

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

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TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1

KEY TO DATES AND PAGES

The following table gives a key to the dates of issue and the page numbers of the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** and **SUPPLEMENT** in the first volume for 1963.

Date of Issue	Journal Pages	Supplement Pages
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in infancy, and especially the frequency with which there is no neck stiffness.

The most remarkable omission of all is the emotional aspect of children's behaviour and symptoms. The family doctor is in a unique position to help children with behaviour problems and with the common psychosomatic symptoms which he sees every day. This aspect of paediatric medicine is almost completely ignored by the author. I find it difficult to recommend this book.

R. S. ILLINGWORTH.

CHANGE OF LIFE

The Middle Years. The Change of Life. By Albert Sharman, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.C.O.G. Foreword by Sir John Peel, K.C.V.O., M.A., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 71 + xi. 6s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

The fact that our gynaecological out-patient departments now abound with middle-aged women who suffer from nothing more than unnecessary fears about the menopause, and from tensions deriving from ignorance of the function of the sexual apparatus, justifies the publication of a small book of this kind. Though primarily concerned to explain the physiology and significance of the menopause it also gives authoritative information on menstruation, ovulation, and pregnancy as a necessary introduction to its main topic. Two useful appendices deal with the chances of conception occurring after childbirth and during the perimenopausal era.

Without loss of scientific accuracy the book is written in simple terms, with an adequate glossary, and is eminently suitable for the lay reader. It is better than any tranquillizer or hormone preparation for the woman facing or fearing "the change of life."

T. N. A. JEFFCOATE.

CHESTER BEATTY LIFE TABLES

The Chester Beatty Research Institute Serial Abridged Life Tables. England and Wales, 1841-1960. Part One: Tables, Preface, and Notes. Compiled by R. A. M. Case, Christine Coghill, Joyce L. Harley, and Joan T. Pearson. (Pp. 87.) London: Chester Beatty Research Institute. 1962.

This work consists of almost 100 life tables. Abridged life tables have been constructed by the generation or cohort method and by the current or conventional method for both males and females. The cohort life tables are for the years ending in 1 or 6 from 1841 to 1956 and the conventional life tables are for each quinquennium from 1841-6 to 1956-60. The age groups used were 0-, 1-, 5-, and then in quinquennial age groups to age 100, except for cohort tables, which, of course, ended with the age that brought them up to date. The abridged conventional life tables, which were constructed by Greville's method, have been compared with the appropriate English life table. There was good agreement between the tables and the small differences between the two methods were of no practical importance. A comparison of the cohort and conventional life tables shows that mortality experience based on current rates (conventional life table) was worse than that based on the actual rates (cohort life table). This is in accordance with expectation, since owing to the fall in the death rates the population born in earlier years have experienced a much lower mortality at later ages than those current at their birth.

This mass of tables, though produced for a specific object, will be of interest to workers in the field of public

health and others who study the variations in mortality due to a continuous change in the economic-medical environment of the population.

W. J. MARTIN.

MURINE TUMOUR VIRUSES

Ciba Foundation Symposium on Tumour Viruses of Murine Origin. Edited for the Ciba Foundation by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. (Pp. 441 + xiii; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1962.

This Ciba symposium, most aptly forming a part of the centenary celebrations in morbid anatomy at the University of Perugia in 1961, is a fitting supplement to Dr. Ludwik Gross's *Oncogenic Viruses* that was recently reviewed in this journal (May 5, 1962). It is largely a book for experts in cancer research who favour the viral theory of carcinogenesis. Nevertheless, the general reader who has not the time to wade through masses of laboratory detail and terminology will enjoy the excellent discussions on the aims of the symposium, the relevance of this kind of animal investigation to cancer in man, and the sober speculations about the future. When dedicated men like Macfarlane Burnet, Dulbecco, Furth, Gross, Haddow, Kaplan, Sachs, and Stoker think about them the rest of us realize the extent of the debt we owe to organizations like the Ciba Foundation which make it possible for us to "listen in."

The editors have, as usual, done their work splendidly, and every possible device, notably accurate indexing and excellent photography, has been employed to lessen the labours of the reader.

ROY CAMERON.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

The Early Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen. By Sir Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. Twelfth edition. (Pp. 196; illustrated. 21s.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1963.

The Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology. (1962-63 series.) Edited by J. P. Greenhill. (Pp. 620; illustrated. 60s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1962.

Dermatologic Differential Diagnosis. By Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, M.D., Ph.D., and Sheldon A. Walker, M.D. (Pp. 335; illustrated. 57s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1962.

Plastic Surgery. By Richard B. Stark, M.D. (Pp. 718 + xiii; illustrated. £11 8s.) London: Hamish Hamilton Ltd. New York: Harper and Row. 1962.

Fortschritte der Schilddrüsenforschung. Edited by Professor Dr. K. Oberdisse and Doz. Dr. E. Klein. (Pp. 164; illustrated. DM. 29.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1962.

Chemistry of the Sex Hormones. By Peter M. F. Bishop, D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 100 + xi; illustrated. \$5.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

Peptic Ulcer. By T. L. Cleave, M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 151 + vi. 25s.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1962.

Illustrated Manual of Neurologic Diagnosis. By R. Douglas Collins, M.D. (Pp. 177 + xiv; illustrated. 85s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1962.

Your Daily Bread. By Doris Grant. Seventh edition. (Pp. 154; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) London: Faber and Faber. 1962.

Mental Abnormality and the Law. By H. Jenner Wily and K. R. Stallworthy. (Pp. 543 + xiv. 63s.) Christchurch, New Zealand: N. M. Peryer Ltd. 1962.

Religion and Medicine. Edited by John Crowlesmith. (Pp. 183. 21s.) London: The Epworth Press. 1962.