

such as few could hope to have gained, he provides in this section the latest authoritative work on this interesting chapter in the history of medicine. Besides facsimile reproductions of many passages in early writings, the plates illustrating the book include portraits of Laveran, Golgi, Marchiafava, Manson, Ross, Grassi, Celli, as also of Beauperrthuy, Finlay, and Lazear, pioneers in yellow-fever work of Caventou, and of Pelletier, the first to isolate the alkaloid quinine, of Woodward and of Doering, who synthesized quinine, and of Curd, Davey, and Rose, the discoverers of paludrine, as well as a photograph giving a general view of Loja, the town on which early stories of cinchona centre, and one of the country in the district of La Paz whence came *Cinchona calisaya*, the source of all modern varieties of cinchona. The book will appeal to those desiring a short, readable account of research in malaria and to the student of medical history interested in the early literature dealing with cinchona.

S. R. CHRISTOPHERS.

### TREATMENT OF DIABETES

*Therapie des Diabetes Mellitus.* By Dr. Georg R. Constam. (Pp. 291; 16 figures. 16.50 francs.) Basle: Benno Schwabe and Co. 1950.

Three years ago the author produced an admirable manual for diabetic patients which was perhaps too detailed for them and insufficiently so for doctors. In his new book every aspect of treatment is closely detailed, and the result is the most useful book that has appeared in the German language on the treatment of diabetes. The chapters are logically arranged, dealing first with metabolic theory, with the diagnosis of glycosurias, with clinical manifestations, and very fully with diet and insulin. The author gives ample space to discussing the many complications which affect so many systems, from the toes to the eyes.

The book contains enough detailed technical matter to enable the doctor to make his own solutions for tests of the urine and blood, and it is interesting to note that the Nylander and other Continental tests have been replaced by the usual ones used in Britain and America. A good feature of the book is an excellent bibliography at the end of every chapter. There are a few first-class illustrations of insulin injection technique, and the colour chart of urine is the best we have seen anywhere. The book is well printed and produced, and ought to become a classic in German-speaking countries.

R. D. LAWRENCE.

### A DOCTOR'S LIFE

*Memories of Eighty Years.* By James B. Herrick, M.D. (Pp. 270. £1 17s. 6d.) Chicago: University Press. London: Cambridge University Press. 1950.

This record of an unusually long, active, and happy life has much in it which should appeal to doctors everywhere, though it has a special interest for those who have grown up with Chicago. After a strenuous career as general practitioner, teacher, and consulting physician, Dr. Herrick achieved national fame as a cardiologist, and became, as he says, "willy-nilly a specialist." All through his professional life he has had what may fairly be described as a passion for diagnosis, and he paid many visits to Europe to work under eminent physicians, whom he describes very frankly and always with humour. In 1904 he published a small handbook of medical diagnosis, which he says "so filled the long-felt want that no second edition was ever called for." It

was in 1912 that he laid the foundation of his claim to recognition as a cardiologist by reading a paper on "Clinical Features of Sudden Obstruction of the Coronary Arteries" before the Association of American Physicians. It was based "on a case of coronary thrombosis in which I had made an ante-mortem diagnosis." The paper aroused no attention, but Herrick persevered, and in 1918 he says that coronary thrombosis came into its own, and he received full recognition from the profession.

The book is full of strong common sense and is very readable. Dr. Herrick has met many of the famous doctors of his time and has interesting and often amusing stories about them. The only adverse criticism I have to make about a book I have enjoyed is that it might have been better had it been shorter. There is a certain amount of repetition in it which could have been avoided.

ALFRED COX.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received*

*Physical Diagnosis.* By R. H. Major, M.D. 4th ed. (Pp. 446. 32s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1951.

*A Textbook of X-Ray Diagnosis.* Edited by S. Cochrane Shanks, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., and P. Kerley, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.E. Vol. 1. 2nd ed. (Pp. 434. 45s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1951.

*Modern Trends in Neurology.* Edited by A. Feiling, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 717. 63s.) London: Butterworth. 1951.

*British Surgical Practice Index.* Edited by Sir Ernest Rock Carling, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., and Sir James Paterson Ross, K.C.V.O., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 363. 20s.) London: Butterworth. 1951.

