

Reviews

ALFRED COX

Among the Doctors. By Alfred Cox, O.B.E., LL.D. (Manitoba), Hon. M.A. (Durham), M.B., B.S. Formerly Medical Secretary of the B.M.A. (Pp. 224. 12s. 6d.) London: Christopher Johnson. 1950.

This book will bring much pleasure, I should say,
To many people, medical and lay;
At least it should be read without delay
By all the members of the B.M.A.

Let us begin at the end. The last paragraph in the book runs: "I have had a happy life, and, nearing the end of it, have much to be thankful for. I can say, as few men can, that I have done just the work I wanted to do; and through it have made a host of friends, amongst whom have been many of the very salt of the earth." This strikes the keynote of a refreshingly honest account of the life of one who for many years had a great and benevolent influence on the development of the British Medical Association.

Alfred Cox was born of working-class parents in Middlesbrough on May 5, 1866. He was a rather delicate child. He obtained a sound elementary education at a Darlington Board School, under the headship of a man who made a great impression on him. After a short time spent in teaching he studied for the Civil Service, but while working in an insurance office in Carlisle he was persuaded by a young doctor to become his unqualified dispenser and assistant. From this small beginning he worked his way to a medical degree and a fairly flourishing practice in Gateshead. The first 70 pages should be read carefully by every young doctor. They contain a first-hand account of medical practice of fifty years ago, and grounds are furnished for a judgment on the relative status of the doctor then and now.

From his early days in practice Cox worked for friendly co-operation between doctors, founded a local medical society, and became interested in the B.M.A. In 1908 he gave up practice to become deputy medical secretary of the Association, and in 1912 was appointed Medical Secretary. He filled this responsible post for twenty eventful years, finishing with the memorable centenary celebrations of the Association in 1932. After his (so-called) retirement, however, he found opportunity for his insatiable desire for work, of which this book is the latest evidence. It is a very readable book, for it gives an unvarnished account of the many important events in which the author took part. There are thumbnail sketches of many prominent medical men of the past sixty years, and well-deserved bouquets are handed to the successive editors of the *B.M.J.*, not least to the present editor. The pages are lit up by many amusing stories (some of them true) and by the author's practical philosophy. I liked the comment on chairmen: "Chairmanship at its best is a fine art; some men are born chairmen, some achieve greatness; some merely fill the chair." There are references to several non-medical celebrities also, and we read a graphic account of General Booth kneeling down in a railway carriage in order to pray for the success of the young Alfred Cox in his forthcoming medical examination.

In his early days Cox was a member of the I.L.P. and had Keir Hardie as his friend. Later his views changed, and he remarks, "The events of the past few years have undeceived me." This change of view has had one surprising result. Throughout the book there breathes a spirit

of optimism, and in controversies both sides are well presented and a reasonable and objective view taken. In the last chapter, however, feeling seems to have prevailed; only one side of the question is given, and for a short time pessimism comes uppermost. Fortunately the book ends on a happy note. But let us finish at the beginning. In the first paragraph we find a quotation from Gray—"Any fool may write a most valuable book by chance if he will only tell us what he heard and saw with veracity." Delete "by chance" and substitute "a wise man" for "any fool" and the quotation would be appropriate for this book.

ZACHARY COPE.

MODERN SURGERY

Advances in Surgery. Volume 1. Edited by W. DeWitt Andrus and others. (Pp. 554; illustrated. £3 6s.) New York and London: Interscience Publishers Inc. 1949.

Interscience Publishers Inc., of New York, have issued the first volume of a series to be entitled *Advances in Surgery*. The responsibility of choosing the matter for these books is in the hands of an international editorial board of distinguished surgeons, a circumstance which determines that the papers are of international authorship. In the present volume, for instance, two of the seven articles are from this country—"The Regeneration of Nerves," by Professor J. Z. Young, and "The Immersion-foot Syndrome," by Dr. C. Ungley. In the preface it is explained by the chief editor, Dr. DeWitt Andrus, that, as progress in surgery to-day owes much to developments in other subjects, "these volumes will contain articles covering not only what may be called purely surgical subjects, but also developments in other fields which may contribute to surgical therapy."

