

"combined textbook" has recently appeared under the editorship of Sir Dugald Baird) was followed earlier and more often on this side of the Atlantic. Yet it was a book written in 1958 by members of the staff of Temple University, Philadelphia, under the leadership of J. R. Willson, which took the next logical step of arranging the text to form a sequential story of the life history of normal women and their diseases from birth to senescence.

This pattern has now been followed on a more ambitious scale by an individual author, and Professor J. W. Huffman, of Chicago, is to be congratulated on the sustained high level of his book. A single author must perforce borrow ideas and illustrations from others, but Dr. Huffman has blended them into a text for students which is clearly and warmly written and finely and fully illustrated from the opening chapter on applied embryology to the final section on geriatric gynaecology. The references, which are rather extensive for a students' textbook, contain for an American publication an unusually high proportion that are of British origin; the expression of the dosage of oxytocin in minims is even more unexpected. Technical details of obstetrical and gynaecological operations are not included, but principles, indications, and merits are fairly discussed. The index is commendably detailed.

This is a good textbook, even though its weight of 7½ lb. (3.4 kg.) might lead one to associate it with the crane rather than with the stork. Students and practitioners in this country may regret that the book is so heavy on hand and pocket, but they will certainly appreciate its availability on the library shelf.

S. BENDER.

DISINFECTING THE MAIL

Disinfected Mail. By K. F. Meyer, Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 341; illustrated. \$12.) Holton, Kansas: The Gossip Printery, Inc. 1962.

This book treats of a specialized form of philately, the collection of disinfected mail. It gives historical information on postal arrangements, quarantine regulations, disinfection methods, and epidemic visitations.

Disinfection of the mail began in Venice and other European states in the fifteenth century and continues in some countries at the present time. The author groups it into four periods: early (1485-1730); interim (1730-1830); later (1830-1890), during the second pandemic of cholera, beginning with the appearance of the disease in Central Europe; and recent (1890-1957). Its use diminished after 1850, and from 1884 was discontinued as a general practice by most European countries. Though some methods did disinfect it is doubtful whether disease has been spread by mail. The text is well illustrated by reproductions of disinfected letters, seals, covers, state regulations, and so on, chiefly from the author's own extensive collection. As Professor C. E. Dolman observes in the foreword, the book will interest philatelists, bacteriologists, public health and medical historians, and sociologists.

ARTHUR S. MACNALT.

DYSHIDROSIFORM ERUPTIONS

Investigations into Dyshidrosiform Eruptions. By R. D. G. Ph. Simons. (Pp. 88; illustrated. Sw. Fr. 19.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1962.

In 1873 Tilbury Fox described dyshidrosis as an eruption of palms and soles due to sweat retention, a

view rejected by Jonathan Hutchinson (1876), who used the term "cheiro-pompholyx." The mechanism and aetiology of these eruptions have been disputed ever since, and this useful monograph sets out the history of this and allied subjects, especially of the "ides" from focal fungous or other infections. This collection of evidence provides a useful work with an index to some 180 references in the literature.

In addition the author has conducted his own investigations by serial histological sections and by examination, particularly of the pH of the contents of vesicles. He finds no evidence to relate the pompholyx eruption to sweat gland or duct activity. The relationship to fungous infection and to sensitizing contacts is discussed and dismissed, and pompholyx remains an idiopathic disorder still to be solved. It is not restricted to patients suffering from hyperhidrosis and is not clearly related to temperature, atmospheric pressure, or humidity, but is possibly related to exposure to sunshine.

So-called "Clinical Tinea Pedis" is discussed and emphasis placed upon the infrequency of a fungous aetiology.

J. T. INGRAM.

CAREERS IN HOSPITALS

A Guide to Hospital Careers. By Harry Gaston, A.H.A. (Pp. 160; illustrated. 15s.) London: Museum Press. 1962.

This book gives a short but comprehensive account of the many professions and occupations which form the hospital community—doctors and dentists, nurses and physiotherapists, administrators and architects, caterers and cooks, and the various professions supplementary to medicine—these and many other occupations which go to the making of a hospital establishment are briefly described, and their requirements and rewards given.

The author does well to point out that in the Health Service salaries are rarely an attraction. Hospitals, in which the only profit motive is the welfare of the patient, cannot compete with commercial organizations in the matter of remuneration. But all hospital workers partake in differing degree both in the responsibility for the patients' welfare and in the satisfaction coming from such work properly performed.

In the chapter on administration not sufficient reference is made to the large part taken by the senior administrative medical officer; and we should have liked to see a more extended account of the work of the district nurse, who so often has to look after a patient after he has left hospital. However, these are minor criticisms of a book which should be useful to all those who feel drawn to the very satisfying service of a hospital.

ZACHARY COPE.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Microaerosols. By Lucien Dautrebande. (Pp. 366+xi; illustrated. 96s. 6d.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1962.

Alcoholism and Society. By Morris E. Chafetz, M.D., and Harold W. Demone, jun. (Pp. 319. 49s.) London and New York: Oxford University Press. 1962.

Selected Papers. Volume 4. (Pp. 65; illustrated.) The Hague: The Royal Netherlands Tuberculosis Association. 1962.

Psychosomatic Medicine in Practice. Edited by Berthold Stokvis. (Pp. 210. Sw. Fr. 52.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

Central Sterile Supply. Principles and Practice. (Pp. 123+xiv; illustrated. 25s.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust. 1963.

The Ageing Countryman. A socio-medical report on old age in a country practice. By H. C. Miller, B.A., M.D., J.P. (Pp. 191. 10s. 6d.) London: The National Corporation for the Care of Old People. 1963.

