

ADDENDUM TO BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA

*Addendum 1955 to the British Pharmacopoeia* 1953. Published under the Direction of the General Medical Council Pursuant to the Medical Council Act 1862 and the Medical Act 1950. Official from March 1, 1956. Pp. 94 + xvii. 21s. 0d. London: The Pharmaceutical Press.

*Contents:* 1. Monographs. Appendices. Index.

The advances in therapeutics and pharmacetics and in the chemical and biological sciences have been so tremendous in modern times that not only has a complete new edition of the British Pharmacopoeia been published after an interval of 5 years, but an Addendum is issued between the publication of the editions. In this Addendum there are 56 new monographs on drugs and preparations, and amendments to numerous existing monographs of the B.P. 1953; changes have also been made in the appendices of the Pharmacopoeia.

The monographs now included deal with Carbimazole (anti-thyroid), Chloroquine Phosphate and Sulphate (antimalarial), Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (anthelmintic), Hexamethonium Tartrate (ganglion blocking agent), Gallamine Triethiodide and Suxamethonium Chloride (muscle relaxants), Primidone (anti-convulsant), Lignocaine Hydrochloride (local anaesthetic), Iopanoic Acid (for cholecystography), Phenindione and Dextran Sulphate (anticoagulants), Nalorphine Hydrobromide (morphine antagonist); Cortisone Acetate, Corticotrophin, Insulin Zinc Suspensions; Ferrus Gluconate; Methylamphetamine Hydrochloride; Oxy-tetracycline Dihydrate, and the Hydrochloride for injection; Phenylbutazone.

N.S.

A NEW TEXT-BOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

*Ophthalmology. A Textbook for Diploma Students.* By Patrick D. Trevor-Roper, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S. (Engl). Pp. 656 + xii with illustrations. 75s. 0d. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* Part I—Anatomy. 1. The Eyeball. 2. The Bony Orbit, Lids and Lacrimal Apparatus. 3. The Muscles and Vessels of the Eye. 4. The Peripheral Nerves and Central Nervous Connections. 5. Embryology. Part II—Physiology. 6. The Intra-Ocular Fluids. 7. The Intra-Ocular Structures. 8. The Extra-Ocular Structures. 9. The Effect of Light on the Eye. 10. Colour Vision. 11. Visual Sensations. 12. The Central Mechanism of Vision. Part III—Optics. 13. Reflection and Refraction. 14. Refraction in the Normal Eye. 15. The Abnormally Refracting Eye ('Refractive Errors'). 16. The Estimation and Correction of Refractive Errors. 17. Methods of Inspection. Part IV—Diseases of the Outer Eye. 18. Squint. 19. Diseases of the Orbit. 20. Diseases of the Lacrimal Apparatus. 21. Diseases of the Eyelids. 22. Conjunctiva. 23. The Cornea and Sclera. 24. The Treatment of External Diseases. Part V—Diseases of the Inner Eye. 25. The Lens. 26. Glau-

coma. 27. The Uveal Tract. 28. The Retina. 29. Diseases of the Visual Pathways Index.

Postgraduate students seeking ophthalmic diplomas (such as the London D.O.) have long felt the need for a text-book standing midway between Duke-Elder's *Textbook of Ophthalmology*—too massive and encyclopaedic—and the short handbooks—more suitable for the undergraduate. That gap has now been adequately bridged by one of the younger London ophthalmologists, Mr. Trevor-Roper, who is associated with Moorfields, and the Institute of Ophthalmology, London.

Elegantly written, profusely illustrated with effective photographs and diagrams, this book is an excellent introduction and a sound foundation for anyone contemplating ophthalmology as a speciality. Anatomy, Physiology and Optics receive far more adequate consideration than usual, and so well are they done that these sections alone will make the book essential for the student. The other sections, too, are exceedingly well done, although in such a short book one can naturally find an occasional omission or deficiency.

The author tells us that the need for brevity has imposed a didactic and dogmatic diction; this will be welcomed by the student. But I suspect this may have been an even better book had the author not eschewed, in the interests of brevity, all the discursive forays and elegant elaborations which had slid into the early drafts.

The changing patterns of disease, and the revolution produced by the antibiotics, are shown by the interesting fact that gonococci have been isolated from the conjunctiva in only one case out of over 30,000 cultures taken at the Institute of Ophthalmology during the past 5 years.

Mr. Trevor-Roper can congratulate himself on his fine achievement. His is an admirable book with teaching up-to-date and most acceptable.