Each article is written in great detail and forms a monograph on the particular subject running to an average of seventy pages. In volume one the subjects discussed, in addition to those mentioned above, are "Traumatic Shock" (Fine), "Stricture of the Common Bile Duct" (Cole, Reynolds, and Ireneus), "The Use of Antibiotics in Surgery" (Rhoades and Zintel), "Blood Vessel Anastomosis" (Blakemore and Lord), and "Tumours of Bone" (Coley and Higinbotham). As will be seen, each article is by recognized experts.

The quality of all the papers is good, and the extensive bibliographies (including an index of authors referred to) will prove most useful to those specializing in these branches of surgery. Illustrations are copious and well reproduced. If the level of the articles in this volume can be maintained there is no doubt that these publications will come to be recognized as important contributions to surgical literature.

NORMAN C. LAKE.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received

Gangrel Verses. By W. Barr. (Pp. 72. 7s. 6d.) Glasgow: William Maclellan. 1949.

Emergency Surgery. Part 3. By H. Bailey, F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., and N. M. Matheson, M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. 6th ed. (Pp. 168. 21s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1950.

In Praise of Nurses. By John Masefield. (Price 1s.) London: Heinemann. 1950.

The Ordinary Devoted Mother and Her Baby. By D. W. Winnicott. (Pp. 47. 1s. 2d. post free.) London: "Pamphlet." 1950.

Office Orthopedics. By L. Cozen, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 232. 35s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1950.

Lord Shepherd went on to agree with Lord Llewellyn's view that under this Bill a member of the House of Commons could be a member of the council but must not draw fees or expenses. Under the Bill, if a peer were appointed to the General Medical Council he would not be barred from receiving fees and expenses. He could not state what period would be necessary before the appointed day in all its aspects could be fixed. An appointed day for the Disciplinary Committee could come into operation almost forthwith. When it came to an appointed day for the interns, many problems had to be solved, including the provision of buildings in which they would work, the residences in which they would live, and the question of notice to the present students. The appointed day would not merely be variable between one subject and another, but when necessary would be variable in one and the same subject. The appointed day for an intern in Edinburgh might be earlier than for an intern in London. This provision would become compulsory as and when circumstances permitted. Any move would be subject to the decision of the Privy Council acting on the recommendation of the General Medical Council.

Lord Shepherd said he could not give a specific reply to Lord Horder's inquiry whether an intern would be able to issue death certificates or prescribe dangerous drugs. He referred to subsection (3) of Clause 4, which contemplated that an intern would be registered only in so far as certain functions could be performed and no further. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) set out the lengths to which an intern would have responsibility. In regard to approved hospitals the House need not fear that hospitals and institutions secured for purposes of intern training would be other than suitable and practical. They had to be chosen by universities and other bodies responsible for granting diplomas.

The Bill was then read a second time without a division and was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Hospital Administrative Staffs

Mr. PICKTHORN, on April 20, asked what were the numbers and the costs of the clerical and administrative staffs of hospitals for each of the last four years.

Mr. BEVAN said the figures were available for only the last two years. On December 31, 1948, when staff was still being built up and much of the administrative work was being done by local authorities on an agency basis, the total clerical and administrative staff of hospitals was 20,933. On December 31, 1949, when the agency arrangements had been superseded, the figure was 25,654. Corresponding figures of cost were not available, but the cost of administration in the financial year 1949-50 was estimated at £3,500,000 and in the year 1950-1 at £4,500,000.

