

## PAPERS ON SURGERY

*The Surgical Clinics of North America.* Nationwide Number. Oct., 1946. Symposia on Aseptic Surgical Technique, Gastro-Intestinal Surgery, Genito-Urinary Surgery. Issued serially six times a year. Sold by a year's subscription to six consecutive numbers. (Pp. 268; illustrated. Cloth covers 75s., paper covers 55s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1946.

This volume contains much information of general interest, though some of the articles will appeal chiefly to specialist readers. It begins with an excellent historical summary of the development of aseptic surgical technique; this should be read in conjunction with the later stimulating article in which the author discusses "unexplained infections" in surgical wounds and claims that the use of ultra-violet radiation in the operating theatre will banish such infections. Sections on penetrating wounds of the chest, plastic surgery of the breast, and complications of thoracotomy are useful practical contributions.

The second part covers oesophago-gastrostomy, bleeding peptic ulcer, penetrating wound of the abdomen, megacolon, and the technique of anastomosis of the colon. The articles are well-balanced presentations of the subjects, though in the last mentioned we are surprised to find the Paul-Mikulicz operation relegated to such a secondary position. It is encouraging to note that the mortality from peritonitis consequent on penetrating wounds of the abdomen has been significantly reduced since the advent of chemotherapy by the sulphonamides and penicillin.

The authors of the third part deal with the management of bladder tumours, discuss bladder-neck obstruction, and recommend the use of cotton sutures in vaginal plastic operations. There are two articles of general interest—the first on tests of renal function and the second on the many unnecessary abdominal operations which are performed for overlooked pathological lesions of the genito-urinary tract. The concise, clear, and well-documented account of the clearance and saturation tests of renal function should be valuable to both physicians and surgeons, and the same remark applies to the second article, which draws attention to the necessity of considering the genito-urinary tract before undertaking any abdominal operation. The additional article on the removal of foreign bodies in the neck under fluoroscopic control records two such operations which were undertaken in the author's consulting room under local anaesthesia. One of these operations involved a deep dissection in the neck in the neighbourhood of the large vessels and was performed through an incision 3 cm. in length. The anaesthetic was not perfect and the patient had to be "kept in good spirits by a flow of kind remarks." The bullet was removed, but it is stated that at the end of the operation, which took two and a half hours, the patient was somewhat shocked and his pulse weak. However, he soon recovered.

V. ZACHARY COPE.

*Practical Methods for the Microbiological Assay of the Vitamin B Complex and Essential Amino Acids*, by E. C. BARTON-WRIGHT, D.Sc., is published in London by Ashe Laboratories at 7s. 6d. In this small book details are given of the microbiological assay of riboflavin, nicotinic acid, biotin, pantothenic acid, aneurine, pyridoxine, and the amino acids tryptophane, leucine, isoleucine, cystine, valine, methionine, phenylalanine, lysine, histidine, arginine, and threonine. Chemical methods of assay of these substances are tedious and often of doubtful validity, and biological methods using larger animals are time-consuming and expensive. Microbiological methods which have recently come into use have many advantages over biological ones. They are rapid, they require no elaborate apparatus, and a number of samples can be assayed at one time. The apparatus is such as would be found in any well-equipped bacteriological laboratory. Dr. Barton-Wright gives all the necessary details for performing these assays.

Adventures in many different countries and a youthful sense of humour are the main ingredients of *99 and All That* by the medical man who writes under the pen-name FREDERICK KAIGH. A saint's pickled and revered heart showing signs of syphilitic disease, an importunate nymphomaniac, a negro witch-doctor employing the latest surgical techniques in the depths of Africa—a character who might have stepped straight out of "Itana"—are some of the remarkable specimens displayed to us. These leaves from an M.O.'s notebook (published at 9s. 6d. by Richard Lesley and Co., Ltd.) can be recommended for holiday reading.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

*Le Traitement de la Néphrite Aiguë par les Antihistaminiques de Synthèse.* By François Reubi. (Pp. 50. 3 Swiss francs.) Basle: Benno Schwabe. 1946.

A monograph on synthetic antihistamine drugs, with experimental evidence from rabbits, in the treatment of acute nephritis.

*Municipal Health Services.* By Norman Wilson, M.A., Dipl.P.A. (Pp. 178. 7s. 6d.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1946.

An account of the principles and methods of administration and organization of municipal health services.

