

## KEEPING UP TO DATE

*Annual Review of Medicine.* Volume 2. Editor, Windsor C. Cutting; Associate Editor, Henry W. Newman. (Pp. 486. \$6.) Stanford, California: Annual Reviews Inc. 1951.

*Medicine of the Year.* 1951 edition. Edited by John B. Youmans, M.D. (Pp. 298. £2.) Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1951.

*Cornell Conferences on Therapy.* Volume 4. Edited by Harry Gold, M.D., D. P. Barr, M.D., McKeen Cattell, M.D., Frank Glenn, M.D., Walter Modell, M.D., and George Reader, M.D. (Pp. 342. \$3.50, or £1 6s.) New York and London: The Macmillan Company. 1951.

In an age when most full-time workers in medical schools think themselves accursed if they have not succeeded in publishing some two or three papers a year, no matter how dull or mediocre, it becomes increasingly difficult for the average doctor to have even a nodding acquaintance with the vast literature which accumulates annually, still less to be able to say which paper is or is not worth while. It is scarcely surprising, therefore, that yearbooks of medicine and annual reviews of recent advances should become increasingly popular and increasingly useful. In such works a group of experts predigest the literature pertaining to their own subject, critically separate the good from the bad, and serve up the result in a concentrated, intelligible, and acceptable form.

Three books from America do this sort of thing very well but very differently. The *Annual Review of Medicine* contains a series of essays by experts in which recent advances in medicine only are broadly and critically surveyed. An extensive bibliography covering the references appears at the end of each chapter. Almost without exception the reviews are admirably done. They are clearly designed for those engaged in teaching or research whose knowledge of the subject under discussion is already well established. In *Medicine of the Year* the year's advances in all fields of medicine, including surgery and other specialties, are briefly reported in a more tabloid form. This is a general work of reference more useful for the general practitioner than for the specialist, though valuable for the latter too for information on subjects outside his own sphere.

The *Cornell Conferences on Therapy* were inaugurated in 1937 as a joint venture of the departments of medicine and pharmacology. To qualify for a conference a subject must be a problem in therapeutics on which widely divergent views may be held. They are introduced by a prepared talk from an appropriate member of the staff, and thereafter the discussion, no doubt carefully edited, is reproduced as an unrehearsed and extempore debate understandable to the general practitioner. The purpose is to stimulate interest in rational therapy and the method a report of a spontaneous, informal, and free discussion. It is all great fun and very easy to read as one's partisan interest is excited by this or that speaker in the debate. The course in pharmacology in most schools is isolated by some terms from that on clinical therapeutics, and to a considerable extent clinicians are apt to build the structure of therapeutic teaching with indifferent regard to its pharmacological basis. These conferences help to correct this tendency and to weave pharmacology and therapeutics into a single design. The conference is not a substitute for, but ancillary to, traditional forms of medical teaching and one which should be explored more fully in Britain.

D. M. DUNLOP.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*A Manual of Lip-Reading.* By M. V. Johnstone. (Pp. 108. 5s. 6d.) London: Blackie. 1951.

*The Rational Treatment of Catarrh.* By W. A. Troup, M.C., M.D., Ch.B. (Pp. 85. 10s. 6d.) London: Chatterson. 1951.

*The Hand in Psychological Diagnosis.* By C. Wolff. (Pp. 218. 32s. 6d.) London: Methuen. 1951.

*Transactions of the Medical Society of London.* Edited by W. E. Tanner, M.S., F.R.C.S. Vol. 66. (Pp. 410. No price.) London: The Medical Society. 1951.

*The Biochemistry of Fertilization and the Gametes.* Edited by R. T. Williams. (Pp. 66. 9s. 6d.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1951.

*Essays in Surgery.* By R. I. Harris and R. M. Janes. (Pp. 584. 75s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1950.

*Mosquito Behaviour in Relation to Malaria Transmission and Control in the Tropics.* By R. C. Muirhead-Thomson, D.Sc. (Pp. 219. 30s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1951.

*Diseases of the Nervous System.* By W. Russell Brain, D.M., P.R.C.P. 4th ed. (Pp. 1,002. 42s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1951.