S. Abel

THE BRAIN

*The Human Brain.* By John Pfeiffer. Pp. 266. 16s. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Introducing the Brain. 2. Man's Evolving Brain. 3. From Birth to Old Age. 4. Pathways of Emotion. 5. The Brain in Focus. 6. Remembrances of things past. 7. Memory and the Higher Faculties. 8. Cells in Rhythm. 9. Sick Brains. 10. How we feel pain. 11. The Sacred Disease. 12. The Riddle of Neurosis. 13. A Visit to Manteno. 14. The Rise of Psychosurgery. 15. Brain Operations with Needles. 16. Chemistry and Mental Disease. 17. The Most Complicated Machines. 18. The Thinking Machine. Bibliography. Index.

This book is a mixture of crisp, readable, factual writing and highly coloured, forceful, cartoon-like descriptions of modern

concepts about the cerebrum. It does not attempt to be a popular guide to the physiology and anatomy of the brain but it does present in a very vivid manner a great deal of information about common cerebral processes, mental disorders, psychosomatic interrelationships, and physical forms of therapy in the neuroses and psychoses. While the first half of the book might be irritating to the medical reader because of its emphatic 'digest' tone, the second half gives a good popular review of such matters as electroconvulsive therapy, stereotaxis and cybernetics, and peeps at the chemical basis of certain mental processes.

Many of the case-histories are illuminating and fascinating, but one regrets that medical references are not given to them. It is said, however, that each chapter has been 'vetted' by an expert, and certainly no inaccuracies could be found in the general text; so that one may assume that these histories are genuine—the only one that could be traced with certainty was exact in general outline.

This kind of writing has become familiar to those who read the better American periodicals and the continual sugar-coating with baseball figures of speech can be swallowed quite easily, even by those not accustomed to such administrations. The pill is thoroughly invigorating and most medical men would be the better for an occasional tonic course of this kind of book to help them to have a more balanced and secular view of a subject which is too often obscured by medical clichés and terminological shutters. The work is a fine, racy account of something with which we should be more familiar and use more often—our brains.

J. MacW. MacG.

#### SURGERY OF THE ALIMENTARY TRACT

*Bickham-Callander Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. Volumes I, II and III.* By Richard T. Shackelford, M.D. Pp. 2575, with 1,705 illustrations. £21 12s. per set of 3 volumes. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1955.

*Contents Volume I.* 1. The Esophagus. 2. The Stomach and Duodenum. 3. The Liver. 4. The Gallbladder and Extrahepatic Biliary Ducts. *Volume II.* 5. The Pancreas. 6. The Spleen. 7. The Small Intestine (Jejunal and Ileal Portions). 8. The Peritoneum, Omentum and Mesentery. 9. The Colon. *Volume III.* 10. The Ano-rectal Tract. 11. Excisions of the Rectum. 12. Hernia of the Gastrointestinal Tract. 13. Incisions. Index to Volumes, I, II and III.

This work, spread over 2,500 pages in 3 beautifully produced volumes, presents the subject very thoroughly. In the preface Dr. Shackelford explains how the present work is derived from the original 'Bickham' which was a monumental work in 6 volumes. Callander, of 'Surgical Anatomy' and 'Tendo-plastic Amputation above Knee' fame, revised Bickham for a 2nd edition, but died before it was completed. Shackelford undertook to review Callander's material on the digestive system, tie up the loose ends, and publish it as a 2-volume work on 'Surgery of the Alimentary Tract' in a year. The work took him 6 years and spread to 3 volumes. After perusing the books it is easy to believe this. This work has been done with meticulous care, and immense pains have gone into its production. The breadth of the author's researches is well reflected in the fullness of the bibliographies given at the end of each section. Here it is refreshing to see that the author has not followed the custom so prevalent amongst his countrymen of using only references from the New World.

In volume I the section on stomach and duodenum is very full and satisfying. That on the biliary tract is especially good. The presentation is very lucid and includes many practical points which will make it worthy of study even for the experienced surgeon.

In volume II the section on congenital anomalies merits special mention and the author acknowledges that much of the material has been taken from Gross' recent work. He could not have chosen a better source from which to cull.

Volume III deals very adequately with the ano-rectal tract, and also has a section on Hernia. In this it is pleasing to see that Allison's work on diaphragmatic hernia has been accorded proper recognition.

With most books which aim at a complete presentation of a subject one cannot help feeling that certain parts could have been omitted because the procedures described are of doubtful value or have become obsolete. In this work, however, the author has added to his description of the operation a comment assessing its value in his opinion: the comments show how experienced and sound his judgment is.