*Rehabilitation through Better Nutrition.* Tom D. Spies, M.D. (Pp. 94. 20s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1947.

A monograph on the long-term application of the principles of nutrition therapy, including discussion of vitamin deficiencies and certain anaemias.

*Handbook on Mental Health Social Work.* Published by the London County Council. (Pp. 114. Post free 2s. 8d.) London: Staples Press. 1947.

A guide to mental health social workers on the Mental Deficiency Acts and the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

*Gonadotrophines et Tumeurs Testiculaires.* By M. Sorba. (Pp. 80. 6 Swiss francs.) Basle: Benno Schwabe. 1946.

An investigation into the production of gonadotrophins and their control in hormone therapy.

*Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten.* By Dr. Robert Bing. 8th ed. (Pp. 743. 52 Swiss francs.) Basle: Benno Schwabe. 1947.

Textbook of neurology revised in the light of recent neurological research.

*Homoeopathy and Chemotherapy.* By O. Leese, M.D.(Berlin). (Pp. 87. 7s. 6d.) London: Hippocrates Publishing Company. 1947.

Discussion of chemotherapy from the homoeopathic view-point.

*The Contribution of Homoeopathy to the Development of Medicine.* By O. Leese, M.D.(Berlin). (Pp. 69. 7s. 6d.) London: Hippocrates Publishing Company. 1947.

An account of various aspects of homoeopathic teaching.

*A Textbook of Dietetics.* By L. S. P. Davidson, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., and Ian A. Anderson, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. 2nd ed. (Pp. 517. 21s.) London: Hamish Hamilton Medical Books. 1947.

Discusses the practical problems of dietetics for students and general practitioners; includes recent work.

*The British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice: Medical Progress 1947 (with cumulative supplement).* Edited by Lord Horder. (Pp. 525. 42s. for 2 vols.) London: Butterworth. 1947.

Includes critical surveys of medicine by Lord Horder, surgery by Sir Max Page, and obstetrics and gynaecology by Prof. F. J. Browne.

*The Glands of Destiny.* By Ivo Geikie-Cobb, M.D. 3rd ed. (Pp. 258. 15s.) London: William Heinemann. 1947.

A simple account of endocrine glands and of their effects in well-known historical personalities.

*The Art of Healing.* By Bernard Aschner, M.D. (Pp. 336. 12s. 6d.) London: Research Books, Ltd. 1947.

The author discusses the place of many ancient remedies in present-day medicine.

*The Medical Register, 1947.* Published for the General Medical Council. (Pp. 2,274. 22s. post free.) London: Constable. 1947.

*Recent Trends in Alcoholism and in Alcohol Consumption.* By E. M. Jellinek, Sc.D. (Pp. 42. \$0.50.) New Haven, Connecticut: Hillhouse Press. 1947.

An analysis of alcohol consumption statistics and the prevalence of alcoholism in America.

*The Mystery at Orchard House.* By Joan Coggin. (Pp. 158. 9s.) London: Hurst and Blackett. 1947.

A detective story.

## Obituary

Dr. CLAUD FRANCIS DRUITT, of Walton-by-Clevedon, Somerset, died suddenly at his home on April 11 at the age of 77. Dr. Druitt was a student at the Royal Hospital and University College, Bristol, where he qualified in 1896. He was assistant house-physician and later casualty officer at the Bristol General Hospital before settling in general practice in Derby. After he had been in practice there for thirty years he retired and went to live in Somerset. He had been on the town council at Derby for several years and was a lay reader at St. Mary's Church, Boulton.

F. G. B. writes: He was much loved at Clevedon. He was vicar's warden at Christ Church, where he will be sadly missed. He was deeply interested in home and foreign missions and was ever ready to lend a hand in helping them. A great lover of nature, he was an accomplished ornithologist, and during his lifetime made a large collection of British birds and insects, which he presented to Halesowen Grammar School. He gave talks on nature subjects to children at schools and started a nature club for boys. Claud Druitt was a great Christian and he left a deep impression on those who knew and loved him.