*A History of the General Hospital near Nottingham.* By F. H. Jacob, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 353. 25s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1951.

*Your Health.* By D. F. Smiley, A.B., M.D., and A. G. Gould, Ph.B., M.D. (Pp. 555. 34s.) London: Macmillan. 1951.

*Joll's Diseases of the Thyroid Gland.* By F. F. Rundle, M.D., F.R.C.S. 2nd ed. (Pp. 520. 84s.) London: William Heinemann. 1951.

*Between Life and Death.* By H. Williams. (Pp. 288. 16s.) London: Jonathan Cape. 1951.

*Major Symptoms in Clinical Medicine.* By J. Almeyda, M.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.C.S. Vol. 2. (Pp. 704. 25s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1951.

*The Glaucomas.* By H. S. Sugar, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 469. 84s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1951.

*Children's Radiographic Technic.* By F. E. Shurtleff, R.T. (Pp. 80. 26s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1951.

*The Intelligent Use of the Microscope.* By C. W. Olliver, A.M.I.E.E., F.R.M.S., M.R.P.S. 2nd ed. (Pp. 192. 15s.) London: Chapman and Hall. 1951.

*Surgical Care.* By R. Elman, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 586. \$8.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1951.

*Atlas of Framboesia.* By K. R. Hill, M.D., and others. (Pp. 52. 5s.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1951.

*Gesundheitsbüchlein für die Tropen.* By Dr. E. Von Haller. (Pp. 92. M. 5.70.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Tabulae Biologicae.* Edited by G. Backman and others. Vol. 22, part 2: Oculus. (Pp. 284. Dutch florins 70.) The Hague: Dr. W. Junk. 1951.

*Die Hämolytischen Syndrome im Kindesalter.* By Dr. C. Gasser. (Pp. 322. M. 45.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*El Levantado Precoc en los Operados de Abdomen.* By Dr. E. Marescot. (Pp. 271. No price.) Barcelona: Byp. 1951.

*Atelektasen der Lunge.* By Professor H. Alexander. (Pp. 58. M. 8.70.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.

*Anemias.* By V. de la Loma. (Pp. 393. No price.) Madrid: "Diana," Artes Graficas, Larra. 12. 1950.

*Electrothérapie.* By J. Laborderie. (Pp. 216. 600 francs.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1951.

Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade came to fruition, for he was appointed honorary life member and examiner for both. He took a lively interest in local affairs, and was a borough councillor from 1945 to 1947, when ill-health forced him to retire. Although crippled at an early age, he was able to take part in and was ever interested in sports, holding vice-presidencies of Kidwelly and Burry Port rugby football clubs and the Burry Port bowling club.

T. R. D. writes: As a general practitioner Dr. Peace was a very sound clinician and always put his patients' welfare in the foreground. His outstanding personal quality was courage, which sustained him through many difficult times and in the fight against increasing physical infirmity during the last 10 years. Though the struggle was prolonged and often grim, he maintained to the end his confident and cheerful bearing towards his patients. At home he was the wise and understanding father of a united family, always ready to take a kindly interest in their troubles and rejoice with them in their pleasures. He is survived by three sons of his first marriage and by his widow and a young son and daughter.

Dr. PERCY BERNARD SKEELS, coroner for the Metropolitan District of Essex, who died suddenly on January 5 at the age of 70, was educated at the Leys School, Cambridge, and was admitted as a solicitor in 1905. While still in legal practice he entered Guy's Hospital Medical School in 1917, and qualified medically in 1925. He was later deputy coroner to Dr. Guthrie in the County of London and also for the City of London, and in 1933 was appointed to the coronership, which he still held at the time of his death. In 1943 he was elected president of the Coroners Society, of which he was an active member, and he was also a member of the Medico-Legal Society and on the council of the Medical Protection Society. Skeels represented a rather unusual type of career, the solicitor who takes up medicine, and throughout his years of office as coroner he constantly showed his legal training in the scrupulous attention to detail which he maintained in the conduct of his court and which he infused into the pathologists who worked for him. At the same time his interest in medicine never flagged, and when an unusual case was reported to him he would often visit the Royal Society of Medicine to seek further information. Although he did not write much himself he was always willing to advise on medico-legal publications. His interests were wide. In his young days he played cricket for Guy's Hospital, and he was a keen ornithologist and horticulturist.—F. E. C.

