

Dr. Oser gives a brief general description of the principles involved in studying the induction of cancer by residues; Dr. Dormal and Dr. Hurtig describe how residue tolerances are arrived at in several countries, with disparate practical results in spite of general agreement on principles; and Professor Crafts and Dr. Foy give a particularly lucid account of the nature of plant surfaces in relation to the use of pesticides and their residues.

This volume should be very helpful to those making practical decisions about residues; but it is likely to be discouraging to a reader who wants some background information on a subject of such general interest.

D. F. HEATH.

### U.S.A. AND RUSSIA

*Medicine in the United States and the Soviet Union. A Comparative and Critical Study.* By Dr. George A. Tabakov. Preface by Floyd H. Black. Introduction by Alva W. Knoll. (Pp. 310. \$4.95.) Boston, U.S.A.: The Christopher Publishing House. 1962.

This book is written by a physician who used to practise in Sofia. He was ill-treated and imprisoned by the Communists when they took over Bulgaria in 1944 and later lost both legs in a street accident. He has never been in Russia and he is now living in Ohio. The book is based on quotations from Russian medical journals, newspaper cuttings, and reports by visitors and émigrés which place Soviet medicine in the most unfavourable light.

Dr. Tabakov frequently complains that the Russians use techniques and remedies discovered in the U.S.A. without giving due credit, but this kind of chauvinism is not peculiar to Russia. There is a great deal of criticism of Pavlovism and "nervism" without any clear exposition of these theories. There is little about the actual treatment of patients in Russia. No one reading this book would learn anything about the medical research institutes in that country, which have done original work in a number of different fields, or about the excellent provision of medical care for the ordinary Soviet citizen from the polyclinics onward. Russian physicians undoubtedly use a great deal of electrotherapy and physiotherapy which would seem unlikely to stand up to a controlled investigation, but that is no reason for condemning Russian medicine root and branch. There are a number of spelling mistakes and no index.

The sponsoring of books of this kind, with which we are unfortunately only too familiar in relation to our own National Health Service, can only do harm to our American friends. Anyone wanting to learn something about Russian medicine would do better to start with *Health Services in the U.S.S.R.*, published by W.H.O. at less than one-eighth of the price of this book.

L. J. WITTS.

### ABDOMINAL MNEMONICS

*The Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen in Rhyme.* By Zeta (Z.C.). Fourth edition. (Pp. 102+vii; illustrated. 10s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1962.

The fourth edition of *The Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen in Rhyme*, by a thinly disguised but eminent author, has now been published, and this in itself is evidence that there are those whose memory for verse is better than that for prose and especially the somewhat

hackneyed and utilitarian prose of the usual medical textbook.

The author himself in the preface says:

"I am no poet, and I make no claim  
That what I write will ever merit fame.  
My aim, which well may be I shall not reach,  
Is to amuse you while I try to teach"

which indicates the nature of the book. It would perhaps be proper to describe these verses as medical doggerel, and like many of the well-known medical mnemonics they may serve to fix things in the memory and to make remembrance easier. To this end the amusing drawings of Peter Collingwood add considerably.

The new edition, which contains some additional verses on the acute abdomen in the tropics, has been elegantly produced by the publishers.

NORMAN C. LAKE.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*Psychosomatique et Gastro-entérologie.* Under the direction of P. Aboulker, K. Chertok, and M. Sapir. (Pp. 204+viii. NF. 30.) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1962.

*The Asthmatic Child. A Psychosomatic Approach to Problems and Treatment.* Edited by Henry I. Schneer, M.D. (Pp. 260+xii. \$6.50.) New York and London: Harper and Row. 1963.

*Science and the Safe Period.* A Compendium of Human Reproduction. By Carl G. Hartman, Ph.D. (Pp. 294+xii; illustrated. 96s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1962.

*The Organisation of Venereal Diseases Clinics.* By Socrates de Noronha. (Pp. 190+iii.) Bombay 1: Bombay Social Hygiene Council. 1962.

*Dietary and Neural Factors in Hypertension.* By C. M. Wilhelm, M.S., M.D., and H. H. McCarthy, M.S., M.D. (Pp. 153+x; illustrated. \$6.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

*Bronchial Asthma. Its Diagnosis and Treatment.* By Albert H. Rowe, M.S., M.D., and Albert Rowe, Jr., M.D. (Pp. 250+xiii. \$11.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

*The Science of Life.* By Gordon Rattray Taylor. (Pp. 368; illustrated. 42s.) London: Thames and Hudson. 1963.

*An Atlas of Embryology.* By W. H. Freeman, B.Sc., and Brian Bracegirdle, B.Sc., A.R.P.S. (Pp. 67; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) London, Melbourne, and Toronto: Heinemann Educational Books Ltd. 1963.

*The Pye Book of Science.* Edited by Maurice Rickards, M.S.I.A. (Pp. 158; illustrated. 25s.) London: Vista Books. 1963.

*A Dictionary of Midwifery and Public Health.* By G. B. Carter, B.Sc.(Econ.), S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., Gladys H. Dodds, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., and P. J. Cunningham, B.A., S.R.N., S.C.M. Second edition. (Pp. 659; illustrated. 50s.) London: Faber and Faber Ltd. 1963.

*In Time of Sickness. Prayers and Readings.* Compiled by Hubert McEvoy, S.J. (Pp. 251. 15s.) London: Burns and Oates. 1962.

*Preventive Medicine and Public Health.* By Wilson G. Smillie, A.B., M.D., D.P.H., Sc.D.(Hon.), and Edwin D. Kilbourne, B.A., M.D. Third edition. (Pp. 602+xvi. 55s.) New York and London: Macmillan Company. 1963.

*Advances in Biological and Medical Physics. Volume VIJ.* Edited by Cornelius A. Tobias and John H. Lawrence. (Pp. 457+ix; illustrated. £5 7s. 6d.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1962.

*Outline of Human Genetics.* By L. S. Penrose, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. Second edition. (Pp. 166+xiv; illustrated. 15s.) London, Melbourne, and Toronto: Heinemann Educational Books Ltd. 1963.

*Acute Lumbago.* By Knud F. Jungersen. (Pp. 63; illustrated. D.Kr. 18.) Copenhagen: Munksgaard. 1963.