The Human Body in Health and Disease. By Ruth Lundeen Memmler, M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 372+ix; illustrated. 40s.) Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1963.

Safeguarding Motherhood. By Sol T. de Lee, M.D. Fifth edition. (Pp. 164+xi; illustrated. 20s.) Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1963.

Disorders of Carbohydrate Metabolism. Proceedings of a Conference in London at the Royal College of Physicians, March 30-31, 1962. Edited by D. A. Pyke, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 248; illustrated. 25s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1963.

Adventures with Histamine. By H. O. Schild. Inaugural Lecture delivered at University College, London, November 14, 1961. (Pp. 18. 3s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis and Co. Ltd. 1962.

The Anatomy of the Rainbow Lizard. By Vernon A. Harris, Ph.D. (Pp. 104; illustrated. 15s.) London: Hutchinson Tropical Monographs. 1963.

Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, Volume 53, Part 193, December 1962. (Pp. 247-339. 12s. 6d.) London: Society for Psychical Research. 1962.

International Review of Experimental Pathology. Volume 1. Edited by G. W. Richter and M. A. Epstein. (Pp. 453+x; illustrated. £5 7s. 6d.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1962.

Lehrbuch der Krankengymnastik. In four volumes. Edited by Prof. Dr. K. Lindemann, Dr. H. Teirich-Leube, and Priv.-Doz. Dr. W. Heipertz. **Volume III. Chirurgie, Unfallheilkunde, Orthopädie, Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe, Physikalische Therapie.** (Pp. 451+xi; illustrated. DM. 44.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1963.

Die operierte Speiseröhre. By Dr. med. Mario Rossetti. (Pp. 126+vii; illustrated. DM. 39.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1963.

Klinische Physiologie: Aktuelle Probleme in Übersichten. Volume I, Part 4. Edited by Dr. W. A. Müller. (Pp. 391+xii; illustrated. DM. 22.10.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1963.

Symposium on the Plasma Membrane. Edited by Alfred P. Fishman. (Pp. 983+1,232; illustrated. \$2.75.) New York: New York Heart Association, Inc. 1962.

The Ideas of Biology. By John Tyler Bonner. (Pp. 239; illustrated. 21s.) London: Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1963.

The Assessment of Pain in Man and Animals. Proceedings of an International Symposium, under the auspices of U.F.A.W., at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, July 26-28, 1961. Edited by C. A. Keele, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.P., F.C.S., F.F.A. R.C.S., and Robert Smith, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Pp. 324+xi; illustrated. 30s.) London: The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. Distributed by E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1962.

Medicine and Society in America 1660-1860. By Richard Harrison Shryock. (Pp. 182+viii. 14s.) Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. London: Oxford University Press. 1963.

Good Housekeeping's Baby Book. By the Good Housekeeping Family Doctor in conjunction with Good Housekeeping Family Centre. Twelfth edition. (Pp. 318; illustrated. 15s.) London: Ebury Press. 1962.

Goodbye, Doctor, Goodbye. Some Autobiographical Reflections of a General Practitioner. By Peter Manngian. (Pp. 154. 16s.) London, New York, and Toronto: Abelard-Schuman. 1963.

A Survey of Drugs. By Hakim Abdul Wahid and Dr. H. H. Siddiqui. (Pp. 168+xv. 6s.) Delhi: Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Research. 1961.

Diseases of the Nervous System. By Sir Francis Walshe, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Tenth edition. (Pp. 381+xii; illustrated. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

Without Prejudice

The average doctor, I suspect, believes in his heart of hearts that the priest and the church are always a bit out of date in dealing with the problems of sex, aggression, mental disorder. One kind of doctor, the psychiatrist, can't help looking at society over the top of a heap of case-notes of sick minds. He sums up the maladjustments and achievements of civilization in terms of fixation at one or other of the orifices of the body. Like all generalizations this is, I know, unfair. But in his public utterances he appears anxious to conform with the latest desire to extend licence a little further than it used to go.

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What a treat and a surprise, then, to hear words of human wisdom from the head of the established Church of England, Dr. Arthur Michael Ramsey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in his *Sunday Times* article entitled "Civilization, Sex and Morals." How arrogant of me, a mere medical man, to express "surprise"! But this is just another example of what Sir Thomas Browne called "the general scandal of my profession," and what the seventeenth century annotator of his "Religio Medici" explained by a Latin tag—"Ubi tres medici duo athei." (Where there are three doctors there are two atheists.)

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Dr. Ramsey looks for an explanation of the current "immense outbreak of preoccupation with Venus." He does not find that men or women are more lustful or that "the native impulses of sex are stronger." Nor did these account for the "uprush of sexuality in the decaying Graeco-Roman world . . ." Dr. Ramsey believes that it is the frustrations that beset people that make them turn to sex as an escape. And he punctures the facile balloon-beliefs of some psychologists that success or failure in marriage hinges on what Sir Thomas Browne called "the trivial and vulgar way of coition." Dr. Ramsey goes to the heart of the matter when he puts the blame for marital breakdown on failure in character, in patience, in forbearance in living together. In a few words he describes the relationship of man and woman as Eros the desire of one for the other, Venus as the pleasurable act of union, and Philia as "the whole range of comradeship in life together with all that this involves."

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The Archbishop of Canterbury begins his memorable essay by recapitulating what the great Jewish thinker Lord Samuel said some ten years ago. Lord Samuel found a fundamental difference between those who regard marriage as experimental and those who regard permanency of marriage as a matter of course. So Jew and Gentile have joined in concern over the sexual licence of our times. All this, too, concerns as deeply the doctor whose advice is sought by the young and their parents. Whatever may be his own personal beliefs he may wryly reflect that when Adler spoke at the Royal Society of Medicine before the war he said