

water—the *bain de surprise*—was highly regarded: through the violent shock “the chain of delusory ideas” could be broken and sane thinking would follow—so it was hoped.

Unfortunately the essay is not divided into chapters and there is no subject index; consequently its value as a reference book is small. Dr. Peter Laqueur in a short epilogue mentions the advances made in psychiatry since Kraepelin's time.

E. A. BENNET.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*Elementi di Anatomia Generale e di Embriologia del Cuore, del Pericardio e dei Vasi Sanguiferi.* By Francesco Loretì. (Pp. 313 + ix; illustrated.) Naples: Casa Editrice Idelson di E. Gnecchi e F. 1963.

*Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.* Vol. LXXXII, Session 1962. With List of Officers, Members, etc. (Pp. 818 + lxxvi; illustrated.) *General Index for Vols. 71-80, 1951-60.* (Pp. 64.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

*Birth Control Today.* By Leon F. Whitney. (Pp. 158; illustrated. 7s. 6d.) New York: Collier Books. 1962.

*Mental Disorders: A Guide to Control Methods.* (Pp. 132 + viii. \$1.25.) New York: American Public Health Association. 1962.

*Minimal Cerebral Dysfunction.* Papers from the International Study Group. Oxford, September, 1962. Edited by Ronald Mac Keith and Martin Bax. (Pp. 104; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) London: National Spastics Society in association with William Heinemann Ltd. 1963.

*L'Hormonogénèse dans les Goîtres Endémiques et Sporadiques.* By Christian Beckers. (Pp. 262; illustrated.) Brussels: Editions Arsacia S.A. Paris: Librairie Maloine S.A. 1962.

*Methods of Immunohaematologic Research.* Edited by Carl Steffen. (Pp. 201; illustrated. 90s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

*Illustrated Physiology.* By Ann B. McNaught and Robin Callander. (Pp. 287 + viii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

*Clinical Orthopaedics, No. 24.* Edited by Anthony DePalma. (Pp. 253 + ix; illustrated. 60s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1962.

*Proceedings of the First International Congress of Exfoliative Cytology.* Vienna, August 31 to September 2, 1961. Edited by George L. Wied, M.D. (Pp. 298 + vi; illustrated. 65s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1962.

*Clinical Orthopaedics, No. 25.* Edited by Anthony DePalma. (Pp. 269 + viii; illustrated. 60s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1962.

*Anatomy in Surgery.* By Philip Thorek, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. Second edition. (Pp. 904 + xxiv; illustrated. £7 10s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1962.

*Evaluation of Thyroid and Parathyroid Functions.* Edited by F. William Sunderman, M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D., and F. William Sunderman, Jr., M.D. (Pp. 292 + xi; illustrated. £5.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1963.

*Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases. Volume VI: Tumors of the Female Genitalia.* Second edition. Edited by George T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Irving M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 381 + xiv; illustrated. £6 10s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1962.

*Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases. Volume VII: Tumors of the Male Genitalia and the Urinary System.* Second edition. Edited by George T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Irving M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 397 + xvii; illustrated. £7.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1962.

*Culture and the Evolution of Man.* Edited by M. F. Ashley Montagu. (Pp. 376 + xiii; illustrated. 18s. 6d.) London and New York: Oxford University Press. 1962.

## Without Prejudice

Recollections of a hero of my undergraduate days have been stirred by a re-reading of Sir Arthur Keith's rectorial address entitled “The Place of Prejudice in Modern Civilization,” with the sub-title of “Prejudice and Politics.” “I am convinced,” he wrote, “that for the future welfare of mankind those inborn likes and dislikes of ours—our prejudices—must be given an assigned place.” He came out strongly with his own when he said, “Nature, in scattering her gifts, seems to have bestowed on us Natives [with a capital N] of Scotland more than her usual allowance.” This immediately brings to mind those good Scots like Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Milton (and the rest of the poets), Harvey, Newton, Darwin, *et al.*, and those upstanding Englishmen Burns and Walter Scott. Arthur Keith spoke feelingly of the “tribal heart” and of the “old tribal evolutionary heart.” And he developed his theme in a way that sounded like an approval—but was not—of the prejudices breaking out over Europe after World War I. He spoke as a Darwinian with the mien and style of an Old Testament prophet. “Without competition,” he concluded, “Mankind can never progress; the price of progress is competition.”

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My prejudices are all in favour of competition, in favour of what Keith described as “this strange bubble of the human blood—this inbred love of independence.” I am glad to see a few more of such bubbles popping up to the surface of the pultaceous pool in which most Britons now seem to be complacently submerged. There were even signs of this, I am told, at last week's B.M.A. Council meeting, when nearly half its members begged leave to question the sacredness of the Central Pool—or should it be Global Pool? With or without initial capitals, it is uniquely designed to discourage effort and competition.

By chance I recently came across a saying that would, I think, have pleased Arthur Keith—from the seventeenth century Jesuit Baltasar Gracián: “Freedom is more precious than the gift in exchange for which it is lost.” And if, with some difficulty, one divests oneself of all prejudices it is as hard to deny that in exchanging the private for the public pool the medical profession has lost Keith's “strange bubble of the human blood—this inbred love of independence.” The public pool is beginning to stink a bit.

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Another bubble is breaking to the surface for inspection—rule by committee. I find it breaking out in two most unlikely places: in a broad-brow magazine called “Encounter” and in “Public Service,” which is the official organ or mouthpiece or blowpipe of Nalگو, the National Association of Local Government Officers. Noel Annan, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, writing of university reform says, “It is unlikely to occur because Britain is sick of a governmental disease. . . . We have perfected a system of government and the system is pressing us to death. That system is democracy through committee.” What a hole these words burn in my mind!