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REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

French's Index of Differential Diagnosis. Edited by ARTHUR H. DOUTHWAITE, M.D., F.R.C.P., Consulting Physician, Guy's Hospital, London. Ninth edition. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. 1034+xii, with 812 illustrations. 1967. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. £6 15s.

THE new ninth edition of this well-known work appears in an entirely new format, with the text in two columns to a page. This makes for easier reading and is a great advantage in a volume of this size.

New contributors have taken over the monographs in the fields of Surgery, Gynaecology, Neurology, and Dermatology, and they have done an exceedingly good job.

This work in the past fifty years has always been noted for the excellence of the illustrations, and, in this new edition, there are some 250 new and replacement illustrations, many of them in colour.

The exhaustive index, always an outstanding feature of this book, has been prepared with the aid of a computer for the first time. It is elaborately cross-referenced.

Dr. Douthwaite is to be congratulated on his editorship of this important work; it is a great credit to British Medicine and is sure to be as popular abroad as it is in this country.

This large volume will continue to be the reference book on differential diagnosis.

Die Chirurgische Behandlung der Lungentuberkulose. By CLAUS-DIETER BLOEDNER. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. 160+xii, with 149 illustrations. 1966. Berlin: Springer. DM.58.

IN 1967 an English thoracic surgeon opens this beautifully produced volume with a strange sense of entering a bygone era of surgery. At the present time in Great Britain, pulmonary tuberculosis has almost ceased to be a surgical disease and this German work appears to reflect the surgical problems with which we were only too familiar between 1950 and 1960. For this reason it seems almost archaic to find descriptions of the indications for artificial pneumothorax, extrapleural pneumothorax, and phrenic paralysis with pneumoperitoneum, together with plombage using paraffin wax, perlon, plexiglas (i.e., lucite), polystan, and silicone-rubber. Thoracoplasty is naturally described and the various forms of lung resection, though without giving clear indication for choice of method. At the same time the description of operations gives few details of technique and indeed little indication of mortality and results. The extensive bibliography gives hardly any

references to the English language literature nor is credit given to workers like Semb in improving thoracoplasty, or to Björk for his 'roof thoracoplasty'. There is a passing reference to Overholt, but apart from Eerland in Holland none to Sarot, Sellors, or Edwards and his colleagues, who did much to establish the feasibility of resection as a safe procedure. This lack of reference to British-American-Scandinavian work is perhaps accounted for by the war and the confused years that followed it in Central Europe. The obsolete procedure of open-cavity drainage is described, but no reference could be found to the treatment of tuberculous empyema by decortication with or without resection. Taken all in all, this is a disappointing book. One feels that its data come more from the published work of others rather than from personal experience, and the practising surgeon is always more interested in the personal than the general approach. The book would be improved by the addition of an index.

Ergebnisse und Bedeutung der Mediastinoskopie und anderer thoraxbiopischer Verfahren. By WERNER MAASSEN. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pp. 160+viii, with 60 illustrations. 1967. Berlin: Springer. DM.48.

WITHIN the small compass of 117 pages of text, Dr. Maassen has contrived to collect a great deal of information about various forms of biopsy as an aid to the diagnosis of intrathoracic disease. He is particularly concerned with mediastinoscopy as introduced by Carlsens, whose technique he follows—careful dissection of the upper mediastinum through a small incision in the suprasternal which allows visualization of the constituent structures, with biopsy where indicated. Mediastinoscopy has not been very extensively practised in Great Britain, but it is evident from this careful study that it has a good deal to offer in cases of obscure pulmonary and mediastinal pathology, which seem to present for investigation with increasing frequency. Apart from this general aspect, the author sets out to discover the relevance of mediastinoscopy in malignant disease of the lung, especially in relation to operability and whether it would shed any light on the lymphatic drainage of the lobes and segments of the lungs and its influence on the lymph-node metastases in bronchial carcinoma. This is in fact the part of the work which is perhaps of the greatest general interest at the present time, and he summarizes a total of 37,769 reported cases of bronchial carcinoma collected from the literature, giving details of resectability and survival.