

contribution consists in a greater emphasis than that given, he thinks, by the psycho-analysts on the conflicts at the early oral phases of development. He suggests that there are three biological needs—a self-preservative tendency, a sexual tendency (Freud's libido), and aggressiveness—and suggests that it is the self-preservative tendency that has to be satisfied by adequate feelings of security in the infant's earliest relations with its mother. When this security is absent the result is anxieties which can have great effects on the future growth of the personality. He also suggests that Freud's libido theory does not do justice to the full instinctual forces that enter into love relationships at all ages, a particularly important omission being the role of tender as distinct from sensual elements.

In the main text the author appears to take psycho-analytic views as much more definite and "official" than they are. Thus the work of Mrs. Klein and other psycho-analysts of the English school on the earliest stages of psychic development has met several of the points raised against Freud's earlier views. (In the preface to this edition, however, the author appears to have recognized this as an omission he would like to make good in any more comprehensive re-writing.) He makes many other interesting, theoretical suggestions, and, although primarily for the psychotherapist, the cases are described so clearly that even the tyro in this field cannot fail to get a vivid impression of the psychological forces underlying neurotic illness.

J. D. SUTHERLAND.

REFORM OF MENTAL HOSPITALS

That Which is Caesar's. By H. G. Woodley. (Pp. 158. 8s. 6d.) Oxford: Pen-in-Hand, St. Michael's Street.

No doubt there is a good case for the reform of institutional psychiatry. In a civilized and prosperous country the practice of herding thousands of certified patients in huge compounds can scarcely be justified. With a decentralized system, and the services of five, or preferably ten, thousand suitably trained psychiatrists, it would no doubt be possible to treat the certified population of Great Britain in a way which might satisfy the author of this book. But to judge from his own presentation there appears to be grave doubt whether the case for reform can be stated either temperately or effectively by someone who has spent a year in a mental institution as a certified patient.

Outraged by the circumstances of his certification, and horrified both by the routines of treatment and by what he regards as a glaring lack of individual psychological attention, Mr. Woodley came to the conclusion that the only way to bring all this home to the public was to employ shock tactics, using for this purpose a scriptural variety of journalese which is certain to alienate the fastidious and to arouse suspicion in the minds of professionally trained persons. This is the more regrettable since the author has quite clearly grasped the desirability of maintaining whatever rapport is possible with even advanced or deteriorated cases, an understanding which he has evidently fortified with some reading in clinical psychology. Apparently, however, his reading has been vitiated by a persistent bias in favour of exclusively environmental causes of insanity. He is consequently altogether too optimistic about the accessibility of the psychoses even to the most understanding treatment. In fact the main virtue of the book is that the author attempts, however unsuccessfully, to do what would be much better done by psychiatrists themselves, if only they were so disposed.

EDWARD GLOVER.

Volume 2 of *Advances in Internal Medicine*, edited by Dr. William Dock and Dr. I. Snapper (Interscience Publishers, £2 17s.), contains a series of reviews by first-rate authors on clinical subjects where there have recently been considerable advances. The articles vary from about 5,000 to 20,000 words in length and cover a wide field. The ones of greatest interest to the reviewer, who is not a cardiologist, were "Circulatory Failure Studied by means of Venous Catheterization" (McMichael), "Angiocardiography" (Sussman and Grishman), and "Surgical Treatment of Hypertension" (Grimson). These provide the ordinary consulting physician or clinical lecturer with an admirably clear picture of the present situation. The article on angiocardiography is illustrated by remarkably fine x-ray photographs. Anyone looking for up-to-date accounts of disease and its treatment will now have to keep an eye on *Advances in Internal Medicine*.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

An Atlas of Traumatic Surgery. By Joseph Trueta, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S.Can. (Pp. 150. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1949.

A short, fully illustrated volume.

A Textbook of Pathology, General and Special. By J. M. Beattie, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., and W. E. C. Dickson, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.Ed. Vols. 1 and 2. 5th ed. (Pp. 1,582. 168s.) London: William Heinemann. 1948.

Revised and enlarged.

The Thyroid and its Diseases. By J. H. Means, M.D. 2nd ed. (Pp. 571. 72s.) London: J. B. Lippincott. 1948.

From the Thyroid Clinic of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Ways to Better Hearing. By L. Brentano. (Pp. 212. 10s. 6d.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1948.

For the deaf.

