

FILM AND BOOK REVIEWS

BOOKS

Urology from Antiquity to the 20th Century, by L. P. Wershub.

Vermont, Stephen Greene Press, 308 pages, 1970.

It is difficult to review the book of a deceased colleague when one finds much to criticize. The text reads reasonably well. Illustrations are excellent but not always appropriate. The principal problems with this book are errors and omissions of considerable magnitude. A few examples: The omission of Swick's contribution to the development of intravenous pyelography which is treated superficially as a subject. The author takes us into the 20th century in his discussion of prostatectomy yet does not mention one work of Millin. In spite of defects the book can be read profitably.

A.Z.

Stress Incontinence in Women, by R. F. Zacharin.

New York, Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 136 pages. \$9.50.

This reviewer cannot recall when he last enjoyed reading a book as much as this one. It is scholarly, logical, and uses anatomic demonstrations to show, among other things, the relaxation of the pubourethral ligaments as a probable cause of stress incontinence. The main thrust of this book concerns the author's views on the vexing problem of female stress incontinence and the presentation of his own modified operative procedure which he advises mainly for secondary use rather than the primary operative procedures to be used. This book belongs on the bookshelf of the student of female incontinence. It develops concepts which, no doubt, will be the subject of discussions in the future and which will require assessment by various operators.

A.Z.

Manual of Surgical Therapeutics, 2nd ed., edited by R. E. Condon, and L. M. Nyhus.

Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 385 pages. \$7.50.

There was a time when books of this type were small enough to slide easily into the pocket of the house officer's white jacket. This reviewer keeps his copy in the glove compartment of his car so that a quick trip to the hospital parking lot will provide instant, accurate,

erudite, valuable, and concise information on all matters relating to management of the surgical patient. A glance at the table of contents should convince every chief of service to insist that every member of his house staff be given a copy, and also the chief would do well to look it over himself. No doubt there are areas for disagreement with what is said, but I have no doubt that the postoperative course of many patients has been smoother because of the physician's use of this informative and invaluable book.

A.Z.

Detection, Prevention and Management of Urinary Tract Infections, by C. M. Kunin.

Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 230 pages, 1972. No charge.*

This little paperback book is written by a highly qualified worker in the field of urinary tract infections. The orientation is not "urologic," but there is much to ponder in this comprehensive book which is packed with practical information. Covered are theoretical considerations, examinations of the urine, catheter hygiene, and the management of urinary tract infection. This book should go a long way to bridge the gap between the medical man's fear of the catheter and the urologist's view that this is a necessary tool in treatment. A chapter on urologic aspects of urinary infections would have given the book more balance, except that this was written for the benefit of all practitioners. Highly recommended.

A.Z.

Kidney and Urinary Tract Infections, by E. L. Becker, *et. al.*

Indianapolis, Eli Lilly & Co., 136 pages, 1972. No charge.

In keeping with Eli Lilly's long-standing tradition of printing beautiful books, this is a fine addition to the bookshelf. Although written by four nonurologists it is full of valuable information. However it lacks the "bite" of Kunin's book. There is an excellent chapter on renal physiology. Anyone preparing a lecture on urinary infections would do well to explore the magnificent illustrations.

A.Z.

*Distributed by Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., New York, New York.