

the reader having to turn back to find what number chapter he was reading. Could this perhaps be printed on each left-hand page heading?

C. LOVATT EVANS.

### TEXTBOOK OF GYNAECOLOGY

*A Textbook of Gynecology.* By Arthur Hale Curtis, M.D., and John William Huffman, M.D. Sixth edition. (Pp. 799; 466 illustrations, chiefly by Tom Jones, including 37 in colour. £2 10s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1950.

When I first turned over the pages of the sixth edition of this textbook my admiration was profound. It is a beautiful production—good paper, superb illustrations, clear text, and attractive binding. Then I studied it more closely and admiration was at times intermingled with some concern, so much so that restful sleep became impossible that night. Why was it that something so very good could at times appear almost unfinished?—that was the question whose answer proved elusive. Then in the early morning hours there came the perfect quotation with which to begin the perfect review of such a book. It pointed out its faults without detracting from its inherent value. It was perhaps severe, but kindly none the less. If the book was not exactly a masterpiece there was no doubt that the review would be. With this assurance came peaceful sleep until the dawn. Unfortunately, with the rising of the sun the wording of the quotation could no longer be recalled, and the following must suffice as an unworthy counterpart.

The general arrangement of the book is good and the emphasis on clinical observation and accuracy is most refreshing. "Bedside visits should include inspection of the tongue and notation of the pulse. The modern tendency is to neglect this evidence. A dry tongue tells more than voluminous charts relevant to the patient's need for liquids." The page from which this is extracted could well be framed in gold, and extracts suitably chosen would make admirable Christmas presents for members of both the medical and the nursing staff responsible for post-operative care.

The main weakness of the book is illustrated by the sections on infertility and carcinoma of the cervix. They remind one of the inexperienced house-surgeon who has recorded with great care a detailed history of his patient, and the findings of a thorough examination, but at the end of it all has no concise picture of the particular clinical problem requiring solution. His mass of detail obscures the main issues. For example, the reader interested in infertility will find a full account of the subject, but the section would be more useful if there were a brief, summarized description of the sequence of investigations practised and advocated by the authors. Those for whom the textbook is primarily intended require clear guidance on these practical details. In the same way we read of carcinoma of the cervix that "when symptoms first appear we can cure nearly every cancer of the external cervix," and that "there is widespread confidence in the great value of high-voltage deep x-ray therapy in the treatment of cervical cancer." "The insertion of a radium bomb" is then advocated, with the dosage expressed in mg.-hours, but the authors do not refer to the help a physicist can give in making radiation therapy both effective and safe. General statements such as, "The male hormones are useful," and, "Resection of the presacral nerve should find a limited field

of usefulness," leave the reader thinking of the words of a famous slogan, "Say when!" Such incompleteness is found in only a few places. If remedied in the next edition a good textbook will become an excellent one.

J. STALLWORTHY.

### DIAGNOSTIC BACTERIOLOGY

*Diagnostic Procedures and Reagents.* Technics for the Laboratory Diagnosis and Control of the Communicable Diseases. Third edition. Edited by R. S. Muckenfuss, M.D. (Pp. 589; illustrated. \$6.) New York: American Public Health Association. 1950.

This is a manual of laboratory methods approved by the American Public Health Association, in the compilation of which 30 authors have participated. Most of the chapters are on methods for cultivating and identifying particular bacteria, or otherwise diagnosing individual types of disease. This system of presenting the material leads to some repetition, and methods of obtaining and examining certain kinds of specimen are described repeatedly.

Most accounts are purely technical, but that of leptospirosis deals also with history, epidemiology, and other aspects of the subject. Some authors are content with describing a single recommended method, and others give the choice of several without always indicating their relative value: those suggested for determining virulence in *C. diphtheriae* include one employing chicks and the *in vitro* method of Elek. The chapter on syphilis is only a general essay on progress and policy in connexion with serological diagnosis. Other subjects are Rh testing, culture media, blood cultures, and "anti-microbial assays." The account of the last is disappointing, the only procedure suggested for determining sensitivity to antibiotics or for assaying them being a simple tube-dilution method. There is a good chapter on malaria, well illustrated, and the illustrations are also numerous and helpful in that on mycoses, which provides adequate technical instructions and keys to the identification of all the main species of pathogenic fungi.