*Hermann and Dorothea: an Epic.* By J. W. von Goethe. Translated into English verse by G. F. Timpson. (Pp. 80. 7s. 6d.) London: The Mitre Press. 1951.

*What is the Prana of Yoga?* By E. S. Shrapnell-Smith, C.B.E., F.C.S., M.I.Chem.E. (Pp. 36. 2s. 6d.) London: L. N. Fowler. 1951.

*Trends in Psycho-Analysis.* By Dr. M. Brierley. (Pp. 320. 21s.) London: Hogarth Press. 1951.

*The Microkaryocytes.* By K. G. Khorozyan, A.B., M.S., M.D. (Pp. 969. \$12.) Boston: Meador Publishing Company. 1951.

*Nobel: The Man and His Prizes.* By H. Schück and others. (Pp. 620. Kr. 48 or 65, according to binding.) Stockholm: Sohlmans Förlag. 1950.

Polyglot medical dictionaries are still relatively uncommon. All those whose task it is to read European medical literature will welcome the appearance of *Medizinisches Wörterbuch: Dictionnaire Médical* (Medical Dictionary) (Berne: Hans Huber. London: H. K. Lewis and Co. £6 6s. 1950), prepared by Swiss specialists under the direction of Dr. E. Veillon. The dictionary is arranged in three sections: German, English, French; English, French, German; French, German, English. Each section contains over 30,000 medical terms; those relating to the natural sciences rather than to clinical medicine have been ruthlessly pruned. American spelling has been adopted in the English section, and the well-known medical dictionary of Dorland has been taken as a standard. When the English word given may appear somewhat obscure, its meaning more elaborately defined will always be found in "Dorland." Although this is a relatively expensive work, it does take the place of three separate dictionaries, and on that account should be convenient to use.

**Road Accidents**

Road casualties in February totalled 13,027, including 342 deaths. Compared with February, 1950, there was an increase of 8 in the killed and of 978 in the injured. Weather conditions, particularly ice, frost, and snow, were the primary cause of 570 accidents, compared with 234 in the corresponding month last year.

**Week Ending April 7**

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 843, whooping-cough 4,009, diphtheria 48, measles 28,800, acute pneumonia 799, acute poliomyelitis 15, dysentery 846, paratyphoid fever 27, typhoid fever 8. Deaths from influenza in the great towns numbered 49.

## Universities and Colleges

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

Joseph Harold Sheldon, M.D., F.R.C.P., has been elected a Fellow of King's College. Dr. Sheldon is Director of Medicine and senior physician at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, and Lecturer in Clinical Medicine in the University of Birmingham. He was appointed a Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1928, and in 1934 he delivered the Bradshaw Lecture before the Royal College of Physicians of London.

The following have been appointed, or nominated for appointment or reappointment, as representatives of the University on the governing bodies indicated in parentheses: Professor J. M. Mackintosh (Council of Management, Slough Industrial Health Service, Ltd.); Mr. A. C. H. Bell (Training College for Midwife Teachers, New Malden).

Professor H. A. Krebs will deliver four lectures on "Energy Transformations in Living Matter" in the physiology theatre of University College, Gower Street, London, W.C., on Thursdays, April 26 and May 3, 10, and 17, at 4.45 p.m.

Three lectures on "Obstetric Trends in a Changing Society" will be delivered by Professor Dugald Baird at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 2, 3, and 4, at 5.30 p.m.

Professor G. Liljestrand (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm) will deliver a lecture on "Studies on the Regulation of Arterial Blood Pressure" in the physiology theatre of University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Thursday, May 10, at 5.15 p.m.

An open lecture on "Monkeys and Agriculture" will be delivered by Professor S. Zuckerman, F.R.S., at Wye College, Swanley Hall, near Ashford, Kent, on Thursday, May 10, at 8 p.m.

Professor A. Fessard (Collège de France) will deliver three Special University Lectures in the physiology theatre of University College, Gower Street, W.C., on May 16, 21, and 22, at 5.30 p.m. In his first lecture Professor Fessard will discuss "Studies in Comparative Electrophysiology"; in the second "The Nervous Control of Electric Organs"; and in the third "The Muscle Spindle."