Management of Common Gastro-Intestinal Diseases. Edited by T. A. Johnson. (Pp. 280. 42s.) London: Lippincott. 1948.

From the American Practitioner series.

Taylor's Principles and Practice of Medical Jurisprudence. Edited by Sir S. Smith, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H. Vol. 2. 10th ed. (Pp. 841. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1948.

Considerably revised.

Surface and Radiological Anatomy. By A. B. Appleton, M.A., M.D., and others. 3rd ed. (Pp. 332. 35s.) Cambridge: W. Heffer. 1949.

For students and general practitioners.

British Surgical Practice. Edited by Sir E. Rock Carling, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., and J. P. Ross, M.S., F.R.C.S. Vol. 5. (Pp. 494. 60s.) London: Butterworth. 1948.

This volume contains the section Hodgkin's Disease—Lymphogranuloma.

Bacterial and Mycotic Infections of Man. Edited by R. J. Dubos, Ph.D. (Pp. 785. 45s.) London: J. B. Lippincott. 1948.

For medical students.

Handbook of Midwifery. By M. Puxon, M.D., M.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 326. 25s.) London: Syllviro Publications. 1949.

For general practitioners and students preparing for qualifying and higher examinations.

Technic of Medication. By A. Smith, M.D., C.M., M.Sc. (Pp. 255. 30s.) London: J. B. Lippincott. 1948.

A brief guide to practical therapeutics.

Practical Aspects of Thyroid Disease. By G. Crile, jun., M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 355. 30s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1949.

A short volume for physicians and surgeons.

Refraction of the Eye. By A. Cowan, M.D. 3rd ed. (Pp. 287. 27s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1948.

The third edition has been revised and brought up to date.

Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia. By F. F. Snyder, M.D. (Pp. 401. 32s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1949.

Includes a large section on respiratory accidents to the child.

Irish Medical Directory and Hospital Yearbook, 1948-9. 10th ed. (Pp. 404. 15s. 6d.) Dublin: The Parkside Press. 1949.

The Scientific Paper. By S. F. Trelease. (Pp. 152. 11s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1947.

A short guide for research workers.

Essentials of Dermatology. By N. Tobias, M.D. 3rd ed. (Pp. 518. 36s.) London: J. B. Lippincott. 1948.

A short account for students and practitioners.

loin and haematuria. On the following day, according to the medical registrar at the hospital, she vomited a small amount of blood on two occasions, and after passing blood per rectum she collapsed. She was given three pints of whole blood and a vitamin-K preparation. Her general condition improved but the bleeding-clotting time was still prolonged. On March 31 she again collapsed and quickly died.

At necropsy there were a few petechial haemorrhages scattered over the trunk. There was a haemorrhage beneath the pericardium and one or two subendocardial haemorrhages. There were also subpleural haemorrhages and evidence of extensive retroperitoneal bleeding. The stomach was full of blood and there was a large haemorrhage into the mesentery of the small intestine. There was also extensive haemorrhage into and around the pelvis of the left kidney. In the view of the pathologist the cause of death was "haemorrhage from the stomach and intestines due to treatment with dicoumarol." A verdict of misadventure was returned in accordance with the pathologist's findings.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The eighth Sharpey-Schafer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor H. S. Raper, F.R.S., Professor of Chemical Physiology and Dean of the Medical School in the University of Manchester, in the anatomy classroom of University New Buildings, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, on Thursday, May 19, at 5 p.m. His subject is "Fat Absorption and Some of Its Problems." All interested are invited to attend the lecture.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Sir James S. Ross (Ministry of Health) will deliver three lectures on "The National Health Service" at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C., on Tuesdays, May 3, 17, and 24, at 5 p.m.

A Special University Lecture on "Some Advances in Chemotherapeutic Research at the Pasteur Institute" will be delivered by Professor Jacques Tréfouël (Pasteur Institute, Paris) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C., on Tuesday, May 10, at 5.30 p.m.

A series of special lectures will be given, in connexion with a course on neurosurgery, at the Institute of Neurology, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C., on May 30, June 2, 9, and 30 and July 7, at 5 p.m., as follows: May 30, Professor H. Olivecrona (Stockholm), "Arteriovenous Aneurysms of the Brain"; June 2, Professor A. M. Boyd, "Intermittent Claudication"; June 9, Sir Hugh Cairns, "Surgical Principles in Intracranial Surgery"; June 30, Professor Geoffrey Jefferson, F.R.S., "Rathke's Pouch Tumours"; July 7, Mr. Geoffrey Keynes, "Surgical Treatment of Myasthenia Gravis." The fee for a single lecture is 10s. 6d. Lectures on "Some New Facts on the Painful Stump," by Professor René Leriche (Paris), and on "Hemiplegic Patients as seen by a Neurosurgeon," by Professor H. Krayenbühl (Zurich) will be delivered on dates to be fixed later.