The Services

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES

Lieutenant-Colonel FERDINAND SIMEON LE QUESNE, who won the V.C. for conspicuous bravery in 1889, died at Bristol on April 14, at the age of 86. The third son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Giffard N. Le Quesne, Royal Jersey Artillery, Ferdinand Le Quesne was born in Jersey on Christmas Day, 1863. He was educated in the Channel Islands and received his medical training at King's College Hospital. He took the L.S.A. in 1885 and the conjoint diploma a year later. Soon afterwards he joined the Army Medical Service and in 1889 went overseas to serve with the Burma Expedition. It was during an attack on the village of Tartan in Upper Burma, when he was with a column of the Chin Field Force, that Le Quesne earned the award of the Victoria Cross. In spite of direct fire from the enemy he went to the aid of a wounded officer and, displaying perfect coolness and self-possession, remained with him for ten minutes to dress his wounds. He then turned his attention to other casualties and while helping another officer he was himself severely wounded. In addition to the V.C. Le Quesne received the medal and clasp for this campaign and was mentioned in dispatches. He saw further service the next year with the Chin Lushai Field Force and in 1891 with the Wuntho Field Force. He was promoted to the rank of major in 1898. Le Quesne served in the South African War, gaining the Queen's Medal with the Cape Colony 1901 and 1902 clasps, and he remained in the service after the war, retiring in 1918 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

SCHOOL OF PHYSIC, TRINITY COLLEGE

The nineteenth John Mallet Purser Lecture will be delivered by Professor E. C. Dodds, F.R.S., in the Dixon Hall of the college, on Thursday, May 4, at 4.30 p.m. His subject is "Synthetic Oestrogens in Treatment, with Special Reference to Malignant Disease."

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

Dr. J. C. White will deliver the seventh Rutherford Morison Lecture at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Tuesday, May 9, at 5.15 p.m. His subject is "Surgical Relief of Intractable Pain."

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Dr. H. McIlwain will deliver two lectures on "Brain Metabolism and Activity" at the Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E., on May 1 and 8, at 4.30 p.m.

A series of eight lectures on "Genetics and Biochemistry" will be delivered by Professor J. B. S. Haldane, F.R.S., at University College (Physiology Theatre), Gower Street, London, W.C., on May 1, 8, 15, and 22 and June 5, 12, 19, and 26, at 4.45 p.m.

Professor Hamilton Hartridge, F.R.S., will deliver a lecture on "Some Recent Advances in the Physiology of Vision" at University College (Physiology Theatre), Gower Street, W.C., on May 2, at 5.15 p.m.

The time of Professor Perrin H. Long's lecture, announced in this column in the *Journal* of April 22 (p. 966), has been changed to 5 p.m.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES

Dysentery

In the last week of the first quarter of the year, the week ending April 1, there were 461 notifications of dysentery, the highest weekly figure recorded in the current year. The total number of notifications for the quarter was 3,938 compared with 5,163 in the corresponding period of the peak year 1945. There is therefore every indication of the present year becoming comparable to 1945 as regards the high incidence of dysentery.

Most of the cases are of Sonne dysentery, and the majority of notifications have come from the north. The counties of Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, and the West Riding have been responsible for 67.7% of the total notifications in the quarter under review. This continues the trend noted recently in this column (April 8, p. 582). The county boroughs in these areas with the highest figures were Sheffield (566), Leeds (365), Newcastle (183), Manchester (169), Bradford (127), and South Shields (87).

At the other end of the scale the following towns in the same areas recorded no notifications at all—Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Bootle, Bury, Rochdale, Warrington, and Halifax. The following registered one case each: Darlington, Burnley, Oldham, Tynemouth, and York.

County areas with figures next highest to those mentioned above were Gloucester, Stafford, and Glamorgan, which were together responsible for 9.7% of the total notifications for the quarter. In the remaining counties in England and Wales the incidence for the period referred to was satisfactorily low, though the possibility of spread of the disease over the next few weeks cannot be disregarded.

Cholera in Calcutta

Cholera has assumed epidemic proportions in Calcutta and is especially affecting large groups of refugees living in overcrowded and insanitary areas. According to recent press reports there have been over 100 notifications daily and as many as 272 deaths in one week, the highest mortality since the disastrous epidemic of 13 years ago. A large-scale inoculation programme has been undertaken, but so far it has only been possible to protect about 250,000 out of the 4,000,000 population of Calcutta. Plans are in hand for inoculating up to 30,000 individuals daily, and it is hoped by this means to

Christian Medical Fellowship

A week-end conference will be held on May 12-15 at Bournemouth by the Christian Medical Fellowship, with which is combined the Medical Prayer Union. Particulars may be obtained from Mr. H. Morgan Williams, 4, Cambridge Road, Bournemouth.