Professor D. Bovet (Rome) will deliver a Special University Lecture on "Natural and Synthetic Sympatholytic Drugs and their Structural Relationship with Sympathomimetic Substances" in the physiology theatre of University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Friday, May 18, at 5.30 p.m.

The Hobhouse Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor Charles Singer at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C., on Tuesday, May 22, at 5 p.m.

Two Special University Lectures on "Oligophrenia Phenylpyruvica" will be delivered by Professor A. Fölling (Oslo) at University College Hospital Medical School, University Street, Gower Street, London, W.C., on Monday and Tuesday, May 28 and 29, at 5.30 p.m.

Dr. Jacques Le Beau (Paris) will deliver a lecture on "Neurosurgical Difficulties in Performing Limited Prefrontal Operations" at the Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E., on Thursday, May 31, at 3 p.m.

A lecture on "Uraemia," arranged by the Institute of Urology, will be delivered by Professor M. L. Rosenheim at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., on Thursday, June 7, at 5 p.m.

Professor Torsten Sjogren (Stockholm) will deliver a lecture on "Hereditary Neurologic Diseases associated with Certain Eye Diseases" at the Institute of Neurology, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C., on Tuesday, June 12, at 5 p.m., and a lecture on "The Heredity of Pick's Disease and Other Presenile Conditions" at the Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E., on Wednesday, June 13, at 3 p.m.

A Lecture on "Brain Abscess" will be delivered by Dr. Joe Pennybacker at the Institute of Neurology, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C., on Tuesday, June 26, at 5 p.m.

Professor René Leriche (Paris) will deliver a lecture on "The Treatment of Cerebral Embolism and Thrombosis" at the Institute of Neurology, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C., on Tuesday, July 3, at 5 p.m.

A lecture on "Intrathecal Tuberculin Reactions" will be delivered by Dr. Honor M. V. Smith at the Institute of Neurology, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C., on Thursday, July 5, at 5 p.m.

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

A course of lectures on "Trends and Fashions in Medicine, Their Influence and Significance" will be conducted by Dr. Douglas Guthrie in the physiology class-room of the University of Edinburgh on April 30, May 7, 14, 23, 28, June 4, 11, and 18, at 5 p.m. The lectures are free to all matriculated students and to the staff and graduates of the University, and to others on the payment of a fee of 10s. in lieu of matriculation.

## Medical News

**Special Rations and Priorities for Invalids**

The Ministry of Food announces the publication of a revised memorandum, known as Med. 2 (1950), which is to replace Med. 2 (Revised 1948). Copies can be obtained from local food offices. The old milk codes have been retained for those diseases which carried entitlement to foods other than milk, except for ulcers, gastrostomy, dysentery, and typhoid fever, where the former egg codes have been retained. There is also a new item: patients suffering from hypertension who are being treated with the Kempner rice diet may now be allowed three extra rations of sugar a week on cancellation of their bacon, cheese, and fat rations.

**King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers**

At the request of King Edward's Hospital Fund a consulting staff has been appointed to King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, Sister Agnes Foundation, Beaumont Street, London, W.1. But the council of the hospital are anxious that the hospital continue to be used by specialists and practitioners not on the staff, and they have laid down that patients may be admitted under any medical practitioner of their own choice. The hospital is now for serving, retired, and ex-temporary officers of the Forces, and the fees are from 7 to 15 guineas a week according to the nature of the accommodation and certain subscription rights of patients.

**Kathleen Schlesinger Fellowship**

The Medical Research Council invites applications for this whole-time fellowship for "investigating the origin and nature of cysts of the brain whether arising from tumours or not, or (for) such studies of other conditions of the central nervous system as the council may from time to time permit." Preference will be given to candidates who elect to work on the mechanisms underlying degenerative processes affecting the brain, tenable ordinarily at the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, W.C.1. The fellowship is worth £700-£1,000 per annum, according to qualifications and research experience, and is given for one year in the first instance, renewable annually twice. Applications, giving full personal particulars, an outline of the proposed research, and the names of two referees, should be lodged with the secretary, Medical Research Council, 38, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1, not later than May 31.