The St. Cyres Lecture on "Withering" will be delivered by Professor K. D. Wilkinson at the Institute of Cardiology, National Heart Hospital, Westmoreland Street, London, W., on Wednesday, June 15, at 5 p.m. Admission to the lecture is free to all medical practitioners and senior medical students.

A lecture on "Normal and Pathological Physiology of the Kidney" will be delivered by Dr. D. D. van Slyke (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C., on Monday, July 18, at 5.30 p.m.

The following candidates at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—A. O. Abushamma, J. E. G. Earle, A. F. Fowler, A. T. H. Glanvill, J. W. McAllan, J. R. Mayers, J. T. Navaratnam, C. Rajaratnam.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The Council of the University has decided to establish a Chair of Pharmacology for the session 1949-50 and has appointed H. S. Heller, Ph.D., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., to be its first occupant.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on April 7, with Lord Webb-Johnson, President, in the chair, the Jacksonian Prize for 1948 was awarded to H. L. M. Roualle (St. Bartholomew's) for his essay on malignant disease of the thyroid gland. A certificate of

honourable mention and an honorarium were awarded to C. G. Rob (St. Thomas's) for his essay on the same subject. The John Hunter Medal and Triennial Prize were awarded to Peter M. Dániel (Oxford) for his research work on "The Discovery of Afferent Nerves and Muscle Spindles in the External Ocular Muscles: also Contributions to the Discovery of Shunt in the Renal Circulation."

The following were elected Fellows of the College without examination: Mr. Arthur Woo (Hong Kong), Mr. R. J. Cann (Guy's Hospital), Professor Robert Bradlaw (Newcastle), Professor Thomas Yeates (Middlesex Hospital), Professor D. E. Derry (Cairo), and Mr. A. B. Nutt (Sheffield).

Mr. P. H. Mitchiner was elected an Examiner for the Primary Fellowship Examination.

Professor Kurt Thoma (U.S.A.) was appointed Charles Tomes Lecturer for 1949.

The Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists was granted to Dr. G. F. V. Anson (New Zealand).

The Begley Prize for Anatomy and Physiology was awarded to W. H. McBay (King's College, London).

The following hospitals were recognized under paragraph 23 of the Fellowship Regulations: East Grinstead—Queen Victoria Hospital (R.S.O.); Worthing—Worthing Hospital (R.S.O. and senior H.S. for six months only); Khartum and Omdurman—Civil Hospitals (surgical registrar to the two hospitals).

Diplomas

Diplomas in Public Health, in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery, in Child Health, in Physical Medicine, and in Medical Radio-Diagnosis were granted jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of London to the following successful candidates:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—J. H. F. Norbury and Alexandrina M. M. Parker.
DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—M. H. M. Abdulcader, A. Z. Abduttam, P. B. Adamson, Doreen M. Bottone, W.-H. Chao, M. J. Colbourne, C. D. Desai, C. C. Draper, G. M. Edington, R. T. D. Emond, M. K. D. Hagopian, T. K. Howat, H. C. Jeffrey, V. V. Kalbian, S. F. Liu, M. F. McDowall, K. B. M. O. Megat, A. R. Mills, G. P. Mohanty, I. S. Mudie, E. J. D. Nariman, M. Ramu, V. G. Rao, R. G. Rowberg, A. B. Roy, E. Shirajian, G. Skinner, A. J. W. Spitz, C. Suarez, C. K. M. Thacker, A. H. Wahba, A. A. Zaki.

DIPLOMA IN OPHTHALMIC MEDICINE AND SURGERY.—A. L. Alban, A. E. Barrett, G. T. Bedford, P. L. Blaxter, H. A. Bramwell, B. Brodiewicz, A. N. Cameron, M. A. Carpenter, H.-H. Chang, D. P. Choyce, L. N. Deshmukh, B. K. Dhir, G. C. Gulati, Florence I. Henry, A. P. K. Homayouni, P. L. Kiewe, J. Levy, Kathleen M. Long, A. J. A. McCormick, F. E. McLaughlin, J. McMillan, G. P. Mann, V. A. F. Martin, S. B. Mukhopadhyaya, D. P. North, Abina T. O'Connor, I. W. Payne, T. J. G. Price, S. A. Qadeer, T. J. Riegle, W. L. Robinson, C. M. Ruben, R. P. Sarda, M. D. Sengupta, W. A. M. Smith, I. B. Taylor, R. A. Trope, K. C. Wybar.