The methods used in different laboratories vary so widely that everyone has something to learn from a book like this, even though in some instances he may prefer his own technique to that described.

L. P. GARROD.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*A Handbook of Ophthalmology.* By H. Neame, F.R.C.S., and F. A. Williamson-Noble, F.R.C.S. 7th ed. (Pp. 338. 22s. 6d.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1951.

*Tropical Nutrition and Dietetics.* By L. Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D., B.C., B.A. 3rd ed. (Pp. 476. 42s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1951.

*The Law Relating to Mental Treatment and the Health Service.* By H. Berry. (Pp. 121. 8s. 6d.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1951.

*Textbook for Health Visitors.* By L. Roberts, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., and others. (Pp. 551. 21s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1951.

*Infant Feeding and Feeding Difficulties.* By P. R. Evans, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., and R. MacKeith, M.A., D.M., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. (Pp. 255. 12s. 6d.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1951.

*Antenatal and Postnatal Care.* By F. J. Browne, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G. 7th ed. (Pp. 703. 30s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1951.

## Medico-Legal

### AN UNUSUAL ETHER EXPLOSION

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

The hazards of explosion of ether vapour and similar substances by a spark from an electrical apparatus or a static discharge are well recognized and guarded against, but empty ether bottles have hitherto not been considered dangerous. A fatal accident which occurred at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital at the beginning of February proved, however, that they constitute another serious risk in the operating theatre. An elderly patient was undergoing a mouth operation under trilene anaesthesia, and just after the surgeon had made one incision with the diathermy knife an explosion occurred in an empty ether bottle on the trolley. The rubber bag was set on fire and the tube leading to the patient's throat was disconnected. The patient stopped breathing and started to bleed from the lungs. The anaesthetist applied suction to the end of the tube and removed as much blood as possible from the lungs. A bronchoscope was passed and oxygen and nikethamide were administered, but the patient died in a quarter of an hour.

At the inquest, held on February 5,<sup>1</sup> the anaesthetist stated that before the operation he had verified that the ether bottle was empty, and had blown gases through the bag and tube and smelt them to make sure that they contained no ether vapour. The taps had been in proper position. He had compressed the rubber bag, and this act must have in some way drawn ether vapour from the empty bottle into the circuit. In future, empty ether bottles would be removed. The apparatus had been serviced by the manufacturers about a fortnight before the accident.

The pathologist stated that the body of the deceased showed superficial small marks of burning on the right side of the forehead and some degree of singeing of the eyebrows. Extensive interstitial haemorrhage involved nearly the whole of both lungs, and there was much blood in the trachea and bronchi. There had been longstanding emphysema and bronchitis.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and recommended in a rider that the ether bottle should be removed when ether was not being used in an operation.

<sup>1</sup> *Evening Standard*, February 5; *Daily Telegraph*, February 6.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Congregation on April 26 the following medical degrees were conferred:

D.M.—Q. J. G. Hobson, P. C. Reynell.

B.M.—Mrs. Marie L. S. Beesley, D. L. Hadley.

Professor T. N. A. Jeffcoate, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of Liverpool, will deliver a Litchfield Lecture on "Incoordinate Uterine Action" in the maternity department lecture theatre of Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, on Thursday, May 17, at 4.15 p.m.

Richard Alfred Chambers, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., has been elected to a Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship.

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on April 28 the following medical degrees were conferred:

M.D.—D. A. W. Edwards, M. E. Moore, C. N. Pulvertaft, O. L. Wade, I. G. Wickes.

M.CHIR.—J. F. R. Withycombe.

M.B., B.CHIR.—\*G. S. Brindley, \*P. E. Huddy.

Applications for the Michael Foster Studentship in Physiology should reach Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., M.D., P.R.S., at the Physiological Laboratory, University of Cambridge, by June 30. The student receives the annual income of the fund (about £120) and may be re-elected for a second year.

\*By proxy.

