
Book Reviews

Early ambulation and related procedures in surgical management. Daniel J. Leithauser. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1946. Pp. xi + 232. (Illustrated.) \$4.50.

It has long been recognized that the period of disability following an abdominal operation is largely proportionate to the period of time the patient is immobilized in bed. The author presents experimental and especially clinical evidence based on 2,047 personal cases to show that nearly all patients, after even very serious surgical procedures, may be made to leave their beds daily, beginning a few hours after the operation, with a more rapid, safe, and comfortable convalescence than if prolonged immobilization had been used. This opinion is reinforced by many quotations from the literature which emphasize the growing modern tendency toward shorter periods of bed rest after operation. Definite rest periods are balanced by periods of activity, for which the author describes graduated bed exercises as well as the particular preoperative and postoperative treatment he personally uses.

Sound evidence has been accumulated that serious post-operative respiratory, circulatory, and gastrointestinal complications may be prevented or controlled by activities such as those described by the author. For example, in the author's series of over 2,000 cases there was no instance of pulmonary embolism. Important aids which are detailed are the use of anatomic muscle-splitting incisions, delicacy in handling tissues, and the security and lack of irritation in wound closure by the use of buried sutures of stainless steel wire. While surgeons often will use their own rather than the special technical procedures preferred by the author, and may hesitate to employ early ambulation for patients with circulatory failure and diffuse septic peritonitis, they will be repaid by reading this very complete discussion of early postoperative ambulation and an associated operative technic with pre- and postoperative treatment.

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Functional anatomy of the mammal. W. James Leach. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1946. Pp. viii + 231. (Illustrated.) \$2.50.

This book was written to "supplement courses in human anatomy (and physiology); to serve as the mammalian portion of courses in comparative vertebrate anatomy; or to be used in courses principally concerned with general mammalian features."

The first few pages are devoted to general anatomical considerations, for the human as well as the cat. Then follows a description of the conventional vertebrate systems: skeletal, muscular, alimentary, respiratory, vascular, urogenital, and nervous. A chapter on superficial dissection of the cat is interposed between the chapters on the skeletal and muscular systems, and a survey of internal anatomy precedes the alimentary system. The text ends with chapters on the special sensory apparatus and the endocrine organs. The functional aspects of the organs and systems are referred to throughout.

An appendix gives some brief suggestions for preserving laboratory material.

The text is sufficiently illustrated with noncolored diagrams and figures. The names of structures and processes are featured in bold type as they are introduced. A check list of muscles, with pronunciation and derivation indicated, follows each muscle group. A useful tabular summary of the main blood vessels and the cranial nerves is included. At intervals provocative problems of a correlative nature are suggested for solution.

Typographical errors are at a minimum, very few inconsistencies occur between labels of diagrams and names used in the text, and vague statements that tend to confuse rather than clarify are not numerous.

All in all, this book should be very useful as a supplemental text.

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Scientific Book Register

DAVIS, H. S. *Care and diseases of trout.* (U. S. Dept. of Interior, Research Rep. No. 12.) Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. 98. (Illustrated.) \$.35.

DIEKE, G. H. *Ladybeetles of the genus Epilachna (sens. lat.) in Asia, Europe, and Australia.* (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 106, No. 15.) Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1947. Pp. iii + 183. (Illustrated.)

DU NOÛY, LECOMTE. *Human destiny.* New York-London-Toronto: Longmans, Green, 1947. Pp. xix + 289. \$3.50.

HAMMOND, JOHN, et al. *The artificial insemination of cattle.* Cambridge, Engl.: W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd., 1947. Pp. 61. (Illustrated.)

HOEL, PAUL G. *Introduction to mathematical statistics.* New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1947. Pp. x + 258. (Illustrated.) \$2.50.

HUNT, H. *Physical chemistry.* New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1947. Pp. x + 610. (Illustrated.) \$4.75.

JOHNSON, FREDERICK. (Ed.) *Man in northeastern North America.* (Papers of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology, Vol. 3.) Andover, Mass.: Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology, 1946. Pp. xi + 347. (Illustrated.)

KLYNE, WILLIAM. *Practical chemistry for medical students.* Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1946. Pp. xvi + 459. (Illustrated.) \$6.00.

LUNDBERG, GEORGE A. *Can science save us?* New York-London-Toronto: Longmans, Green, 1947. Pp. 122. \$1.75, cloth; \$1.00, paper.

MARTIN, PAUL S., QUIMBY, GEORGE I., and COLLIER, DONALD. *Indians before Columbus: twenty thousand years of North American history revealed by archeology.* Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1947. Pp. xxiii + 582. (Illustrated.) \$6.00.

MILLIKAN, R. A. *Electrons (+ and -), protons, photons, neutrons, mesotrons, and cosmic rays.* (Rev. ed.) Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1947. Pp. x + 642. (Illustrated.) \$6.00.