DIPLOMA IN CHILD HEALTH.—Unity R. Allen, M. Anderson, Mary V. Ashton, G. N. Barsden, Aleida E. M. M. R. Bisschop, Margaret E. M. Blanden, J. H. Boydell, D. L. Bridgewater, J. F. Britto, A. D. Brown, Elizabeth R. McF. Brown, Winifred C. M. Bulkeley, Sheila M. Burt, Alice M. Bush, C. D. Cassimos, Phoebe Charlton, H. M. T. Coles, Helen M. Connell, Dorothy J. Cooper, A. H. C. Couch, J. H. Coulson, D. H. Cownie, Margery N. Cummins, Joan P. D'Arcy, K. K. Datey, R. S. Dayal, Pauline M. Dean, T. Debney, M. Elyan, A. D. Fair, Margaret L. Fallon, Marie A. Favard, Elspeth M. Frith, Betty B. Glansfield, Jean F. Gordon, N. Gordon, Joan McE. Griffiths, Y. G. Gupte, G. J. H. Hall, A. G. Hesling, A. Hunter, W. N. Ingham, S. E. M. Jarvis, H. R. Jolly, Mary P. L. Karney, Barbara M. Killick, Alison B. King, Catherine M. R. Kirkpatrick, A. A. Lewis, H. W. Macintyre, Ma Po Po, P. L. Masters, R. M. Mayon-White, Brenda M. Mead, P. Micallef, Mok Hing Yiu, J. P. Mostyn, P. Nanavatty, Jean S. Isbister, D. N. Patel, D. T. Pitt, J. N. Pohowalla, Diana Powell-Cotton, T. M. Pritchard, Helen Rennie, Catherine P. Schofield, L. G. Scott, Joan N. Scragg, N. Sen, C. S. Shaw, K.-H. Siu, L. Solomon, R. Spielsinger, Maude Stevenson, T. K. Sundaram, W. P. Sweetnam, Alexandra Tobert, D. Q. Trounce, S. Wayburne, J. A. Waycott, L. R. Whittaker, Edith H. Williams, Alice E. Wilmot, Margaret Wilson.

DIPLOMA IN PHYSICAL MEDICINE.—J. W. Byrne, C. W. Coplans, H. R. Davies, H. J. Glanville, G. Savill.

DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL RADIO-DIAGNOSIS.—W. Stachurko.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

The following candidates have been awarded the Diploma in Obstetrics of the College:

P. Allebone, Margaret Bagshaw, U. C. Bardolai, E. L. Barr, Aileen V. Barrett, W. A. Benson, Kathleen N. Berger, S. W. Beswick, G. F. Bigwood, P. M. Brett, D. M. Brodie, Margaret Brodigan, G. H. Burgess, Elizabeth B. Butler, Rachel Cameron, K. G. Casey, Jean Cleghorn, W. W. Coppinger, A. C. Coulthard, J. K. Craig, S. Dalziel, J. A. R. Debenham, D. S. Desai, G. Dison, Janet McK. Donald, Freyda F. Dougall, R. W. Drewer, Mary E. Egan, T. H. Eustace, Marjory F. Foyle, R. L. Gadd, J. E. Gilbert, Philippa A. Glyn, Beryl J. Goff, L. Goodman, G. E. L. Graham, E. P. Griffiths, W. Gross, H. Hanson, J. G. Harrison, A. P. B. Harston, Vivien P. Helme, M. J. T. Hewetson, Mary Higgs, Agnes M. Highet, T. R. Hunt, Rachel Jacobs, S. T. James, C. M. Jones, N. M. Jones, D. H. Joseph, S. Kanapathipillai, C. H. Kaye, Katie Keane, Katherine M. Kelly, H. A. Kent, R. F. Kingston, A. I. I. Klopfer, H. J. Knight, G. W. Korn, G. D. Lees, Lillian J. Letty, J. C. S. Leverson, M. G. H. Lewis, G. H. Lloyd, H. J. Love, Jessie B. Macaulay, A. MacLellan, R. L. Macpherson, D. Magner, A. Mathew, Mary I. Milne, M. Mirchandani, Catherine H. Mitchell, L. I. O. Morgan, Monica M. A. Murphy, Barbara J. Nathan, L. M. Norburn, Susan B. G. Ofori-Atta, H. O'Hara, N. L. Owen, Ethel W. W. Owston, T.-C. Pang, W. M. Patterson, Pauline M. Philpott, G. D. Pinker, Jessie MCA. Pope, B. Pownall, D. B. Price, D. Puffett, E. Quehl, Mairead M. Robinson, O. Rosensweig, W. I. Russell, Margaret M. P. Ryan, Jean M. Sandel, Eileen P. Scanlan, R. D. Simpson, J. M. Slattery, G. M. Smith, J. S. Smith, Roberta A. Stewart, R. J. Still, K. S. Subbalakshmi, H. P. Tarnesby, J. S. Taylor, Alice P. Thomas, Glenys M. Thomas, T. A. Thomson, H. S. Trafford, Doreen G. Warnock, J. L. Warren, P. F. A. Watkins, N. E. Wood.