- RENAL ASSOCIATION.**—At Ciba Foundation, 41, Portland Place, London, W., April 26, 4.30 p.m., "*The Kidney and the Circulatory System*," by Professor K. J. Franklin; "*Spinal Anaesthesia and the Kidney*," by Dr. A. H. Galley; "*Renal Changes in Obstetric Shock*," by Dr. A. D. Telford Govan.
- ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE,** Millbank, London, S.W.—April 26, 5 p.m., "*Biting Insects in the North*," by Major R. A. Smart.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND,** Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—April 26, 3.45 p.m., "*Experimental Study of the Course and Regulation of Neoplasia*," Imperial Cancer Research Fund Lecture by Dr. L. Foulds.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND,** Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—April 26, 5 p.m., "*Peripheral Nerve Injuries*," by Mr. H. J. Seddon; 6.15 p.m., "*Aneurysms of the Carotid Vessels*," by Professor Lambert Rogers.
- ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL,** St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—April 26, 5.30 p.m., "*Ocular Therapeutics*," by Miss J. M. Dollar.
- ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.**—At Lecture Theatre, Materia Medica Department, Medical School, Small's Wynd, Dundee, April 26, 5 p.m., "*Some Circulatory Changes in Surgical Conditions*," by Professor W. C. Wilson.
- ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL,** Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—April 26, 4.30 p.m., "*Neurology*," lecture-demonstration.
- TORQUAY AND DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—At Torbay Hospital, April 26, 8.30 p.m., "*The Changing Face of Midwifery*," by Mr. Alan Brews.
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,** Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C.—April 26, 4.45 p.m., "*Energy Transformations in Living Matter*," by Professor H. A. Krebs.
- UNIVERSITY OF WALES: WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.**—At Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff, April 26, 8 p.m., "*Child Health*," by Professor A. G. Watkins.
- Friday**
- INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY,** Judd Street, London, W.C.—April 27, 5.30 p.m., "*Sensitivity of Ocular Structures*," by Professor D. Slome.
- KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL,** Canterbury.—April 27, 8 p.m., clinical meeting.
- MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASES,** 11, Chandos Street, London, W.—April 27, 7.15 for 8 p.m., general meeting. "*The Use of Penicillin in the Treatment of Neurosyphilis*," by Dr. W. D. Nicol and Dr. Maeve Whelen. A discussion will follow.
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND,** Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—April 27, 5 p.m., "*Ulcerative Colitis*," by Mr. R. S. Corbett; 6.15 p.m., "*Post-gastrectomy Syndromes*," by Mr. N. C. Lake.
- ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL,** St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—April 27, 4.30 p.m., "*Surgery of Cataract*," by Mr. A. J. Cameron.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

- Bindon Blood.**—On April 11, 1951, at Middlesex Hospital, London, W., to Rita, wife of W. Bindon Blood, M.B., B.S., a son—Nigel Bindon.
- Freeman.**—On April 12, 1951, at Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, to Florence Eleanor (formerly Thomas), wife of Dr. A. G. Freeman, a son—Michael John.
- Sutton.**—On April 7, 1951, at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, to Catherine, wife of Dr. P. H. Sutton, a daughter.
- Swinscow.**—On April 12, 1951, to Josephine, wife of Dr. Douglas Swinscow, a daughter.

### MARRIAGES

- Medine—Cortell.**—On April 1, 1951, at Boston, Mass., U.S.A., Dr. Myer Medine, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired, to Dr. Ruth E. Cortell.
- Taylor—Tebbs.**—On March 22, 1951, at St. Michael's Church, Highgate, London, N., R. S. Taylor, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.D.S., to Mary Angela Tebbs.

