

PUBLIC HEALTH IN BRITAIN

Recent Advances in Public Health. 2nd edition. By J. L. Burn, M.D., D.Hy., D.P.H. Pp. xi + 370. 54 illustrations. 40s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

The second edition of this book sets out, and very satisfactorily succeeds in covering, those aspects of the social and public-health facets which are particularly applicable to the present-day British welfare state. It adequately highlights the recent advances that have occurred since the printing of the first edition.

The author details the health and social facilities provided not only by the local authority, but also by the many voluntary welfare organizations which, even in the British welfare state, are accepted as also having an important part to play in augmenting the social and public-health services of that country. The chapter on health education, in particular, is most enlightening and can be accepted as a model of what we in this country will have to aim at. Other subjects that are ably discussed include the problem family and residential institutions for its rehabilitation, and air pollution, with its cost in ill health—particularly amongst the very young and the elderly—damage to buildings, and dislocation of transport services.

Dr. Burn's views on very early immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus may not meet with full approval. Even today, there is great disagreement on the optimum time for starting the course.

This little treatise is admirably and clearly written, the paper is of excellent quality, and the list of references for further reading is fairly adequate. Perusal of its contents gives an excellent idea of the trend of the health and welfare services in the United Kingdom at the present time, and although we in this country have not reached the stage where all the social services listed and discussed could be provided here, we can nevertheless appreciate just what is being done to make the British people a healthy nation in the wider concept of that term.

I have no hesitation in recommending this book to all those who are anxious to know the manner and form of health and social services now available to the masses in the United Kingdom. We cannot yet in this country emulate these services; nevertheless there are many which could be provided in our large cities at small cost. Amongst these are the institutional care of the aged, where this is required, and the provision of clubs or a visiting roster to combat that extreme loneliness from which aged persons living alone so often suffer. This would be to the lasting benefit of a group who have shared in making this country what it is today, and have deserved well of their fellow men. E.D.C.

CLINICAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Clinical Psychopathology. By K. Schneider. Pp. xvi + 173. \$4.50. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

In translating Professor Schneider's second book, Miss Hamilton again has made accessible extremely stimulating views which no psychiatrist can afford to neglect. Many will be alienated by Schneider's underestimation of the significance of emotional experiences in the formation of (abnormal) personality, and his complementary insistence on an inborn constitutional basis for personality disorder, and his consequential critical view about the effectiveness of psychotherapy in treating personality disorders.

He does accept that external and internal stress can lead to mental reactions, but he does not consider such 'acute reactions to experience' to be illnesses. In his view, personality make-up plays a greater part in determining the form of the symptoms than the actual nature of the stressful experience. He tends to view psychoneurosis as a psychopathic reaction. In fact, he

holds that the very concept of 'neurosis' is obsolete; no 'nerves' are disturbed according to modern psychopathology, and the patient requires to learn that he does not have a neurosis but is a neurotic—and to gain some insight into this is the first thing he has got to do. Schneider evidently rejects as mere conjecture much of the recent psychotherapeutic and sociological understanding of minor mental illness.

Psychopathic personality, concerning which he has made his major contribution to psychiatry, is likewise considered not an illness, but an abnormal variety of sane mental life. The section of the book which is most valuable and profound is the long chapter dealing with the phenomenology of the psychoses. Schneider holds the view that schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis are somatically caused, by an as yet undiscovered physical process. Diagnostic symptoms in schizophrenia depend on the loss of the contours of the self (loss of identity), and are thought-withdrawal, passivity thinking, diffusion of thought, and all passivity experiences. Delusional perception is also considered a diagnostic finding, and the discussion of this psychopathological phenomenon is masterly. In manic-depressive psychosis there are no such diagnostic symptoms, the morbid depression of mood being the nearest to a basic clinical finding. However, while schizophrenia has such characteristic and vivid symptomatology, manic-depressive psychosis has become far more clearly demarcated and prognostically the most certain of the endogenous psychoses. H.W.

HISTOLOGY

Histologie und mikroskopische Anatomie des Menschen. By Dr. Wolfgang Bargmann. Pp. xv + 820. 658 illustrations. DM 69.60. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

This is the 3rd edition of this book within 8 years. What a change in comparison with the 1st edition!