The surgery of the digestive system has made great strides in the last decade and this book is 'up to the minute' rather than 'up to date'. The detailed contents are excellently set out, so that a particular subject is very easily located. The illustrations are plentiful and good; the paper and general presentation are of the splendid quality one has come to associate with Saunders' products. All in all, this work must carry a very warm commendation for all general surgeons—this being that branch of surgery to which the digestive tract has been left.

P.C.W.M.

#### DISORDERS OF THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

*Management of Disorders of the Autonomic Nervous System.* By Louis T. Palumbo, M.D. Pp. 186, with illustrations. \$5.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Clinical Gross Anatomy. 2. Clinical Physiology. 3. Clinical Pharmacology. 4. Clinical Tests and Changes Following Surgery. 5. The Extremities. 6. The Cardiopulmonary System. 7. Hypertension. 8. The Gastrointestinal Tract. 9. The Genitourinary Tract. 10. The Head and Neck. References. Index.

There is certainly a need for a short, not too technical, book on the Autonomic Nervous System, written at the non-specialist level, but after reading this book by Dr. Palumbo one still feels this want. The author has largely failed, by taking too exclusively surgical a viewpoint. He ranges fully through the disorders of the autonomic system but he has obviously scant interest in certain subjects, such as the treatment of cerebro-vascular accidents and various cephalgias. With some disorders such as Causalgia and Phantom Limbs he has nothing to offer other than surgery, although he does make a passing reference to patients often resorting to narcotics and herb-healers. His best section is on the treatment of hypertension, where he gives a good, brief summary of drug therapy and contrasts it with surgical treatment, giving percentages of success and failure in the various modes of attack.

The photographs of disturbances of sweating after sympathectomy are excellent and the use of an iodine and castor-oil paint in this test seems very much simpler than that of some of the dye preparations.

There is a full bibliography at the end of the book but as it is not related to the individual chapters it is almost impossible to find the relative references.

This book is well bound and printed on good paper but it is expensive for its size and it is a great pity that its author has lost, by his tautology and vagueness, an opportunity for clarifying the treatment and management of autonomic disorders.

J. MacW. MacG.

#### NEUROLOGY AND NEUROPSYCHIATRY

*Recent Advances in Neurology and Neuropsychiatry.* Sixth Edition. By Sir Russell Brain, Bt. D.M. (Oxon.), P.R.C.P. and E. B. Strauss, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Pp. 311 + x, with illustrations. 30s. 0d. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. The Frontal Lobe and the Organization of Movement. 2. The Frontal Lobe—Mental Aspects. 3. The Temporal Lobe. 4. The Parietal Lobe and Sensation. 5. Consciousness and Unconsciousness. 6. The Cerebellum and its Disorders. 7. Poliomyelitis and the Coxsackie Disease. 8. Demyelinating Disorders. 9. The Intervertebral Disc and Spondylosis. 10. The Cerebral Circulation. 11. Miscellaneous Clinical and Therapeutic Advances. 12. Electro-Encephalography. 13. Neuro-radiology. 14. Intracranial Tumours.

With the voluminous increase in medical literature it is becoming more and more difficult for even the expert to keep up with his subject, and indeed matters have reached a stage when it is becoming almost impossible to keep pace with the digests, excerpts, year-books and compendia that appear on special or general subjects. This is not to say that these various periodical reviews are to be rejected; they are essential for most of us as guiding posts; but it does mean that one must select a certain type of direction-finder to avoid being hopelessly lost in the bogs of medical writing.

The Recent Advances series has a special place amongst resumsés, for they give us the considered views of leading experts on their own subjects; furthermore they do not appear at too frequent intervals. It is a great advantage to see at roughly 5-yearly intervals what the general trends have been in various subjects.

This present edition has two new contributors, Dr. Denis Hill and Dr. David Sutton, both of whom can be congratulated on their contributions. Mr. Northfield gives us one of his concise,

though rather dry, reviews of recent neurosurgical work. The whole book with its wide, sane and balanced outlook over subjects as different as Consciousness and Cerebellar Physiology, Psychomotor Epilepsy and Spondylosis, is one which, in the words of the cliché, we shall all be pleased to have on our bookshelves. It is sometimes amusing to make the desert-island choice in books—the reviewer would unhesitatingly pick on this new edition of an old favourite if he were limited to one volume of the review type, whether on an atoll or in a metropolis.

