

was applied to the extraocular muscles by Hoffmann in 1913, no advances in technique capable of useful clinical application took place until the last decade, when in 1952 Björk, using a cathode-ray oscilloscope with needle electrodes inserted into the muscles, established human ocular electromyography as a practical science. Since then the subject has grown apace in many clinics and laboratories throughout the world, until to-day, particularly with the aid of bio-electronic computing techniques, the basis of the electric activity of these muscles in health and disease is becoming well known. In these advances G. M. Breinin has played a prominent part and the critical review of the literature compiled by him together with a full discussion of his own contributions in the form of a thesis for membership of the American Ophthalmological Society is timely and interesting.

From the physiological point of view he has demonstrated that the extraocular muscles are not, as has been generally accepted, unique and primitive but share the same properties as the general skeletal muscles with quantitative rather than qualitative differences depending on their highly specialized functions. From the clinical point of view electromyography has now become a useful tool in the diagnosis of disease such as pseudopalsies (as Duane's syndrome), pareses, the myopathies, and myasthenia gravis. By this technique a diagnosis of the two last conditions can often be made with certainty when the clinical evidences are still borderline in character and valuable information regarding prognosis can be gleaned. There are, of course, sources of potential error, but as information is accumulated this method of diagnosis is proving of progressively greater value.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER.

### OCCUPATIONAL BLADDER CANCER

*Carcinogenic and Chronic Toxic Hazards of Aromatic Amines.* By T. S. Scott, M.D. (Pp. 208+xi; illustrated. Dfl. 15.) Amsterdam and New York: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1962.

This book is misnamed and perhaps for this reason the first part is rather badly set out, being confusing and repetitious. The book is really an account of the history, incidence, nature, and prevention of occupational bladder cancer, the main causes of which are a few primary aromatic amines. There is a rather fragmentary account of the acute toxicity of these carcinogens, but this interesting aspect of their pathological action is disappointingly treated. The chronic toxicity of the aromatic amines is dismissed in two lines: "Apart from neoplastic disease few reports of chronic poisoning have been traced and none have proved authentic."

In the early chapters, except Chapter 4, the chemistry, biochemistry, industrial uses, and carcinogenicity of the incriminated aromatic amines are considered, but the subject matter tends to switch from one aspect to another. No clear account of the information about each suspected agent is presented. The author is chief medical officer in a firm which has for long manufactured these amines and he has played an important part in ensuring that everything possible has been done to ensure safety in their manufacture. Chapters 8 to 16 together with Chapter 4 provide an excellent account of this interesting and serious problem in occupational hygiene. Every aspect is carefully discussed and recommendations clearly set forth.

The account is fully documented and the 300 references will enable the reader to get any additional information he requires.

J. M. BARNES.

### DOCTOR'S LEGEND OF ASKLEPIOS

*The White Crow.* By George Spanopoulos. Illustrated by Christine Sapiha. (Pp. 39. 5s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

The author, a doctor practising in Athens, tells the story of the birth of Asklepios in the form of a dream in which the legend is narrated to him by a black crow, for in his dream, like Melampus of old, he was able to understand the language of the birds. The illustrations are appropriate and there is a witty preface in which the author explains that his surname means "the son of the man who has no moustache." Here is the gist of the story, which is told in beautiful English.

Coronis was with child by Apollo, who ordered a white crow to guard her, but Ischys deceived the crow and beguiled Coronis. Apollo struck the white crow black for his negligence, and crows have been black ever since. In his wrath Apollo would have killed both Coronis and her child, but at Athena's intercession the child was saved by caesarean section performed by Hermes. The child thus rescued was Asklepios, trained by Chiron to be a physician.

ZACHARY COPE.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*Psychiatric Studies of Borstal Lads.* By T. C. N. Gibbens, M.D., D.P.M. With the assistance of A. Marriage and A. Walker. (Pp. 230. 45s.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1963.

*Geriatric Nursing.* A study of the work of geriatric ward staff. By G. F. Adams, M.D., F.R.C.P., and P. L. McIlwraith, A.M.I.P.E. (Pp. 77+xix. 7s. 6d.) London: Published for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust by Oxford University Press. 1963.

*Synopsis of Genitourinary Disease.* By Austin I. Dodson, Jr., M.D., and J. Edward Hill, M.D. Seventh edition. (Pp. 384; illustrated. 58s.) St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. London: Henry Kimpton. 1962.

*Our Adult World and Other Essays.* By Melanie Klein. (Pp. 121. 15s.) London: William Heinemann. 1963.

*Health and Tuberculosis Conference. 1962.* Transactions of the Sixth Commonwealth Conference organized by the Chest and Heart Association, held in University College, Ibadan, Nigeria, March 26 to 31, 1962. (Pp. 248; illustrated. 30s.) London: The Chest and Heart Association. 1962.

*Differentialdiagnose Neurologischer Krankheitsbilder.* By G. Bodechtel. Second edition. (Pp. 1,152+xxxi; illustrated. DM. 120.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1963.

*Animal Ecology.* Aims and Methods. By A. Macfadyen, M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 344+xxiv; 42s.) London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons Ltd. 1963.

*Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia.* Edited by C. Langton Hewer, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), F.F.A.R.C.S. Ninth edition. (Pp. 358+vi; illustrated. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

*Bilharziasis.* Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., and Maevae O'Connor, B.A. (Pp. 433+xiii; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1962.

*Cancer.* A General Guide to Research and its Treatment. Edited by Professor N. N. Petrov. Translated by A. P. Fletcher. (Pp. 387+xvi; illustrated. 80s.) Oxford, London, New York, and Paris: Pergamon Press. 1962.

*Diseases and Remedies.* A concise survey of the most modern methods of medicine. Prepared expressly for the drug trade. Eleventh edition. (Pp. 234. 21s.) London: The Chemist and Druggist. 1963.