Dr. JOHN MCGREGOR HARTLEY REID died suddenly on April 30 at the age of 55. John McGregor Reid graduated M.B., Ch.B. from Aberdeen University in 1914, and took the D.P.H. a year later. In France in 1915 at Ypres he suffered in the surprise gas attack. After recovery in England, he returned to France until 1918, and then served in Egypt and Palestine until 1920. On being released from the R.A.M.C. he held various resident appointments at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Subsequently he was house-surgeon to Sir Robert Jones at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and then assistant medical officer in the Aberdeen asylum. His mother lived in Italy, and two sisters in France, and frequent visits to these countries and a period of study in Paris, with his natural facility for languages, made him fluent in both French and Italian. In 1925 he settled in the West End, where he built up a large practice, especially in connexion with clubs, hotels, and the stage. Not long afterwards he became a medical officer to the Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa Training Ship, and began to interest himself in dermatology. He was attached to St. John's Hospital for Skin Diseases for fifteen years, latterly as the senior registrar. Every member of the visiting staff knew him well, and there were frequent calls upon him to act as deputy. He had charge of the varicose vein clinic, and its organization was entirely his own. During the recent war he was in residence in London, Mrs. Reid remaining with him throughout. They suffered heavily from bombing without receiving actual physical injury. Windows were repaired several times, and their furniture was all lost, but they remained to hold together the skeleton practice of those times, and to keep on with the work at St. John's Hospital. Unfortunately, those raids told on Reid's health, affecting the chronic bronchitis from which he had suffered since he was gassed in France. His health began to decline. In spite of this he responded with tenacity to every call made upon him by patients and hospital, doing a full day's work almost to the time of his death. He was a man of character whose loss will be felt by many, and a heartfelt sympathy is extended by all to Mrs. McGregor Reid.—H. C.

Dr. GEORGE SMITH BANKS, formerly regional tuberculosis medical officer for the City of Aberdeen and the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine, died at his home at Musselburgh on May 9 at the age of 67. The son of a school-master in Dumfriesshire, he graduated at Edinburgh University in 1905, and after holding various house appointments obtained the D.P.H. in 1909. Soon afterwards he was appointed resident physician and assistant medical officer of health at the City Hospital, Aberdeen. In 1911 the tuberculosis scheme began to take shape under the then M.O.H., the late Prof. M. Hay. Dr. Banks, with the late Dr. Arthur Hugh Lister, started the tuberculosis dispensary in Aberdeen, and the first wards devoted entirely to the treatment of tuberculosis were opened. In 1912 he became tuberculosis officer, and when the regional public health services were initiated in 1928 he became the chief regional officer. He rapidly developed an extensive tuberculosis service and, except for a short interruption during the 1914-18 war, was continuously engaged in his specialty. Eventually in the city alone he had some 220 beds available for his patients. In 1919 he was appointed lecturer in tuberculosis at Aberdeen University. He had been a member of the British Medical Association throughout his whole professional

life, and an active member of the Tuberculosis Society of Scotland. It would be difficult indeed for those who have not worked daily with Dr. Banks to realize his enormous capacity for work, his clinical acumen, and his loyalty to the public health department which he so ably served for thirty-five years. He is survived by his wife, a married daughter, and a young son.

Dr. SAMUEL ALLAN SHIACH died at the age of 77 at Ardgilzean, near Elgin, on May 2. After graduating M.B., C.M. at Edinburgh in 1891, he took his M.D. in 1893 with distinction. His first appointment was as senior house-surgeon at Bradford Infirmary, and there followed some three years as pathologist and assistant medical officer at the county asylum, Lancaster. He then entered general practice in Llanishen, near Cardiff, in 1898. For thirty years Dr. Shiach carried on an extensive practice. Many have cause to remember his shrewd guidance and willing advice in all manner of problems. His sound character and blunt kindness instilled confidence in all those who sought his aid. For many years he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Cardiff Medical Society, of which he was an ex-president. Indifferent health led him to retire from practice in 1928 and he settled in Guildford, where he soon made many friends and continued to take an active interest in medical and worldly affairs. During the war Dr. Shiach returned to his native Scotland, where, after some five years of failing health, he died, leaving a widow and one son.

Dr. CHARLES PERCY WOODSTOCK died suddenly on May 18 at his home in Bournemouth. He had been in failing health for some time, yet kept at work for as long as his physical strength allowed. A student at Anderson College and the University of Glasgow, he qualified in 1899, afterwards occupying various house appointments, then sailing East on several voyages as a ship surgeon before settling in general practice in Bournemouth. Except for the period of the 1914-18 war, during which he was on military service, he continued to practise for forty years. For thirty-five of these he was honorary medical officer to the Firs Home for patients with advanced tuberculosis.

