

PRE-CANCEROUS STATES

Der Vorkrebs. By Dr. med. Corneliu Popescu. (Pp. 190 + ix; illustrated. DM. 29.80.) Jena: Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1962.

When reading this monograph one realizes how important for cancer research, cancer prevention, and cancer treatment would be a more detailed knowledge of pre-cancerous states (*Vorkrebs*).

The author, perhaps in a somewhat long-winded manner, attempts to assess critically this concept, which is rejected by some experts, strongly defended by others, and anyhow difficult to establish in deep-set tumours. After considering "the complex of pathophysiological phenomena, divisible into three groups"—that is, local factors, general disturbances or the participating of the whole organism, and harmful external factors—Dr. Popescu pursues his theme by assembling a considerable number of facts and by discussing morphological and aetiological observations concerning the clinical pictures of pre-cancerous states.

It is a great pity that these morphological observations have to stand on their own and are not supported by corresponding studies of biological and biochemical behaviour of the pre-cancerous tissue. However, here and there in the literature can be found reports on time-dependent changes in the amount or distribution of certain cellular constituents occurring during the period of "carcinogenesis"; these at present are far from comprehensive and come mainly from experiments on animals. But if such work could be extended to a great number of human cancers and one could, for instance, follow through in a patient (the difficulties here of course are great) the development of the final state of neoplasia, say from the early stages of leukoplakia, then the attempted treatment of pre-cancerous states as discussed by the author under the main heading of cancer prevention (Chapter 5) would lead to more pronounced success.

There are some statements made throughout the book with which one could take issue with Dr. Popescu, particularly when he flogs the pretty dead horse of "Lysenkoism." But if one overlooks these and other deficiencies this monograph could form a useful addition to the libraries of institutes and hospitals engaged in cancer work.

F. BERGEL.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Excitation. By Georges Ungar, M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 437+xiii; illustrated. \$13.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

A Textbook of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. By Douglas G. Wilson Clyne, B.M., B.Ch., M.A.(Oxon.), L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.O.G., Barrister-at-Law. (Pp. 1,018+xxiii; illustrated. 90s.) London: Longmans. 1963.

Medical Department, United States Army. Surgery in World War II. Thoracic Surgery. Volume I. Prepared and published under the direction of Lieutenant-General Leonard D. Heaton. Editor-in-Chief: Colonel John Boyd Coates, Jr. Editor for Thoracic Surgery: Frank B. Berry, M.D. Associate Editor: Elizabeth M. McFetridge, M.A. (Pp. 394+xxiv; illustrated.) Washington, D.C.: Office of the Surgeon-General, Department of the Army. 1963.

Current Therapy 1963. Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practicing Physician. Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D. (Pp. 775+xxx. 87s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

The Management of the Anxious Patient. By Ainslie Meares, M.D., B.Agr.Sc., D.P.M. (Pp. 493+xix. 63s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

Physiology of the Circulation in Human Limbs in Health and Disease. By John T. Shepherd, M.D., M.Ch., D.Sc. (Pp. 416+ix; illustrated. 84s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

Athletic Injuries. By Lynn O. Litton, M.D., and Leonard F. Peltier, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 222+x; illustrated. 55s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

Visual Disorders and Cerebral Palsy. Papers from the International Study Group held at Oxford, September 1962. Edited by Vernon H. Smith. (Pp. 63; illustrated. 15s. 6d.) London: National Spastics Society Medical Education and Information Unit in association with William Heinemann Ltd. 1963.

Methods of Immunohaematologic Research. Edited by Carl Steffen. (Pp. 201; illustrated. Sw. Fr. 52.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

The Incubation Period of Coronary Thrombosis. By G. R. Osborn, M.B., B.S.(Melbourne), M.R.C.P. (Pp. 190+x; illustrated. 55s.) London: Butterworths. 1963.

Methodology in Mammalian Genetics. Edited by Walter J. Burdette, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 646+xiv; illustrated. 56.) San Francisco: Holden-Day Inc. 1963.

Tropical Medicine for Nurses. By A. R. D. Adams and B. G. Maegraith. Second edition. (Pp. 343+viii; illustrated. 42s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

Actions and Uses of Drugs. By Norman Sapeika, B.A., M.D., Ph.D.(Capetown), F.R.S.S.Af. (Pp. 424. 63s.) Amsterdam and Capetown: A. A. Balkema. 1963.

Doctor's Note. By Ronald Ingle, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Pp. 23; illustrated. 1s. 3d.) London: Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. 1963.

Pocket Book on Tray and Trolley Setting. By Helen M. Dickie, R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M. Third edition. (Pp. 167+viii; illustrated. 8s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

Clean Bandage. By Justin Dowling. (Pp. 191. 18s.) London: Elek Books. 1963.

The History of the Glasgow Eye Infirmary 1824-1962. By A. M. Wright Thomson, T.D., M.D., F.R.F.P.S., D.O.M.S. (Pp. 102; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) Glasgow: John Smith. 1963.

Psychology as Applied to Nursing. By Andrew McGhie, M.A., Ph.D. Third edition. (Pp. 320+xii. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

The Radiochemical Manual: Part 2: Radioactive Chemicals. (Pp. 77; illustrated. 25s.) Amersham, Bucks: The Radiochemical Centre. 1963.

Physiology of the Kidney and Body Fluids. By Robert F. Pitts, Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 243; illustrated. 64s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1963.

Basic Problems in Neoplastic Disease. Edited by Alfred Gellhorn and Erich Hirschberg. (Pp. 237+vi; illustrated. 60s.) New York and London: Columbia University Press. 1962.

Tuberculosis in Children. By Edith M. Lincoln, M.D., and Edward M. Sewell, M.D. (Pp. 327+xii; illustrated. £5 0s. 6d.) New York, Toronto, and London: Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company Inc. 1963.

The Year Book of Drug Therapy. 1962-1963 Series. Edited by Harry Beckman, M.D. (Pp. 648; illustrated. 64s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1963.

The Year Book of the Ear, Nose and Throat. 1962-1963. Edited by John R. Lindsay, M.D. (Pp. 352; illustrated. 64s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1963.

Advances in Cardiopulmonary Diseases. Volume 1, 1963. Edited by Andrew L. Banyai, M.D., F.C.C.P., and Burgess L. Gordon, M.D., F.C.C.P. (Pp. 359; illustrated. 83s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Ltd. 1963.

The Anatomical Foundation of Neuroradiology of the Brain. By McClure Wilson, M.D. (Pp. 239+x; illustrated. 90s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

Readings in Pharmacology. Edited by Louis Shuster, Ph.D. (Pp. 294+xi; illustrated. 40s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1962.