
There has long been a need for a re-organization of the morass of information which has been accumulating on the subject of coronary heart disease. Dr. Milton Plotz has succeeded in producing an important work on the subject, which is comprehensive yet concise. The all-inclusive table of contents, exhaustive bibliography and intervening 353 pages attest to the unqualified success of this objective.

Thus, it contains a comprehensive coverage of basic anatomic and physiologic principles, etiologic factors, pathology, complications, new laboratory tests, prognosis, differential diagnosis, and specific medical and surgical therapeutic procedures. Twenty-five illustrative case reports with electrocardiograms stress many important points. For good measure, Dr. Plotz has included sections on medicolegal aspects as well as dynamic preventive care.

The format is most acceptable. Although many illustrations are borrowed, they are pertinent and informative. This well-written book is a must for anyone who evinces any interest in this important subject.

Nathaniel E. Reich, M.D.

EKG FIBEL, by Rolf Heinecker, M.D. and Ferdinand Hoff, M.D. Published by Georg Thieme, Stuttgart, 1956, 195 pages, 216 illustrations, $4.50.

The popularity of teaching clinical electrocardiography by the comic strip approach continues unabated, and the small beginners texts in German by Heinecker attests that this can be done well if combined with good reproductions of tracings and the meticulous use of various printer's techniques, which serve to emphasize another sketchy text. By contrast, the book illustrates again the generally poor techniques and inferior equipment to which we are exposed in this country, as well as the indifference displayed by many publishers toward ventures of this sort in the United States.

On the other hand, the reviewer sees little merit in treating the reader on a sub-elementary level and exposing him to a multitude of descriptive patterns, which includes those of some rather esoteric bipolar precordial leads, without providing him at the same time with some of the necessary background of the principles involved. Experimental and theoretical considerations of the electrophysiology of the heart have reached a stage where an almost complete omission of such aspects in a clinical text must be considered a needless deficiency.

Hans H. Hecht, M.D.


This short text emphasizes the radicular syndromes with particular reference to the cervical and thoracic regions. There are chapters devoted to the historical background of the concept of root pain, anatomy of the vertebral areas, possible causes of the pain, mechanics, symptomatology, diagnostic signs and roentgenologic aspects. Following are detailed sections on lower cervical and upper thoracic root syndromes with chest symptoms, cervical root syndromes and treatment.

Pain in the chest is a common complaint that often is the one symptom which prompts a patient to consult his physician. The author has emphasized the various symptomatic variants of the radicular syndrome as well as the various natural causes of the syndrome. This is done in text book fashion as well as with numerous case histories. It is interesting to note that some of these patients had recurrent hypertension and/or coronary arteriosclerosis. He is careful to attempt to separate those symptoms attributed to the radicular syndrome and the concurrent disease. There are long term follow-ups on many patients. This book is recommended.

Hugh A. Flack, M.D.