The passing of Dr. JOHN PHILLIPS has taken from the ranks of the medical profession another of those ardent souls whose ambition it is to die in harness rather than to retire. Dr. Phillips was well past 80 before his last illness intervened to stop his working. He was born in 1866, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Laing Phillips, of Harrogate, and entered Edinburgh University as a medical student, graduating as M.B., C.M. in 1888. After being resident medical officer at Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead, and house-surgeon at Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital, he settled in practice in Southsea in 1894. In 1901 he was top of the poll for election as assistant physician on the reconstituted staff of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, from which as senior physician he retired in 1921. Dr. Phillips joined the Territorials in 1908 and was a major in the R.A.M.C. when called up for home service in 1914. He was appointed to the Staff of the 5th Southern General Hospital, which was established at Portsmouth during the first world war, and in 1918 he was made cardiologist to the Ministry of Pensions for the Portsmouth area. His last illness, of 18 months' duration, was most bravely borne. In 1914 Dr. Phillips married Dorothy Mary, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Forbes-Leith, of Southsea. Much sympathy is extended to his widow.—M. A. K.

## Medico-Legal

### FORGOTTEN TOURNIQUET

[FROM OUR MEDICO-LEGAL CORRESPONDENT]

On March 14, 1951, a bus conductor, aged 32, was admitted to Heatherwood Orthopaedic Hospital, Ascot, for an operation for the removal of a cartilage in his right knee. Apart from his knee injury he was in perfect health. He was brought into the theatre at 12.15 p.m. on March 16. The tourniquet, an Esmarch rubber bandage, had already been applied to his thigh by the anaesthetist. The surgeon, assisted by a registrar, then performed the operation, which lasted about 30 minutes. It was the last operation performed by the surgeon that morning. The anaesthetist left the theatre with the surgeon's consent before the end of the operation. The surgeon saw the patient taken from the theatre. Nobody removed the tourniquet. It was hidden by the theatre gown he was wearing and by towels.

When the patient recovered from the anaesthetic at about 1.15 p.m. he complained of pain in his leg, and the registrar saw him in the ward. He was given an injection of morphine but was very restless, having to be held in bed until after a second injection of morphine at about 3.30 p.m. It was not until 6.15 p.m., when a male nurse was straightening up the patient's bed, that the tourniquet was noticed. The nurse released it at once.

The patient was seen that evening by the surgeon, who found deep lines round his thigh and red areas where the tourniquet had been. Treatment was immediately instituted, and next day the patient was given a blood transfusion. He later began to vomit, and it was found that his kidneys were not functioning properly. Some sensation later returned in his right leg and he could move his toes, but as his kidneys still did not function properly he was transferred to Taplow Hospital to be under the care of a doctor who had special experience of such injuries. He got worse, however, and a week after transfer developed abdominal pain. An exploratory operation was performed on March 30, but no cause could be found, and he died on April 4, nineteen days after the injury.

At the inquest the pathologist who carried out the necropsy gave evidence that the organs of the circulatory system were pale, there was congestion of the vessels, and the heart muscle was flabby. Death was caused by pulmonary oedema, and the serous spaces contained an increase in fluid. The kidneys showed degenerative changes associated with damage to the muscles of the right leg following the prolonged application of the tourniquet, which had caused a band of necrosis in the muscle of the upper part of the right thigh with progressively less severe changes from there towards the knee. Other muscles in the body showed spontaneous bruising. The failure of the kidneys to function normally had produced a very great rise of urea in the blood.