Tuesday

- EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE BOARD FOR MEDICINE.—At Anatomy Lecture Theatre, University New Buildings, May 3, 5 p.m., "*Anticoagulant Therapy*," by Professor H. W. Fullerton.
- INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 3, 5 p.m., "*Psoriasisform Eruptions*," by Dr. F. R. Bettley.
- INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., May 3, (1) 11 a.m., "*Neurosyphilis*," by Dr. H. Nicol; (2) 5 p.m., "*Injuries of the Kidney and Ureter*," by Mr. A. W. Badenoch.
- LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C., May 3, 5 p.m., "*The National Health Service*," by Sir James S. Ross (Ministry of Health).
- LONDON: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—At Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, W.C., May 3, 5.15 p.m., "*Physiological Properties of Ethyl Alcohol*," by Dr. M. Grace Eggleton.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—May 3, 5 p.m., "*Malaria with Special Reference to Recent Experimental Clinical and Chemotherapeutic Investigations*," Croonian Lecture by Dr. N. Hamilton-Fairley, F.R.S.
- WRIGHT-FLEMING INSTITUTE OF MICROBIOLOGY, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, W.—May 3, 5 p.m., "*Surface Properties of Bacteria*," by Professor E. W. Rideal, F.R.S.

Wednesday

- GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.—May 4, 8 p.m., "*European Vacation*," by Professor W. J. B. Riddell.
- INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., May 4, (1) 11 a.m., "*Syphilis of the Skeletal System*," by Dr. W. N. Mascall; (2) 5 p.m., "*Hydronephrosis*," by Mr. H. P. Winsbury-White.
- LONDON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Bethnal Green Hospital, London, E., in conjunction with St. Leonard's Hospital, May 4, 4 p.m., clinical meeting.

Thursday

- EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At Anatomy Theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, May 5, 5 p.m., "*Developments in the Surgery of the Labyrinth*," Honyman Gillespie Lecture by Dr. A. Brownlie Smith.
- FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY.—At Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C., May 5, "*Homoeopathy and General Practice*," by Dr. O. E. Manasse.
- INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 5, 5 p.m., "*Physio- and Electro-therapy*," by Dr. R. T. Brain.
- INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.—May 5, 5.15 p.m., "*The Surgical Treatment of Otosclerosis*," by Dr. I. Simson Hall.
- INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., May 5, (1) 11 a.m., "*Syphilis in Pregnancy*," by Dr. W. N. Mascall; (2) 5 p.m., "*Anaesthesia in Urology*," by Dr. T. A. B. Harris.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—May 5, 5 p.m., "*Malaria, with Special Reference to Recent Experimental Clinical and Chemotherapeutic Investigations*," Croonian Lecture by Dr. N. Hamilton Fairley, F.R.S.
- ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: MEDICAL GROUP, 16, Prince's Gate, London, S.W.—May 5, 7 p.m., "*The Future of Medical Photography*," by Dr. R. G. W. Ollerenshaw.
- ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—May 5, 4.30 p.m., "*Neurology*," lecture-demonstration by Dr. D. J. Williams.