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The following medical degrees were conferred on April 28:

M.D.—R. Paul (with commendation), D. C. Watt, T. S. Wilson.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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.—Jessie S. Freeman, H. L. Larsen, S. Mandal, K. Nagalingam, A. N. Ray, O. W. Tenfjord, Margaret O. Withof-Keus.

Professor Warren H. Cole, Professor of Surgery in the University of Illinois, will deliver two special University Lectures on "The Surgery of the Biliary System" at Westminster Medical School (Meyerstein Lecture Theatre), Horseferry Road, London, S.W., on Tuesdays, May 22 and 29, at 5.30 p.m. The lectures are addressed to students of the University and to others interested in the subject. Admission is free, without ticket.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

Dr. Gerald Spence Smyth, honorary consulting gynaecological surgeon to Johannesburg Hospital, South Africa, has been appointed to the recently established postgraduate Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Auckland University College. Professor Smyth graduated M.B., B.Ch., at the University of Dublin in 1927 and proceeded M.D. five years later. He was elected a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1930 and became F.R.C.P.I. in the following year. He was admitted F.R.C.O.G. in 1947. Professor Smyth will also be medical director of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit at Cornwall Hospital in Auckland as well as director of the new Auckland Women's Hospital when it is built.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON

Dr. W. S. C. Copeman has been elected to a seat on the Court of the Society in the place of Mr. R. Ogier Ward, who has resigned.

Dr. J. P. Hedley has been re-elected representative of the Society on the Central Midwives Board for a further year.

The Society's Gold Medal in Therapeutics was presented in February to Professor E. C. Dodds, F.R.S., in recognition of his eminence in the field of biochemistry.

The following candidates have been granted the diploma of L.M.S.S.A. upon examination: R. E. Hazell, J. R. C. Wallace, G. C. Stavakis, C. B. Alvey, J. E. K. Moore, A. Ross, F. J. Covill, P. B. Hughes, W. Friis, H. G. Hexter, R. F. Mottram, P. D. Black, B. L. Breeze, A. E. H. Safeda, G. Dixon, A. L. C. A. M. Bracchi, I. W. Turnbull, T. R. P. Coakley, C. E. A. Thomas, P. Howe, K. M. Stone, Doreen G. Philipps (Viscountess St. Davids), W. M. Cornelius.

The Diploma in Industrial Health has been awarded, by examination, to C. G. Hunter.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

Professor H. L. Sheehan, Professor of Pathology in the University of Liverpool, will deliver a William Blair-Bell Memorial Lecture on "Anuria in Obstetrics" at the College House, 58, Queen Anne Street, London, W., on Friday, May 25, at 5 p.m. Admission is by ticket only, obtainable from the secretary of the College.

## The Services

The *London Gazette* has announced the following appointments and mentions in dispatches in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Malaya during the period from July 1 to December 31, 1950:

C.B.E. (Military Division).—Brigadier J. C. Collins, O.B.E., late R.A.M.C.

M.B.E. (Military Division).—Captain (temporary) G. C. Smart, R.A.M.C.

Mentioned in Dispatches.—Major J. H. Bennett, Major (temporary) T. F. Jouning, T.D., and Captain J. T. Rowling, R.A.M.C.

### CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Wounded.—Captain Thomas Dungal, R.A.M.C.

Missing.—Captain Robert Patrick Hickey, R.A.M.C.

## SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

## Monday

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Class Room, May 14, 5 p.m., "*The Mediaeval Conception*," by Dr. Douglas Guthrie.

## Tuesday

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 15, 5 p.m., "*Bonds and Blisters, The Physics and Chemistry of Blister Formations*," by Dr. E. J. Moynahan.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL: WRIGHT-FLEMING INSTITUTE OF MICROBIOLOGY, Paddington, London, W.—May 15, 5 p.m., "*The Problem of Protection Against Staphylococcal Infections*." Almroth Wright Lecture by Professor Wilson Smith, F.R.S.

## Wednesday

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 16, 5 p.m., "*Chronic Inflammation*," by Dr. J. O. Oliver.

INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, Judd Street, London, W.C.—May 16, 5.30 p.m., "*How Far Do Fundus Appearances Reflect Cardiovascular Diseases?*" by Dr. C. J. Gavey.