The cause of death was recorded as uraemia and nephrosis (crush syndrome). A verdict of death by misadventure was returned.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dr. Donald Hugh Paterson has been appointed Clinical Professor of Paediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine of the University. Professor Paterson graduated M.B., Ch.B.Ed. in 1916. He proceeded M.D. in 1928 and was elected an F.R.C.P. in the following year. Before returning to Canada in 1947 he was Consulting Paediatrician to Westminster Hospital, Consulting Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, and Lecturer in Diseases of Children in the University of London. He is Paediatrician in charge of the Children's Health Centre at Vancouver General Hospital and Consultant in Children's Health to the Metropolitan Health Committee of the City of Vancouver. He was elected F.R.C.P.(C.) in 1947.

GRESHAM COLLEGE, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.—January 31, 5.30 p.m., *"The Physiology of the Brain—The Higher Functions of the Brain,"* last of four lectures by Professor H. Hartridge, F.R.S. (See also January 28, 29, and 30.)

● INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.—January 31, 5 p.m., *"Surgery in the Newborn,"* by Mr. Denis Browne.

● INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—January 31, 5.30 p.m., *"Histopathology—Epithelioma,"* by Dr. J. O. Oliver.

LONDON UNIVERSITY—At Meyerstein Lecture Theatre, Westminster Medical School, Horseferry Road, S.W., January 31, 5.30 p.m., *"The Physiopathology of Glucose Excretion by the Human Kidney,"* Special University Lecture in Medicine by Dr. P. Govaerts (Brussels University).

MIDDLESEX COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Central Middlesex Hospital Park Royal, London, N.W., January 31, general meeting, 3 p.m., Demonstration of clinical cases, pathological specimens, and x-rays; 4.20 p.m., *"Errors in Blood Transfusion—Does Science Pay?"* by Dr. George Discombe; 4.45 p.m., *"Hoarseness,"* short paper followed by a film *"Oesophageal Speech,"* by Mr. Maxwell Ellis.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At Lecture Theatre, John Islip Street, London, S.W., January 31, 5 p.m., *"Modern Trends in the Treatment of Carcinoma of the Breast,"* by Sir Cecil Wakeley, P.R.C.S.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—January 31, 5.30 p.m., *"Problems of the Radiation Treatment of Cancer of the Larynx,"* Otolaryngology Lecture by Dr. M. Lederman.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 21, Albemarle Street, London, W.—January 31, 5.15 p.m., *"Respiratory Pigments,"* by Professor H. Munro Fox, F.R.S.

ROYAL SOCIETY, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.—January 31, 2.30 p.m., *"The Thermodynamics of Elasticity in Biological Tissues,"* discussion to be opened by Professor A. V. Hill, F.R.S.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Lecture Theatre, Materia Medica Department, Medical School, Small's Wynd, Dundee, January 31, 5 p.m., *"Disabled Youth,"* by Professor T. Ferguson, D.Sc.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—January 31, 4.30 p.m., lecture-demonstration in psychiatry by Sir Paul Mallinson.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Physiology Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C.—January 31, 5.30 p.m., *"Different Forms of Signalling Employed by the Nervous System,"* by Professor Bernhard Katz.

WYE COLLEGE, Swanley Hall, near Ashford, Kent.—January 31, 8.15 p.m., *"The Coming of Genetics,"* by C. D. Darlington, D.Sc., F.R.S.

#### Friday

● INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—February 1, 5.30 p.m., *"Epithelioma and Epithelial Tumours,"* clinical demonstration by Dr. R. T. Brain.

● INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST AND INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, W.C., February 1, 5.30 p.m., *"Medical Aspects of Cyanotic Congenital Heart Disease,"* by Dr. Wallace Bridgen.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Magdalen College, Oxford, February 1, 5 p.m., *"The Neurophysiological Basis of Mind,"* Waynflete Lecture by Professor J. C. Eccles, F.R.S.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourn Place, Edinburgh.—February 1, 8 p.m., *"Problem of the Mechanism of Learning,"* by Professor J. Z. Young, F.R.S.

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Nurses' Lecture Theatre, February 1, 8.30 p.m., *"Coronary Heart Disease in Doctors (Results of a Recent Investigation),"* by Dr. J. N. Morris.

