Book Reviews


Students of basic topographical anatomy are spoiled for choice—and here is an addition from a well known ‘stable.’ This pocket book describes the whole body including the brain and spinal cord in less than 200 good quality pages of 9” × 6”. Of course it is not comprehensive but the choice of what to include and what to leave out is very well made. Small stethoscope symbols direct us to clinically important aspects. The special feature of the book is the excellent colour photographs. Some of them are at the lower limit of size but they are adequate and well chosen. There is a resume at the end of each chapter and a glossary at the end of the book. It would make an ideal present for a student starting medicine, a nurse, paramedic or art student.

R. M. Kirk


No reader of this Journal would deny the importance of surface anatomy in the education of medical and dental students, nurses, physiotherapists and other paramedical students. After all, in their subsequent clinical practice, the knowledge of what lies under their patients' skin is employed almost without thinking. They will constantly be using either palpable or visible landmarks of bones, joints, vessels, nerves, muscles and tendons, or else their knowledge of the surface projections of deeply placed structures. In teaching anatomy we should never omit to stress how much of our subject is, in fact, easily available to the trained eye and palpating fingers. The 2nd edition of ‘Clinical Surface Anatomy’ is welcomed. It contains as perfect a collection of colour photographs of normal human anatomy as one can expect to find. A refreshing feature is that the subjects are not the usual ‘super-men’ (or women), with muscles that stand out like advertisements for the most expensive body builders, but are of perfectly normal men and women, together with a baby and an ‘elderly’ subject, who is easily recognised as one of the authors. Many of the photographs illustrate important features of clinical relevance; where to insert needles for nerve blocks, how to test individual muscles and hence their supplying nerves, and how x-rays relate to overlying soft tissues. This new edition will certainly continue to appeal to our students of anatomy and will be helpful to their instructors in pointing out the essentially clinical nature of much of today’s syllabus.

Harold Ellis