A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE CARE OF THE INJURED. By P. S. London, M.B.E., M.B. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Engl.). (Pp. xii+776; illustrated, 150s.). Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1967.

This book has 777 pages, including a wide, comprehensive bibliography. It requires detailed reading, but such a labour is very worthwhile.

Injuries are considered in great detail, and guest authors have contributed on subjects such as facial, eye, head and some other injuries. Injuries, including burns, are not only dealt with as hospital problems, but excellent and practical first-aid measures are described down to the instructions which should be given to the ambulance driver. Advice is given on the immediate treatment of burns, which means within seconds of the accident. The management of multiple and mass injuries is covered in an excellent manner, again with minute detail on some points which could have been overlooked by a less dedicated surgeon. There are chapters on anaesthesia, rehabilitation and the legal relationship between doctor and patient, containing sound advice and some clear-headed philosophy.

Some specialists will find argumentative points of detail in treatment, but there can be little argument about the principles behind the management and treatment.

This publication is a milestone in the treatment of the injured and may well be the book which will have the same effect as Watson-Jones 'Fractures and Joint Injuries' had when first published. It became the 'Bible' for such injuries for most orthopaedic surgeons, and London's book may well become the basic book of reference for traumatic surgery.

It is an outstanding publication, which must find a place in every department dealing with trauma. It will become dog-eared very quickly, because it will be used day and daily. Whole-hearted recommendation for this excellent book is made, and its production is up to Messrs. Livingstone's highest level.

R.I.W.

THE LIVER. Edited by A. E. Read, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Pp. xiii+405; illustrated, 140s.). London: Butterworth, 1968.

This book is a record of the forty-one papers on the subject of the liver, as presented to the Colston Research Society Symposium in Bristol in April, 1967. While it is difficult to capture the atmosphere of the conference room, much has been done to achieve this by publishing, in addition, the discussions of the papers. As one who had the privilege of attending the Symposium, I find this record of the whole proceedings invaluable.

The earlier chapters of the book deal with the structure and function of the normal liver, and thus include some complicated biochemistry. The newer techniques available for diagnosis of liver diseases are then discussed by workers foremost in their development. These include electron microscopy, histochemistry, ultrasonic scanning, liver scintillography, selective coeliac axis catheterisation, etc.

The latter half of the book deals with advances in the field of portal hypertension. The difficult problems encountered in the treatment of hepatic coma are dealt with and the relative merits of extracorporeal perfusion using pig's liver, exchange transfusion using fresh donor blood, and the place of homotransplantation are discussed.

The final forty pages are concerned with the practical problems facing all clinicians who deal with portal hypertension, and should be read by every physician and surgeon. Many of the most helpful points come in the published discussion of the papers. Thus, for example, we learn from Dr. T. C. Chalmers that prophylactic portacaval shunt has been abandoned by the Boston Liver Group after a well controlled, randomised trial. The publication also captures some of the caustic comments of a conference room, e.g. 'Gastric cooling may be an expensive way of sucking ice' (Prof. Sheila Sherlock) or 'The dream of every internist is to find a better way of avoiding a good operation' (Dr. W. V. McDermott).

The book is a 'must' for every medical library and every serious student of liver disease. However, one feels that at seven pounds the volume has been priced outside the range of the reader whose interest in liver disease is secondary. The initial chapters are rather heavy for the clinician, but the rest of the book makes easy reading.

G.W.J.

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