p. 1) that very little has been written on medical allusions in Shakespeare's plays. Be this as it may, Dr. Simpson has certainly done a thorough job. After a general discussion of Shakespeare's knowledge of Elizabethan medicine there are systematic chapters on special phases of the subject such as Shakespeare on drugs and poisons, on wounds, on eyes, on pregnancy and many more. The material is richly documented with quotations but the whole subject is woven into a coordinated whole. The work seems definitive. There are some interesting illustrations and an index.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.