

## BOOK REVIEW

Engel, Arthur: *Perspectives in Health Planning*. The Athlone Press, 1968. University of London.

Arthur Engel, Director-General of the National Board of Health of Sweden during the years 1952-1967, has given a highly interesting account of the enormous developments that have taken place in recent years in the public health services, not least during his time as director-general. His book, which gives perspectives both backward and above all forward in time, is brilliantly written, in a pregnant and concise style, and is hailed with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction.

All those who realize and are concerned about how the different medical specialities are gliding away from each other with the speed of the galaxies will undoubtedly feel inclined to agree with Engel's words: "Modern medicine with its strong influx of technology, sociology and psychology and its orientation towards more advisory, preventive and social activities has to embark upon a wide range of new training programmes, many of them having an entirely new content. Very often they will offer a combined medical, technological, biological, psychological and socioeconomic education. I feel it is in this way that medical manpower has to be equipped. This is a matter of urgency."

OLLE HÖÖK

Herberts, Peter: *Myoelectric Signals in Prosthesis Control*.

Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica 1969. Suppl. 124.

The author and his co-workers have studied the characteristics of the myoelectric signals in order to create a basis for using these in prosthesis control. The EMG-signals were analysed partly by previously known methods, partly by new methods, i.e. frequency analysis and ana-

lysis of the control capacity in different muscles. The relative qualities of skin electrodes, needle electrodes, and a new type of implantable electrodes were investigated.

O. H.

Adolfsson, Göran: *Circulatory and Respiratory Function in Relation to Physical Activity in Female Patients before and after Cholecystectomy*.

Acta Chirurgica Scandinavica 1969, Suppl. 402.

The study shows that both postoperative and preoperative training in a group of patients subjected to operation for gallstone disease gave the patients better circulatory and respiratory functions. Early mobilization within a few hours after the operation where intracostal blocks were given is, described. Studies of this type are important in order to measure the possibilities to diminish respiratory and vascular complications as well as the possibilities to shorten the convalescence period.

O. H.

Lysell, E.: *Motion in the cervical spine*.

Acta orthopaedica Scandinavica 1969. Suppl. 123.

The dissertation is based on an analysis of the motion pattern of the cervical spine, studied on fresh autopsy specimens using a new radiographic technic. The author presents the range of motions which occurs in different segments of vertebrae of the cervical spine in various types of movement directions. The positions of the cervical vertebra followed certain regular patterns. As lesions and diseases within the cervical spine many times may lead to difficult diagnostic problems this investigation will be of value in making a more accurate analysis.

O. H.