Bargmann deals firstly with the cell, then with the tissues, and lastly with the different organs. The general part of this book has been considerably revised. Electron-microscope findings and histochemical results are integrated with those of ordinary microscopy. For this reason the histological sections of this book are excellent and present the student with a very good introduction in this difficult science. Bargmann explains the microscopical anatomy, and here one cannot criticize the length of a particular chapter or the lack of detail in another, for these considerations depend upon the interests and intentions of the author. All the sections of this book are adequate for use by students. The illustrations, mostly black-and-white, are good, and the general layout demonstrates the author's experience and the publisher's craftsmanship. H.W.W.

STEAM STERILIZATION

The Operation of Sterilising Autoclaves. A Symposium held at Brighton Technical College, School of Pharmacy, on 9 May 1959. Pp. 45. Illustrations. 7s. 6d. + 4d. postage. Obtainable from A.P.S. Journal Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 6290, Johannesburg. London: The Pharmaceutical Press. 1959.

This report is clear, concise, and enlightening. Bearing in mind the recent realization of inadequate and defective sterilization procedure in hospitals, the articles are of special benefit to superintendents, and even to laymen in charge of hospitals.

The report deals briefly with the principles underlying steam sterilization. The chapter on the design of pressure steam sterilizers is rather technical, but it gives a clear lead about the features of an efficient steam sterilizer. The part dealing with methods of

testing the bactericidal efficiency of steam sterilizers gives useful guidance. The best section is certainly that on the 'operation and use of sterilizing equipment and staff responsibilities'.

With the grave danger of cross-infection in hospitals constantly facing the hospital administrator, the subjects dealt with, although not new, will certainly aid in bringing about a better understanding and handling of the problem. J.D.B.

TRANSPLANTABLE AND TRANSMISSIBLE TUMOURS

Atlas of Tumour Pathology - Section XII - Fascicle 40 - Transplantable and Transmissible Tumours of Animals. By H. L. Stewart, M.D.; K. C. Snell, M.D.; L. J. Dunham, M.D. and S. M. Schlyen, M.D. Pp. 378. 287 figures. \$3.50. Washington: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 1959.

This fascicle matches in all details the high standard of its predecessors but is unlike them in not attempting a complete survey of a particular field of tumour pathology. The authors have instead tried 'to select representative examples of the great variety of transplantable tumours that commonly occur spontaneously or that can be induced in different animal species'. Fifty tumours from a wide variety of sites are described; they include tumours found in mice, rats, rabbits, dogs, fowls, hamsters, guinea-pigs and frogs. Tumours were chosen for their commonness, for their historical significance, or to illustrate the effects of hormones and endocrine glands. Each tumour is given the same treatment; this includes the history of the spontaneous disease or original tumour, transmission or transplantation studies, a description of the gross appearances, and a very detailed account of the microscopic appearances. In some cases the bearing of a particular tumour on cancer research in general and current theories of carcinogenesis is briefly mentioned; the only serious criticism one can offer on this fascicle is that the authors appear to have been prevented, presumably by space, from making sufficient comment of this more general type. J.A.H.C.

BREAST CANCER

Cancer of the Breast. Compiled and edited by Willard H. Parsons, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xv + 232. Figures. 60s. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1959.

This is one of the most lucid, straightforward and honest monographs your reviewer has ever had the good fortune to come across. The information given is accurate, the literature cited extensive, and the judgments balanced and massive. The format lends itself to easy reading and the illustrations do indeed illustrate.

It may be invidious to select certain chapters for special praise, but F. W. Foote's chapter on pathology and J. A. Urban's on the supra-radical operations are quite outstanding. On the other hand, the chapter on hormone treatment, as it does less than full justice to this important subject, fails to impress by comparison with the others.

One can thoroughly recommend this book to the practising surgeon, the surgical teacher and the postgraduate student. It sums up most of the facts that are known today about cancer of the breast and would be a help to anyone in making up his mind what to do in any eventuality. It was particularly pleasant not to find still another classification put forward, and the chapter on pre- and post-operative management has a far wider application than merely to the subject mentioned in the title of the book. T.S.

