

Dr. Elman must be congratulated on rendering the clinical fields a threefold service: first, in bringing clarity, order, and organization into a confused field; second, in giving a demonstration, to use the words given in the preface of the book, on "how advances in surgery frequently have emerged in fields entirely outside surgery itself," and third, in exemplifying in his own professional life how this can be effectively brought about.

Co TUI

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The human ear in anatomical transparencies. Stephen L. Polyak, Gladys McHugh, and Delbert K. Judd. Elmsford, N. Y.: Sonotone Corporation, 1946. (New York: T. H. McKenna, distributors.) Pp. 136. (Illustrated.) \$10.50.

This work is unique in that it is a joint product of an anatomist, a medical artist, and an otolaryngologist; it is novel in its technique of transparent illustrations which, for the most part, are excellently performed; and it is ambitious in the attempt to analyze the ear from the standpoints of ontogenesis, phylogenesis, morphology, and function and to present the material in a form useful to interested laymen, scholars of speech, scientists, and medical specialists.

The book is in two parts. The first, which is general in scope, consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 deals very briefly with the chief functions of the ear, hearing and equilibrium, and their phylogenesis. Chapter 2 outlines very simply the constituent parts of the ear. Between Chapters 2 and 3 is a set of transparencies consisting of 12 beautifully colored drawings of serial dissections of the right side of the head which, when superimposed on each other, give a composite picture of the dissected head showing considerable depth. Chapter 3, is essentially an anatomical atlas of the head, designed to show the topographical relationship of the ear to the rest of the structures. It is fortified with 14 colored plates of dissections at various levels. The text, besides presenting anatomical description, stresses functional and topographical relationships. Chapter 4 presents a careful anatomical and functional description of the larynx and is well illustrated in color with views of 11 dissections, 4 laryngoscopic views, and other diagrammatic aspects. The text is partly descriptive but is written largely from the standpoint of the student of speech. Chapter 5 is a lengthy account of the anatomy and function of the external ear, and the abundant illustrations depict both the ontogenetic and phylogenetic development.

Part II consists of Chapters 6, 7, and 8, which present a more detailed anatomical and functional description of the middle and internal ear. Chapter 6, like Chapter 3, is a topographical descriptive atlas, but includes only the more limited area of the ear. Whereas the illustrations in Chapter 3 are life sized, those in Chapter 6 are magnified 3 X. Just preceding this chapter there is a group of 8 transparencies depicting serial dissections of the region of the internal and middle ear at a magnification of 3 X.

The colored drawings, both in the transparencies and in Chapter 6, are very well done and the views well chosen. The text is a conventional account showing nothing new.

Chapter 7 deals with the microscopic anatomy of the internal ear. The text here is also a conventional account. The illustrations taken, for the most part, largely from

classical textbook figures, are augmented by drawings from sections of the ear of *Macaca rhesus* and from Golgi preparations showing nerves and nerve terminations from various animals.

The final chapter is concerned with the functions of the middle ear and internal ear. Although various theories regarding the function of the middle ear are cited, the question is left open. However, in the case of the cochlea the authors lean very strongly to Helmholtz's theory.

The book is very readable and, with the numerous unique but splendid drawings, should be of interest to the layman as well as to the scientist.

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Ophthalmology in the war years. (Vol. 1.) Meyer Wiener. (Ed.) Chicago: Year Book Publishers, 1946. Pp. x + 1166. \$13.50.

Meyer Wiener, together with an imposing number of associate editors, has produced a volume which reviews all obtainable literature in ophthalmology from 1940 to 1943. Such a book was requested by the Subcommittee on Ophthalmology of the National Research Council. It was intended to make available to physicians, who were in the service as well as at home, the great wealth of ophthalmic literature which appeared in the first few years of the war. Over 8,000 articles have been abstracted, and an exhaustive bibliography has been compiled.

The text is printed in large type and on good paper. The basic sciences, clinical and scientific investigations, therapeutics, and surgery have been included. The book has greatest value as a reference volume. Although few sections can be read as a whole with full grasp of the tremendous amount of information digested in the numerous paragraphs, specific knowledge, when sought by topic, may be found concisely and accurately reported. The many pages that have been condensed to a single book enable one to conserve energy and time when searching for information of that three-year period. Those engaged in research will find this volume of tremendous help.

The editor has attempted to assign subjects and sections to appropriately qualified authorities for review and, since the associate editors are also deep students of ophthalmology and men of well-known reputation, one is assured that topics have received expert attention. Some sections have been reviewed in a more interesting fashion than others. Whereas some chapters are simply a succession of paragraphs representing well-reported articles, they do not contain good commentary and evaluation, which the average reader seeks. Other are masterpieces, and one feels that the subject matter has been weighed, sifted, organized, and presented so that nothing is left to be desired.

Noticeably lacking are illustrations and photographs. These would have greatly enhanced the value of the book, not alone to the ophthalmologist interested in writing and research but also to the busy clinical eye physician.

Dr. Wiener and his co-editors deserve an expression of gratitude for the great task which they have undertaken and completed during such a trying period.

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