Rehabilitation

Dr. Henry H. Kessler, president of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples, will give an address and show a film at the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2, at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, May 16. Those wishing to attend should write to the general secretary, the British Council for Rehabilitation, 32, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.1.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

The biennial Scholarship (Sterility) Lecture of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists will be delivered at the college, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, W., by Mr. Linton M. Snaith on Friday, May 19, at 5 p.m. His subject is "Habitual Abortion." Admission is by ticket only, obtainable from the secretary of the college. As accommodation is limited, those who find themselves unable to use tickets issued to them are asked to return them before the lecture.

Congress on Allergy

The first European Congress on Allergy will be held at the Broussais Hospital, Paris, on May 31 and June 1, with Professor Pasteur Vallery-Radot in the chair. The honorary chairman will be Sir Henry Dale, O.M., F.R.S. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Blamoutier, 5, rue de Luynes, Paris, 7e.

Geriatrics in Spain

The Spanish Geriatric Society will hold the first National Congress on Geriatrics on June 15-18. Full particulars may be obtained from the secretary, Dr. Mariano Pañelia Casas, Via Layetana, 31, Casa del Médico, Barcelona, Spain.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES**Friday**

MAIDA VALE HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES MEDICAL SCHOOL, Maida Vale, London, W.—April 28, 5 p.m., clinical neurological demonstration, by Dr. P. H. Sandifer.

Monday

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Lecture Theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, May 1, 5 p.m., "*The Mechanical View of Life*," by Douglas Guthrie.

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY (University of London), Denmark Hill, London, S.E.—May 1, 4.30 p.m., "*Brain Metabolism and Activity*" (Part I), by Dr. H. McIlwain.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (Physiology Theatre), Gower Street, London, W.C.—May 1, 4.45 p.m., "*Genetics and Biochemistry*," by Professor J. B. S. Haldane, F.R.S.

Tuesday

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 2, 5 p.m., "*Psoriasisiform Eruptions*," by Dr. F. R. Bettley.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL (KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL GROUP), St. George's Circus, London, S.E.—May 2, 5 p.m., "*Science and Art of Refraction*," by Dr. T. H. Whittington.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (Physiology Theatre), Gower Street, London, W.C.—May 2, 5.15 p.m., "*Some Recent Advances in the Physiology of Vision*," by Professor Hamilton Hartridge, F.R.S.

Wednesday

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—In Department of Pathology Lecture Theatre, May 3, 5 p.m., "*The Genetic Approach to Virus Problems*," by Professor F. M. Burnet, F.R.S. (University of Melbourne).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—May 3, 5 p.m., "*Experience with the Use of Refrigerated Bone in Surgical Procedure*," Robert Jones Lecture by Professor P. D. Wilson.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL (KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL GROUP), St. George's Circus, London, S.E.—May 3, 5.30 p.m., "*Ophthalmic Neurology*," by Mr. L. H. Savin.

Thursday

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 4, 5 p.m., "*Physio- and Electro-therapy*," by Dr. R. T. Brain.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.—At Trinity College (Dixon Hall), Dublin, May 4, 4.30 p.m., "*Synthetic Oestrogens in Treatment, with Special Reference to Malignant Disease*," John Mallet Purser Lecture by Professor E. C. Dodds, F.R.S.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—May 4, 5 p.m., "*The Evolution and Treatment of Pharyngeal Diverticula*," Otolaryngology Lecture by Mr. V. E. Negus.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL (KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL GROUP), St. George's Circus, London, S.E.—May 4, (1) 4.15 p.m., "*Visual Fields: Normal and Pathological*," by Mr. C. Taylor; (2) 5.30 p.m., "*Operative Surgery*," by Miss J. M. Dollar.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—May 4, 4.30 p.m., "*Psychiatry*," lecture-demonstration by Sir Paul Mallinson.

Friday

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE BOARD FOR MEDICINE.—At Anatomy Lecture Theatre, University New Buildings, Edinburgh, May 5, 5 p.m., "*The Development of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in America*," by Dr. F. H. Krusen (Mayo Clinic).