Saturday

- BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Department of Biochemistry, University Museum, Oxford, May 7, 1 p.m., 276th meeting.
- INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.—May 7, 11.30 a.m., "*The Rehabilitation of the Deaf*," by S. R. Silverman, Ph.D.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

- Archibald.—On April 11, 1949, at 119, Moss Road, Northwich, to May, wife of Dr. R. McL. Archibald, a daughter.
- Davis.—On April 6, 1949, in London, to Renate (née Loeser), M.B., B.S., wife of Albert Davis, F.R.C.S., a son.

MARRIAGE

- Stilley-Baxter.—On April 16, 1949, at Dunfermline Abbey, Dunfermline, Scotland, George P. Stilley, M.A., L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., D.T.M.&H.Ed., Major R.A.M.C., M.E.L.F., and Miss Dores Baxter, M.B., Ch.B.Ed.

DEATHS

- Barker.—On April 20, 1949, Chesman Barker, M.B., of Fair Haven, 9, Pevsey Road, Worthing, aged 80.
- Bone.—On April 14, 1949, at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, John Wardle Bone, LL.D., M.B., C.M.Ed., of Rookwood, Luton, aged 79.
- Currie.—On April 13, 1949, at 40, Inverleith Place, Edinburgh, John Ronald Currie, M.D., LL.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.Ed., Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Glasgow.

Correction.—Relying on a press report which we now know to be inaccurate, we erred in recording in our issue of April 16 (p. 688) the death of Dr. William Thomas Baker. In hastening to correct the error we very much regret any distress that this may have caused Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Baker.

Any Questions?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

Vitamin D and the Skin

Q.—Is it possible to say how much ergosterol is present in the skin, and how much vitamin D is produced after exposure to natural or artificial ultra-violet light? Does the ergosterol in the skin play any major part in contributing to vitamin-D metabolism?

A.—Only traces of ergosterol occur in the skin. It forms about 0.5% of skin sterols, the most important of which are cholesterol and 7-dehydrocholesterol. It is the latter, and not ergosterol, which provides the vitamin D produced by irradiation of the skin—that is, vitamin D₃. It is not possible to say how much vitamin D is produced by exposure of the skin sterols to natural or artificial ultra-violet light, because the amount formed depends, among other things, on the quantity of sebum secreted, the time of exposure, and the concentration of the light rays. It is known, however, that rickets can be both prevented and cured by exposing the skin to ultra-violet irradiation without vitamin D being taken by mouth. Vitamin D appears to be formed by irradiation on the surface of the skin rather than in it, because if the sebum is removed from the skin surface little or no vitamin D is formed.

"Bat" Ears

Q.—What are the latest views on the treatment of "jumbo" ears (winged pinna)? What operation is performed, and is it wise to correct one ear at a time?

A.—"Jumbo" ears presumably means what are more commonly called "bat" ears. These should be reduced and set back in the proper position by means of careful excision of the ear cartilage and of the skin posteriorly. Both ears are done at once. The operation is far from easy and is best undertaken by an experienced plastic surgeon. The difficulty is, of course, to get the ears evenly placed; even more troublesome is the question of reducing each one in size, for they are usually hypertrophied.

Feeding Difficulties in a Small Child

Q.—What is the best treatment for a child with persistent anorexia? I have in mind a girl aged 4 whose two brothers are at boarding-school, so that for most of the time she is virtually an only child. She shows very little interest in food. She is active and has a lively imagination, but because she is thin and does not gain weight her parents are naturally anxious. They avoid pushing food into her because this results only in vomiting or regurgitation, and they feel that there is a danger of inducing a permanent dislike of certain foods, as happened in the case of one of the parents. The child does not ask for food between meals, and eats few sweets. The standard textbook advice to offer food, and to remove it unconcernedly and without comment if not eaten, appears to be a counsel of perfection, for if this is done she would have no meals. At children's parties the example of other children leaves her unmoved.

A.—It is misleading to consider the symptom of anorexia in isolation. As in adult life worry leads to loss of appetite and digestive disturbances, so in childhood any persistent lack of emotional ease is likely to be reflected in feeding difficulties. Factors affecting a child of 4 lie almost certainly in the home background, and especially in the mother-child relationship. It is significant not only that the parents are anxious about the child's lack of appetite but that this anxiety about food in one parent goes back to childhood and is now reflected upon this youngest child and only girl. It is highly probable that from early infancy parental over-anxiety about feeding has sensitized her to go off her food whenever she is herself anxious. In the absence of her brothers it may be that too much emotional