NORTH-EAST LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Prince of Wales's Hospital, London, N., May 16, 3.30 p.m., clinical meeting.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, May 16, 5 p.m., "*Defences of the Air Passages, With Relation to Ciliary Action*," Litchfield Lecture by Mr. V. E. Negus.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—May 16, 5 p.m., "*Professional Freedom*," Croonian Lecture by Dr. T. Fortescue Fox.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C.—May 16, 5.30 p.m., "*Studies in Comparative Electrophysiology*," by Professor A. Fessard (Collège de France).

## Thursday

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.—May 17, (1) 8.15 p.m., annual general meeting; (2) 8.45 p.m., "*The Influence of Radiology on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Intrinsic Carcinoma of the Larynx*," 28th Mackenzie Davidson Memorial Lecture by Sir Stanford Cade.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, University New Buildings (Anatomy Theatre), Teviot Place, Edinburgh.—May 17, 5 p.m., "*Arterio-venous Malformations of the Head*," Honyman Gillespie Lecture by Mr. John Gillingham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Napsbury Hospital, near St. Albans, Herts, May 17, 3 p.m., "*Transorbital Leucotomy*," coloured film.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, May 17, 4.15 p.m., "*Incoördinate Uterine Action*," Litchfield Lecture by Professor T. N. A. Jeffcoate.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—At 26, Portland Place, London, W., May 17, 7.30 p.m., "*Pathological Processes in Malaria: Progress Report*," by Professor Brian Maegraith, Dr. E. Sherwood Jones, and Dr. W. H. H. Andrews. A discussion will follow.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Lecture Theatre, Materia Medica Department, Medical School, Small's Wynd, Dundee, May 17, 5 p.m., "*Physiological and Clinical Importance of Noradrenaline*," by Professor J. H. Burn.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—May 17, 4.30 p.m., "*Psychiatry*," lecture-demonstration by Dr. Desmond Curran.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C.—May 17, 4.45 p.m., "*Energy Transformations in Living Matter*," by Professor H. A. Krebs.

## Friday

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.—May 18, 5 p.m., meeting of medical members.

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., May 18, 2.15 p.m., "*The Meningiomas*," Skinner Lecture by Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, F.R.S.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—May 18, 5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. G. B. Dowling.

INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, Judd Street, London, W.C.—May 18, 5.30 p.m., "*Gonioscopy After Glaucoma Operations*," by Mr. H. E. Hobbs.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, Southwark, London, S.E.—May 18, 5 p.m., "*Ophthalmic Injuries*," by Miss M. Savory.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C.—May 18, 5.30 p.m., "*Natural and Synthetic Sympatholytic Drugs, and Their Structural Relationship with Sympathomimetic Substances*," by Professor D. Bovet (Rome).

## Saturday

SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY.—At Preston Hall, near Maidstone, May 19, 10.30 for 11 a.m., "*In My Opinion*," by Dr. H. V. Morlock.

## APPOINTMENTS

NORTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—*Part-time Consultant Radiologist*, St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, F. Bush, M.B., B.Chir., D.M.R.E. *Part-time Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon*, Colchester Group of Hospitals, D. M. Dunn, F.R.C.S.Ed. *Full-time Consultant Area Pathologist*, Prince of Wales Hospital, W. I. Leslie, M.B., Ch.B. *Full-time Consultant Pathologist*, Leytonstone Group of Hospitals, C. Raeburn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SOUTH-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—*Deputy Director of Regional Blood Transfusion Service*, N. F. W. Brueton, M.B., Ch.B. *Senior Medical Registrar*, Bath Clinical Area, D. J. Ellison, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.Ed. *Registrar in Thoracic Surgery*, Hawkmoor Sanatorium, Bovey Tracey, L. E. Neri, M.B., B.S. *Assistant Pathologist*, Frenchay Hospital, J. G. C. Spencer, M.D., F.R.C.S. *Consultant Surgeon to South Somerset Clinical Area (Minehead District)*, G. H. Darke, M.B., B.S. *Senior Registrar in Psychiatry*, Bristol Mental Hospitals, B. V. Earle, M.D., M.R.C.P.