This is a book for the general clinician, edited by clinicians, and that is something which cannot be said of many books with a similar format.

J. MacW. MacG.

#### CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY

*Clinical Biochemistry.* By Abraham Cantarow, M.D. and Max Trumper, Ph.D. Fifth Edition. Pp. 738 + xxi, with 54 illustrations. \$9.00. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1955.

*Contents:* 1. Carbohydrate Metabolism. 2. Lipid Metabolism. 3. Protein Metabolism. 4. Nucleic Acid Metabolism. 5. Metabolism of Hemoglobin and Porphyrins. 6. Biochemical Aspects of Diet. 7. Calcium and Inorganic Phosphate Metabolism. 8. Phosphate Activity. 9. Magnesium Metabolism. 10. Iron Metabolism. 11. Sulfur Metabolism. 12. Iodine Metabolism. 13. Sodium, Potassium and Chloride Metabolism. 14. Water Balance. 15. 'Acid-Base' (Anion-Cation) Balance (Neutrality Regulation). 16. Respiratory Exchange and Basal Metabolism. 17. Hormone Assay and Endocrine Function (with A. E. Rakoff). 18. Vitamins. 19. Chemical Investigation of Gastric Function. 20. Pancreatic Function. 21. Hepatic Function. 22. Renal Function. 23. Cerebrospinal Fluid. Index.

The intelligent practice of medicine cannot be undertaken today without an understanding of basic biochemistry. This text-book is particularly valuable, because it provides this knowledge, whilst it observes a strictly clinical approach to the subject.

Many chapters in this new edition have been completely rewritten to include the numerous facts which have emerged in the past 5 years. However, the general form and attractive layout of the previous edition has been retained. The chapter on Acid-Base Regulation still forms a remarkable elucidation of this important but complex subject.

In the consideration of Hypercalcaemia, two common causes are omitted: Sarcoidosis is not mentioned, nor is the administration of Cortisone. The latter is an unfortunate omission, since the hypercalcaemia can be prevented by appropriate therapy. In their discussion on Haemochromatosis, the authors apparently do not accept increased iron-absorption as the basic metabolic fault.

The dismissal of tri-iodo-thyronine in a line illustrates the author's unwillingness to accept a new development until it has become well established.

However, these are minor criticisms and the volume is enthusiastically recommended to all who seek instruction in this difficult field.

R.H.

#### A BILINGUAL JOURNAL IN HEBREW AND ENGLISH

*Harofé Haivri, the Hebrew Medical Journal.* Editor, Moses Einhorn, M.D. Vol. 2, 1955. Pp. 156 + advertisements pp. 107. The Hebrew Medical Journal, 983 Park Avenue, New York 28, N.Y.

This journal has issued 2 numbers in 1955. It is written in Hebrew, with English summaries, and has played an important part in the creation of a medical literature and terminology in Hebrew. Vol. 2 of 1955 contains 71 pages of text in Hebrew, 78 in English and 7 in both languages. It comprises the following:

I. *Israel and Health:* 'Mortality in Israel' by Dr. Gertrude Kallner, of the Israel Government Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem; 'Speech Disorders in Israel and Abroad' by J. Zylkewicz, M.D., Tel Aviv; 'Problems of Jewish Demography' by A. Spruch-Poisner, M.D., Tel Aviv; 'Dentistry in Israel and the School of Dentistry of the Hebrew University' by I. Seifert, D.D.S., Israel; and 'First Scientific Medical Institute in Palestine' by S. J. Plaschkes, M.D.

II. *Maimonides (Moshe ben Maimon)—Rambam—750th Anniversary:* 'The Art of Cure—A non-published Medical Book of Maimonides' by U. Barzel, M.A., B.S., Israel.

III. *Historical Medicine:* 'Jewish Medicine from the Historical Viewpoint' by A. Goldstein, M.D.

IV. *Bible and Medicine:* 'Endocrinology in the Bible' by J. Taub, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, New York Medical College.

V. *Religion and Medicine:* 'The Physician in Jewish Law and Religious Literature' by I. Jakobovits, B.A., Ph.D., Chief Rabbi of Ireland.

VI. *Personalia:* 'Abraham Levison, M.D.' by S. J. Zakon, M.D., Professor of Dermatology, Northwestern University, Chicago.

VII. *Book Reviews:*

VIII. *Medical and Pharmaceutical News.* A collection of great value especially to those interested in the Hebrew language, history and culture.

T.S.H.