S. W. S. writes: Woodstock's love for the sea persisted all his days, showing itself in the invariable nautical blue suit with reefer jacket he wore while doing his practice. He was a bachelor, and for years he had been a "living landmark" about the Talbot Woods district of Bournemouth. He was held in great esteem by his colleagues, and by a host of patients and friends, by whom he will be much missed.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The title of Professor Emeritus of Obstetric Medicine in the University has been conferred on Francis James Browne, M.D., Aberd., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G., on his retirement from the University Professorship of Obstetric Medicine at University College Hospital Medical School.

Alan Kekwick, M.B., F.R.C.P., has been appointed to the University Chair of Medicine tenable at Middlesex Hospital Medical School as from Oct. 1, 1946.

E. S. Horning, D.Sc., has been appointed to the University Readership in Experimental Pathology tenable at the Royal Cancer Hospital from May 1.

### UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

On July 16 the honorary degree of Ph.D. will be conferred upon Henry Alvin Mahony, L.D.S., Principal Dental Officer, Ministry of Health, and William Goodwin Senior, L.D.S., Dental Secretary of the British Dental Association, on the occasion of the annual congress of the British Dental Students' Association at Leeds.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

P. C. P. Cloake, M.D., F.R.C.P., will deliver the Humphry Davy Rolleston Lectures at the College, Pall Mall East, S.W., on Tuesday, July 15, and Thursday, July 17, at 5 p.m. His subject is: "The Treatment of Disseminated Sclerosis by Artificial Pyrexia and Prolonged Administration of Arsenic."

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

On Tuesday, June 17, the Society is to confer its Gold Medal, in triplicate, upon F. H. S. Curd, D. G. Davey, and F. L. Rose, in recognition of their joint research which culminated in the discovery of paludrine. The ceremony is called at 8 for 8.30 p.m. and will be followed by a soirée.

## Medico-Legal

### WILFUL REFUSAL OF INTERCOURSE

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

Since the passage of Herbert's Act in 1937 wilful refusal of sexual intercourse from the beginning of the marriage has been a ground for a decree of nullity, but once the marriage has been consummated the remedy of nullity is not available, and wilful refusal is not in itself a ground for divorce. A recent decision of the House of Lords<sup>1</sup> has defeated a husband's plea that it should be treated in law as a form of desertion, which is a ground for divorce if it continues for three years. A sergeant in the Royal Air Force, aged 22, married during the war a spinster of 30 and lived in the wife's two-roomed flat when he was on leave. Sexual intercourse took place for the first four or five months, but when the husband next came on leave the wife said that she had prepared a separate bed for him and did not wish to resume marital relations, because she thought sex was beastly and did not want any more of it. In other respects they lived together as man and wife, taking their meals together and going out to clubs and entertainments. In spite of the husband's repeated requests the wife would never again allow intercourse.

Desertion has never been defined either by statute or by a judge, and Lord Jowett, Lord Chancellor, declared that he would follow this example. In 1924 Sir Henry Duke (afterwards Lord Merivale) laid down<sup>2</sup> that refusal of sexual intercourse was not desertion, and this ruling was followed many times before Herbert's Act in 1937 made desertion a ground for divorce. The Lord Chancellor did not think that Parliament, in passing Herbert's Act, could have intended the word "desertion" to bear a meaning which it did not naturally bear and which judicial authority had so recently denied to it. He disagreed roundly with Lord Justice Scott's dissenting judgment, given when the Court of Appeal by a majority decided against the husband. The Lord Justice had reasoned that marriage, wherever it took place, was to be regarded as Christian marriage; the Prayer Book stated that one of the objects of marriage was the procreation of children; sexual intercourse for the procreation of children was fundamental to the marriage state; therefore the wife who refused sexual intercourse deserted her husband. This dangerous and fallacious argument, said the Lord Chancellor, proceeded on the basis that any fundamental breach of the obligations of holy matrimony as laid down in the Prayer Book constituted desertion under Herbert's Act. It would apply to a marriage duly consummated in which one spouse was unable through physical infirmity to procreate children. The law of the land could not be coextensive with the law of morals; the civil consequences of marriage could not be identical with its religious consequences. Marriage meant different things to different persons according to their upbringing, outlook, and religious belief, but must have the same legal consequences for all. The solution to the present question must be found not in a consideration of the Christian doctrine of marriage but in a true construction of the relevant Acts of Parliament. Further, it was most undesirable for a court to inquire into the secret intimacies of the marriage bed in such cases as the present, and if refusal of intercourse could constitute desertion it might do so if it were tolerated only on rare and exceptional occasions. The husband's petition therefore failed before their Lordships' House, as it had failed at the first instance and in the Court of Appeal.