INFANT FEEDING

Infant Feeding and Feeding Difficulties. 3rd edition. By P. R. Evans, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P. and Ronald MacKeith, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. Pp. viii + 293. 66 illustrations, including 2 coloured plates. 16s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1958.

This useful book, now in its 3rd edition, should be useful to the large group of people, medical and non-medical, who are concerned with the management of infant feeding and feeding problems.

The introductory chapters on the physiology of lactation, the infant's digestive system and the nutritive needs of the infant and its mother, are particularly well done. Breast feeding is also adequately dealt with. As in all books on infant feeding, there are likely to be controversial views about any particular approach to artificial feeding. The use of cow's milk is well described,

but in countries such as South Africa, in which dried milk is extensively used, readers would have liked more information and illustrative formulae on dried milk. Hardly anything is said about the time or method of introducing solids, and attention should certainly be paid to this important aspect of infant feeding in future editions.

All-in-all this book can be safely recommended to anyone interested in modern methods of infant feeding. I.M.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection and Sterilization. By G. Sykes, M.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.I.C. Pp. xviii + 396. 17 figures. 7 plates. 75s. net. London: E. & F. N. Spon Ltd. 1958.

This publication represents a thorough and up-to-date account of the subjects of sterilization and disinfection. Theoretical aspects of the subjects are dealt with in great detail without neglecting the practical side, such as methods of testing disinfectants and the various methods employed in sterilization. A section devoted to the disinfection of viruses gives useful information which was previously lacking in older books.

This is a useful reference book which should prove invaluable to bacteriologists, public-health officials, hospital personnel, and others concerned with large-scale sterilization procedures.

The book is written in a clear style and the wide field it covers is well indexed both for authors and subjects. W.D.T.N.

YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 1959-1960. Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. (Hon.). Pp. 573. \$8.00. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers. 1959.

The 1959-60 Year Book follows the pattern of previous editions, giving an indexed summary of the literature for the year ending September 1959, with useful annotations by the editor. Apart from a few references to Dutch, German and South American publications, only articles in the English language are covered.

As with previous publications, the obstetrical subject matter is grouped under the headings of physiology, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, complications, the toxemias, labour, analgesia and anaesthesia, complications of labour, operative obstetrics, haemorrhage, puerperium, and the newborn. In the gynaecology section the headings are: General principles and diagnosis, infertility, operative gynaecology, infections, malignant tumours, menstrual disorders, endocrinology, report of conference on the uterus held by the New York Academy of Sciences, and extracts from presidential addresses.

This book certainly lessens the task of keeping abreast with the multitude of interesting publications found today and as such can be recommended. J.N.d.V.

PHYSIOLOGY IN SURGERY

Pathophysiology in Surgery. By James D. Hardy, M.S. (Chem.), M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xx + 704. 278 figures. 152s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

This volume by a single author is an attempt to cover problems of surgical physiology. The subject matter, however, is broader than this and in parts provides comprehensive discussion of types of surgical operations and complications.

The opening chapters, on the physiology of injuries, fluid balance, nutrition, and wound healing, are excellent. They are informative and well written and provide detailed postgraduate reading. From then on the volume becomes erratic, with poor chapters on burns, an incomplete review of renal physiology and pathology, and a sketchy description of head injuries. There is a surprising lack of discussion of any physiology of bone or cartilage.

The chapters on circulation and the alimentary tract occupy a considerable portion of the book and much of each chapter is devoted to unnecessary surgical detail. To those with knowledge and training in British and Continental techniques the book is insular, being confined largely to American contributions.

The title *Pathophysiology in Surgery* is an unwieldy one, but this book is one of a series of books published recently on basic problems confronting the surgeon and, as such, it is a contribution in stimulating surgical thinking along these lines.

If it were a better balanced book and if all chapters were as penetrating and interesting as the first 4 it would be essential for postgraduate reading. As it is, the book provides an erratic

coverage of the detailed aspects of surgical physiology, some excellent, some poor. The references are selective, whilst the publication itself is well produced, with informative illustrations. A.E.K.

ALCOHOL AND MOTOR DRIVING

Effect of Small Doses of Alcohol on a Skill Resembling Driving. By G. C. Drew, M.A.; W. P. Colquhoun, M.A., Ph.D. and Hazel A. Long, B.Sc. Pp. vi + 108. Illustrations. 7s. 6d. net. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1959.