MAIDA VALE HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES MEDICAL SCHOOL, Maida Vale, London, W.—May 5, 5 p.m., clinical neurological demonstration, by Dr. Russell Brain.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL (KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL GROUP), St. George's Circus, London, S.E.—May 5, 4.15 p.m., "*Pathology*," by Miss M. Savory.

Saturday

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—At Anatomy School, May 6, 5 p.m., "*Humanism, History, and Natural Science in Medicine*," Linacre Lecture by Dr. F. M. R. Walshe.

APPOINTMENTS

Alderman Dr. D. H. Pennant has been appointed High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire. He is chairman of the management committee of the West Wales Mental Hospitals and also vice-chairman of the county council.

COGGIN BROWN, P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Bury St. Edmunds, and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, West Suffolk.

CROYDON GROUP HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.—Consulting Surgeon at Purley and District War Memorial Hospital, Victor H. Riddell, M.D., F.R.C.S. Assistant Principal Surgical Officer at Croydon General Hospital, S. P. Boffa, M.D. Resident Medical Officer at Purley Hospital, Gertrude Klatzkin, M.B., B.S.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS**BIRTHS**

McDougle.—On April 21, 1950, at Norwich, to the wife of Dr. A. H. McDougle, a son.

O'Malley.—On April 11, 1950, at Walton Hospital, to Iola (née Trevor Jones, M.R.C.O.G.), wife of Austin O'Malley, M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S.Ed., a daughter.

Roddie.—On April 13, 1950, at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast, to Ailix P. M. Roddie, M.B., B.S. (née Hurst), wife of T. Wilson Roddie, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.O.G., a daughter.

Whitney.—On April 18, 1950, at the Lady Forester Cottage Hospital, Brocksley, Shropshire, to Freda B. Whitney (née Bannister), M.D., D.A., and Rupert U. Whitney, M.B., B.Chir, D.A., a second son.

Willson.—On March 31, 1950, at Batu Pahat, Johore, to Dr. Marie Bernard (née Norton), wife of Dr. Leslie Willson, M.C., Malayan Medical Service, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

Borrie-Merrifield.—On March 4, 1950, at St. Michael's, Chester Square, London, S.W., John Borrie, M.B.E., F.R.C.S., Dunedin, New Zealand, to Helen Merrifield, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Perrott-Hodgson.—On March 30, 1950, at St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Darlington, John William Perrott, M.R.C.S., of King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to Nancy Hodgson, S.R.N., S.C.M., of Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

Tyrrill-Wylie.—On April 15, 1950, at Woodlands, Doncaster, David A. J. Tyrrill, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., to Betty Moyra Wylie, M.B., Ch.B.

DEATHS

Green.—On April 10, 1950, at Guildford, Surrey, Charles Robert Mortimer Green, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H., Colonel, I.M.S., retired, aged 86.

Greig.—On April 13, 1950, at 38, Coates Gardens, Edinburgh, Edward David Wilson Greig, C.I.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired.

Jennings.—On April 3, 1950, at Bath, Arthur Richard Jennings, M.B., B.Ch., D.T.M., of 13, Catherine Place, Bath.

McGregor.—On April 13, 1950, at St. David's Hospital, Cardiff, John McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., of Ardchoille, Llandaff, Cardiff.

McKenzie.—On April 12, 1950, John Chancellor McKenzie, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., of 1, Doune Terrace, Edinburgh, recently of West Colinton House, Colinton.

Murray.—On April 9, 1950, Kenneth Arly Porterfield Rynd Murray, M.C., L.R.C.P.&S.I.

Norrington.—On April 14, 1950, Henry Lawrence Weekes Norrington, D.S.O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired.

Palmer.—On April 6, 1950, at 11, Wentworth Avenue, West Southbourne, Bournemouth, Francis James Palmer, Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired.

Sherlock.—On April 14, 1950, Edward Birchall Sherlock, M.D., D.P.H., of Windlesham, Lower Street, Pulborough, Sussex, aged 81.

Starling.—On April 10, 1950, at Norwich, Hubert John Starling, M.D., D.P.H., of 45, All Saints' Green, Norwich; aged 76.