#### Saturday

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF ALLERGISTS.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., February 2, annual general meeting. Morning session: 10.30 a.m., *"Histopathology of Rhinitis,"* by Dr. H. A. Lucas; 11 a.m., *"Factors Implicated in the Production of Tissue and General Eosinophilia,"* by Dr. J. Pepys; 11.30 a.m., *"Allergy and A.C.T.H.,"* by Professor G. W. Pickering; 12 noon, discussion. Afternoon session: 2.30 p.m., *"The Basis of Antihistamine Therapy,"* by Dr. B. Halpern; 3.15 p.m., *"The Present Place of Antihistamine Therapy in Clinical Practice,"* by Dr. C. J. C. Britton; 4.45 p.m., business meeting.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

Evans.—On January 14, 1952, at New Cross, London, S.E., to Alexa (formerly Mitchell), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., wife of Dr. C. J. Evans, a daughter—Mary.

Tweedie.—On January 10, 1952, at Tripoli, Lebanon, to Gay, wife of G. C. Tweedie, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., a son—Thomas Cunningham.

### DEATHS

Gaskell.—On January 12, 1952, at Greenwood, Fareham, Hants. Sir Arthur Gaskell K.C.B., O.B.E., F.R.C.S., D.P.H., Surgeon Vice-Admiral, R.N., retired, aged 80.

Mackinnon.—On January 12, 1952, at Craig-a-Charran, Portree, Skye, William Donald Mackinnon, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

## 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.

### Vitamins during Lactation

**Q.**—Do breast-fed infants get enough vitamins A and D in their mothers' milk? If so, does the amount of the vitamins in the milk vary according to the mother's vitamin level? Do the cod-liver oil tablets which mothers take protect them from vitamin depletion, or do they merely provide a surplus which can "spill" over into their milk?

**A.**—Breast-fed infants receive adequate vitamin A in their mothers' milk, but only marginal amounts of vitamin D. Under favourable circumstances the vitamin-D supplies are supplemented by direct exposure to sunlight. The amounts of the vitamins in breast milk do not vary much unless very massive doses are given to the mother. The cod-liver oil tablets protect the mothers from depletion in so far as they restore the heavy drain of vitamins which must be taken from their reserves.

### Instruments in Spirit

**Q.**—Is there any way of treating surgical spirit, after it has been used for storing instruments and syringes in the surgery, so that it may be used again?

**A.**—The only really satisfactory method of purifying spirit is by distillation, but this is forbidden (except under licence) by the Methylated Spirits Regulations.

Traces of water can be removed from undiluted spirit by allowing it to stand over dry quick-lime (calcium oxide) or by adding potassium carbonate and decanting the clear supernatant fluid. The usual formulae for surgical spirit, however, contain castor oil, diethyl phthalate, and either naphtha or methyl salicylate in industrial methylated spirits. These substances may prevent a clear solution from being obtained by the above method. Also the most effective bactericidal strength of alcohol is 70 to 75%.

The Medical Research Council's *Memorandum No. 15* (H.M.S.O.) on "The Sterilization, Use, and Care of Syringes" approves of the use of alcohol for sterilizing syringes only when heat methods are not available. A technique is described using 70 to 75% alcohol. With instruments, again the best method is by heat, and this is recommended by the M.R.C. *Memorandum No. 11* (H.M.S.O.) on "The Control of Cross-Infection in Hospitals."

### Strained Eyes

**Q.**—Is it possible through reading with a bad light, using ill-fitting spectacles, etc., to damage one's eyes, in the sense of producing permanent changes needing correction with lenses? The necessity for wearing spectacles is often ascribed by the laity to unwise "straining" of the eyes, particularly when young. Is there anything in this?

**A.**—The misuse of the eyes from working in bad light, wearing ill-fitting spectacles, and lenses not properly centred, etc., may have both general and local results. Headaches, loss of power of concentration—leading in children to bad school reports—mental fatigue, irritability, and mild indigestion may all be caused by eye-strain. Locally, ciliary spasm and local congestion and lenticular astigmatism may also be caused. These conditions are relieved by treatment, teaching of good ocular habits, and the proper adjustment of the correcting glasses. Apart from ciliary spasm and local congestion, which may be recalcitrant, the other conditions are not permanent.