TYSER, P. A., M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Cambridgeshire Rural Districts, and Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

**Barkworth**.—On April 28, 1951, to Beryl (formerly Wright), wife of Dr. F. B. S. Barkworth, of Oakhamstead, Dittons Road, Eastbourne, a brother for Paul and John—Peter Mark Reginald.

**Barwise**.—On April 8, 1951, at Plymouth, to Dr. Maureen Barwise (formerly Bassett), wife of Dr. David Barwise, a daughter—Susan Mary.

**Ferguson**.—On May 4, 1951, at the Shearwood Nursing Home, Sheffield, to Brenda, wife of Dr. Malcolm Ferguson, a son—Clive Anthony.

**Friedlander**.—On May 2, 1951, at Doris Court, Manchester, to Dr. Jean L. Broughton, wife of Dr. H. A. Friedlander, a daughter.

**Hall-Smith**.—On April 30, 1951, at 61, The Drive, Hove, to Angela, wife of Dr. Patrick Hall-Smith, a daughter.

**Harris**.—On May 2, 1951, to Dorothy (formerly Kennedy), wife of Dr. R. Vincent Harris, of 6, College Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, a daughter—Joan Pamela.

**Lawrence**.—On May 4, 1951, at the City Hospital, Derby, to Bronwen (formerly Arthur), wife of Dr. Ralph A. A. Lawrence, of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, a son.

**Little**.—On May 2, 1951, at Chertsey Hill Nursing Home, Carlisle, to Catherine (formerly Salt), wife of Dr. J. C. Little, a daughter—Edith Alison.

**Martin**.—On April 28, 1951, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, to Winifred (formerly Attenborough), wife of Dr. Robert F. Martin, a daughter—Patricia Catherine.

**Templeman**.—On April 10, 1951, at the Falldon Nursing Home, Leeds, to Anne, wife of Dr. G. H. Templeman, M.B.E., M.D., a brother for Susan Joy—John.

## DEATHS

**De Penning**.—On February 13, 1951, Herbert Clement De Penning, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 38, Milton Road, Portsmouth, aged 68.

**Dunlop**.—On May 2, 1951, at Lake Cottage, Sandhead, Stranraer, James Dunlop, L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

**Hamlett**.—On March 21, 1951, at Winsford, Cheshire, Constance Clara Maude Hamlett, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 52.

**Henderson**.—On April 30, 1951, at General Hospital, Birmingham, Elizabeth Eleanor Henderson (formerly Benson), M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Redditch, Worcs.

**Lamballe**.—On May 5, 1951, at 82, Millfield Lane, York, Frederic William Lamballe, M.B., B.S., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., ret.

**Livingstone-Learmonth**.—On April 28, 1951, at Edinburgh, Basil Lockhart Livingstone-Learmonth, M.B., C.M., late of Peking, China, and Plockton, Ross-shire, aged 84.

**Miller**.—On April 30, 1951, at Bradford Royal Infirmary, Christopher Graham Miller, B.M., B.Ch., of Harrogate, Yorks, aged 24.

**Simson**.—On May 6, 1951, at 217, Wilton Road, Southampton, Henry John Simson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**Stephen**.—On May 2, 1951, at 35, South Hill Park, London, N.W., George Mackie Stephen, M.B., Ch.B.

**Stevenson**.—On April 9, 1951, at Sheffield, Eliza Moira Kennedy, M.D., F.R.F.P.S., of 1, Kingsborough Gardens, Glasgow, W.

**Theobalds**.—On May 1, 1951, at 9, Lancaster Grove, London, N.W., Owen Le Mare Theobalds, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 90.

**Trapnell**.—On April 28, 1951, at 58, Manor Way, Beckenham, Kent, Francis Cyril Trapnell, M.D.

**Walters**.—On April 21, 1951, at Longburgh, near Carlisle, Arthur Piercefield Walters, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 87.

**Wayte**.—On May 4, 1951, at a Croydon nursing-home, John Wayte, M.B., B.Ch., of 33, Chatsworth Road, Croydon, aged 89.

**Yearsley**.—On May 4, 1951, at "Winscombe," Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, Percival Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., aged 83.