### DEATHS

- Cross de Chavannes.**—On April 1, 1951, at The Court House, West Meon, Hants, Edward Henry Eustace Cross de Chavannes, M.D., Wing Commander, R.A.F., retired.
- Douglas.**—On March 31, 1951, at his home, 39, Greenock Road, Largs, Ayrshire, Archibald Randolph Fulton Douglas, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.D.S., D.D.S.
- Fawcett.**—On April 6, 1951, at Conger House, Toddington, Beds, Ralph Frankland Morris Fawcett, D.S.O., M.D., J.P., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired.
- Harrison.**—On March 28, 1951, at Leicester Royal Infirmary, Louis Kenneth Harrison, C.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., of Springfield House, Leicester, aged 79.
- Heath.**—On April 2, 1951, at Moretonhamstead Cottage Hospital, Devon, Oliver Heath, M.D., aged 73.
- Robinson.**—On April 1, 1951, James Salmond Robinson, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., of Cheltenham.
- Rundall.**—On April 7, 1951, at Broxbourne, Laurence Rundall, M.B., Ch.B., Captain, I.M.S., retired, of Kerri Cottage, Cooden Beach, Sussex.
- Salvage.**—On April 5, 1951, John Valentine Salvage, M.D., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., retired, of 52, Burleigh Mansions, London, W.C.
- Schuster.**—On March 29, 1951, Eugen Richard Schuster, M.D., of 27, Shirehall Park, London, N.W.
- Scott.**—On April 5, 1951, at Bristol Royal Infirmary, Harold Hope Scott, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., of Linden Gate, Clifton Down Road, Bristol.
- Siddons.**—On April 5, 1951, at Trosnant Lodge, Pontypool, Mon., Bertram Siddons, M.B., Ch.B., aged 57.

## 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.

### Antivitamins

**Q.**—What are antivitamins? Are they important in human nutrition?

**A.**—Strictly speaking, antivitamins are defined as substances which counteract the action of vitamins by biological competition resulting from similarities in chemical constitution. Thus the sulphonamide drugs may be considered to be antivitamins in opposing the action of the vitamin *para*-aminobenzoic acid. Numerous artificial antivitamins opposing most of the B vitamins and vitamin K have been synthesized. When they are given to animals it is necessary to raise considerably the allowance of the corresponding vitamin in order to avoid symptoms of deficiency. An excellent example of a natural antivitamin may be seen in the dicoumarol of spoiled sweet clover, which causes haemorrhages in farm animals by opposing vitamin K.

In a less strict sense the term antivitamin may be extended to include "toxamins" which oppose the action of vitamins by mechanisms which are not related to biological competition, or at least have not been proved to be so related. Thus raw egg-white contains a factor called "avidin" which inactivates biotin in rats, raw fish precipitates the onset of acute vitamin B<sub>1</sub> deficiency in foxes, and bracken causes the same deficiency in farm animals.

In human nutrition at least one antivitamin, the phytic acid of cereals, is of great importance. It is a phosphorylated form of inositol, and opposes the action of vitamin D. When the recent war necessitated the use of our present coarse flour for making bread the danger that an increased intake of phytic acid might cause rickets was recognized, and calcium carbonate has been added to the flour as a precautionary measure ever since.

### Syphilis in Different Races

**Q.**—To what extent do racial factors determine the clinical manifestations of syphilis?

**A.**—In the American negro, as compared with the white races, pustular and annular eruptions (precocious tertiaries) and generalized adenitis are much more frequently observed during the secondary phase of the disease. In late syphilis bone lesions and cardiovascular complications are also more common, but tabes dorsalis and general paralysis of the insane are much less frequent. (This latter is also true of the Chinese, though the Japanese in this respect are similar to Europeans.) It has also been stated that visceral syphilis is not observed in the African negro, and that extra-genital chancres are uncommon.

There are many who maintain that the Pacific islanders and natives of other tropical countries in which yaws is endemic develop, following an attack, an immunity to syphilis. This may also be true of Bedouins who have contracted bejel, another disease due to a spirochaete morphologically indistinguishable from *T. pallidum*. Syphilis has rarely been reported among the Polynesians of Fiji (in whom yaws is especially prevalent), though it is widespread among the Indian and half-caste population of the island. As against this many experiments on human beings and monkeys have all shown that a successful inoculation of yaws produces no immunity against syphilis and vice versa. The situation is obscured by the confusion that still exists between syphilis, yaws, and bejel, but the recently evolved treponema immobilization test may help to clarify it.