

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

MEDICAL ETHICS

Medical Ethics. By Professor G. A. Elliott M.M., Univ. Cape Town; M.R.C.P., Lond., F.R.C.P., Lond. (Pp. 55. 2/6d.) Johannesburg. Witwaterstand University Press. 1954.

Contents: 1. Ethical Codes of the World. 2. General Aspects of the Practice of Medical Ethics. 3. Professional Secrecy. 4. Supersession. 5. Professional Responsibility. 6. Advertising. 7. Certificates. 8. Covering. 9. Professional Reputation of Colleagues. 10. Secret Remedies. 11. The Ethics of Investigative Medicine. 12. The Conduct of Consultations. 13. Abortion and Sterilization. 14. Fees and Other Financial Matters. 15. The Tradition of Medicine.

Professor G. A. Elliott, who has for some years made a point of discussing medical ethical problems with his students, published a series of articles on medical ethics in *The Auricle*, the official organ of the Students' Medical Council of the Witwatersrand University. These articles have now been reproduced in booklet form, each subject being introduced with relevant quotations from the Hippocratic Oath, 'Rules regarding Conduct of which the South African Medical Council may take Cognisance', the Declaration of Geneva 1948, the 'International Code of Medical Ethics' 1949, and the declarations to which all medical students and graduates of the University of the Witwatersrand subscribe.

Professor Elliott's experience as a teacher, and in the deliberations on ethical matters by the South African Medical and Dental Council and by the Medical Association of South Africa, entitles him to write with authority on this subject.

His monograph should be in the possession of all final-year medical students and registered practitioners in South Africa R.L.I.

THE ROOTS OF CRIME

The Roots of Crime. By Sir Norwood East M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 181+vii. London: Butterworth & Co. Ltd. South African Office, Butterworth & Co. (Africa) Ltd. Durban. 1954.

Contents: 1. Legal and Medical Advances in Criminology. 2. A Psychiatric Approach to the Offender. 3. A Clinical Contribution. 4. Remedial and Educational Psychotherapy During Penal Detention. 5. The Role of Probation in the Treatment of Offenders. 6. The Magistrate and the Psychiatrist. Glossary. Index.

This book is made up of 6 contributions, each by an authority intimately connected with offenders against the law. It is largely a study in forensic psychiatry, but it is leavened by 2 sections, one on the role of the probation officer and the other by a London

Metropolitan Magistrate dealing with the bench's viewpoint on psychiatry as an aid to the diagnosis and treatment of crime.

The book is interesting but by the nature of things not a deep study. The late Sir Norwood East illustrates developments in the criminal law made under the influence of medical knowledge. There is a facile chapter by Dr. Scott of the Maudsley on the spiv. He uses the term 'spiv' as the equivalent of 'teddy-boy'. Although his psychiatric analysis of the teddy-boy seems to be too simple, the chapter is nevertheless entertainingly written. Desmond Curron provides a brief set-out of psychiatric symptomatology and etiology. He holds the view that only a small percentage of persons psychiatrically ill commits crimes. Treatment of the offender is discussed by Dr. Mackwood, psychotherapist at Wormwood Scrubs and Mr. Clifford deals with the role of the probation officer in the treatment of the offender.

This book is of interest to anyone associated with the criminal offender, especially prison medical officers. A.P.

MEDICINE FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

A Pocket Medicine. By G. E. Beaumont, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.). Third Edition. Pp. 210 + viii. 10s. 6d. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1954.

Contents: Some Sedative Drugs in Common Use. 1. The Alimentary System. 2. The Respiratory System. 3. The Cardio-Vascular System. 4. The Nervous System. 5. The Urinary System. 6. The Haemopoietic System. 7. The Infectious Fevers. 8. Infectious Diseases of Metabolism and Doubtful Aetiology. 9. The Locomotor System. 10. Disorders of Metabolism. 11. The Ductless Glands. 12. The Tropical Diseases. 13. The Parasitic Worms. 14. Diseases due to Physical Agents. 15. The Poisons. Index.

Dr. Beaumont's small book is now in its 3rd edition, having first been published in 1942. It will appeal to fourth-year medical students at the beginning of their ward studies and it will also be useful to general practitioners, particularly those in remote districts of this country. Final-year medical students will find it useful for rapid pre-examination study; in this short book only essential facts find a place. The author is to be congratulated on condensing so much knowledge in so small a space; while it is inevitable that much is left out it would be unfair to criticize on grounds of omission. However, it is surprising that in the section dealing with the treatment of Typhoid Fever no mention is made of the use of chloromycetin. This book was written for medical students primarily and to them it is recommended. J.G.