The authors, using the ingenious 'Miles motor driving trainer', studied basic skill similar to driving in 40 volunteers.

On each of 5 2-hourly sessions, subjects received one of 4 alcohol doses—resulting in blood-alcohol concentrations of roughly 20, 40, 60 and 80 mg. %—or a placebo dose.

It was demonstrated conclusively that performance began to deteriorate with blood alcohol levels of 20-30 mg. %, and that the deterioration, in general, progressed as the blood-alcohol level rose.

The results were evaluated strictly in relationship to the object of the study—a difficult task, which could have been approached in no other or better fashion. For this reason it would be dangerous to assume that experimental performances are indicative of driving skill and judgment on the actual road. However, the existence of a 'sub-intoxicated' state is proved beyond any question, and should be accepted by our legislators if the mounting toll on our roads is to be checked. C.K.E.

CLINICAL CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY

Clinical Chemical Pathology. 2nd edition. By C. H. Gray, M.R.C.P., F.R.I.C. Pp. vii + 160. Illustrations. 14s. net. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1959.

The present edition of this excellent text-book for students has been revised in part, and where knowledge has become more complete the current views have been incorporated in the present text. Thus the relationship between the glucuronide conjugates of bilirubin and free bilirubin to the Van den Berg reaction is discussed under Liver Function Tests; potassium deficiency is dealt with more adequately; and the chapter on the Chemical Pathology of the Alimentary Tract has been curtailed and tests considered to be outmoded eliminated from the appropriate texts. The section on Endocrines includes some of the more recent advances in this field and there is the welcome addition of transaminase estimations and a mention of some of the rare metabolic disorders.

The chapter on Fats has been rewritten completely and this is the only change which disappoints. Brevity in this instance has been pushed to the point where the student may well be confused. However, this criticism in no way detracts from the general excellence of this book, and there can be little doubt that not only students but registrars and practitioners in general will continue to consult this most concise, clearly written book on Chemical Pathology. S.M.J.

PSYCHOPATHY

Psychopathy. By C. Frankenstein, Ph.D. Pp. viii + 198. \$6.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton, Inc. 1959.

It has long been recognized that the concept 'psychopath' is as inadequate as the elusive character it purports to describe. This book is an attempt to define psychopathy in restrictive terms which exclude other conditions related to it through mere symptomatic similarity. Neurotic character disorders, perversions and antisocial behaviour patterns as such, are discarded by the author as failing to conform to his selective basic criteria on which alone he permits a diagnosis of psychopathy to be reached. He maintains that 'certain structural dispositions' present at birth or shortly after 'determine the development and crystallization of the final psychopathic reaction types'. These results of 'structurization' are irreversible.

The therapeutic pessimism implicit throughout this treatise makes the reader sometimes wonder if the semantic obstacle race is worth the trouble in the end, for the going is much heavier than with Cleckley's masterly monograph, and the conclusions get us no further. A.M.L.

ARTERIAL EMBOLISM

Arterial Embolism in the Limbs. The Clinical Problem and its Anatomical Basis. By A. L. Jacobs, M.A., D.M. (Oxon), F.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 200. Illustrations. 35s. net + 1s. 10d. postage abroad, Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1959.

This interesting monograph on limb embolism is based on the study and analysis of widely assorted clinical experience and morbid-anatomy material gathered by Dr. Jacobs over a period of 16 years. He describes the diagnosis and assesses the value of various methods of treatment and finally summarizes his main conclusions. This valuable discussion is obviously the result of long and painstaking clinical observation of a large number of patients, and the eventual outcome of their treatment or non-treatment.

Dr. Jacobs discusses, among other facets, the value of embolectomy and, although the relatively small number of successes is disappointing, he emphasizes that this is often attributable to contributory factors (e.g. tardy diagnosis) and he stresses the necessity for individual consideration of cases for operation because embolectomy still takes a first place in the treatment of embolism of the larger limb arteries.

Although arterial embolism is a condition fairly frequently met with in general practice, there is little comprehensive literature available on the subject, and this clear and complete survey, illustrated with many cases histories, tables for comparison, and X-ray plates, will be well appreciated by the practitioner. C.N.B.