<sup>1</sup> *Weatherley v. Weatherley*. 1947, 1 All E.R. 563.

<sup>2</sup> *Jackson v. Jackson*. 1924, P. 19.

The 1947 edition of the *Register of Speech Therapists* has just been published. The register is arranged in geographical order and includes three groups—practising, non-practising, and retired speech therapists. Medical practitioners may obtain a copy free on application to the Registrar, Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

## The Services

Majors A. H. MacC. Eaton and G. A. W. Neill, R.A.M.C., have been awarded the Efficiency Decoration of the Territorial Army.

The Prince Regent of Belgium has conferred the Croix de Guerre, 1940, with Palm upon Captain R. L. Rees, R.A.M.C., in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies.

The President of the Czechoslovak Republic has conferred the Order of the White Lion, Third Class, upon Major-General (temporary) Sir Henry L. Tidy, K.C.B., late R.A.M.C., and the Medal for Merit, First Class, upon Lieutenant-Colonel H. Ross, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.M.S., in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies.

The President of the U.S.A. has conferred the following decorations in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies:

*Legion of Merit, Degree of Commander*.—Major-General W. C. Hartgill, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., K.H.S., late R.A.M.C.

*Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer*.—Brigadier (local) D. B. McGrigor, O.B.E., R.A.M.C.

*Bronze Star Medal*.—Lieutenant-Colonel (temporary) A. J. King and Major (local) H. G. McQuade, R.A.M.C.

*Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm*.—Major (local) W. J. Wiles, R.A.M.C.

### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Major-General O. L. ROBINSON died at his home at Walton-on-Thames on May 21 at the age of 80. Oliver Long Robinson was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he was demonstrator of anatomy. He qualified in medicine in 1890, and a year later joined the R.A.M.C. and was secretary and registrar of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, for a time. He saw active service in the Near East during the 1914-18 war, having been promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1913. He was promoted to colonel and appointed an honorary physician to the King four years later. He was mentioned in dispatches and made a C.M.G. in 1916 and a C.B. in 1919. In 1923, the year following his promotion to the rank of major-general, he was appointed Director of Medical Services in India, a post held alternately by officers of the British and Indian services. He retired from this position and from the Army in 1927. He was appointed colonel commandant of the R.A.M.C. in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Burtchael in 1932. He retained this office until 1937. General Robinson had been a member of the British Medical Association for over fifty years. He was a member of the Council in 1908 and at different times had served on the R.A.M.C. subcommittee and on other central committees.

## Medical News

The next meeting of the Middlesex County Medical Society will be held at North Middlesex County Hospital, Edmonton, on Saturday, June 14, at 3 p.m., when there will be a demonstration of cases and a short talk by Dr. Chapman on "Haemolytic Anaemia."

The annual general meeting of the Research Defence Society will be held at 26, Portland Place, London, W., on Tuesday, June 17, at 3.15 p.m., when the chair will be taken by the President, Lord Hailey, supported by Prof. A. V. Hill, Chairman of Committee. The sixteenth Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Prof. G. H. Wooldridge, F.R.C.V.S., on "What Animals Owe to Experimental Research."

The Middleton and North Manchester Medical Society announces that a golf competition, open to all members of the British Medical Association in the Manchester, Oldham, and Rochdale Divisions will be held on Wednesday, June 18. Particulars may be obtained from Dr. James A. Strachan, 566, Broadway, Chadderton, Lancs.

The Medical Women's International Association will hold its fifth congress at Amsterdam from June 24-30. At the scientific meeting on June 25 there will be a discussion on the "responsibilities of medical women in world reconstruction."

An English surgeon's bleeding bowl in solid silver with a pierced triangular handle of 1682, a silver medicine spoon with lid and spout of 1810, and ancient pottery medicine spoons from China will be among the exhibits at the Antique Dealers' Fair at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W., from June 11 to 27.

On May 31 the headquarters of the Greater London Blood Transfusion Service were transferred to 10, Collingham Road, S.W.5 (Tel.: Frobisher 6477/8 (2 lines), day and night).