

sight and work of Lapage and of Wilson Hey, and of the committee they so ably fostered. It operates now under the energetic chairmanship of A. S. Pigott. Practitioners in those parts of Britain that are at all mountainous may one day be called on to join forces with mountain-rescue teams, and I would most warmly recommend them to read this booklet so that they may be informed about the working of what is by now a widespread and efficient organization.

R. C. EVANS.

Tropical Splenomegaly

Tropical Splenomegaly. By A. K. Basu, M.S.(Cal.), F.R.C.S., and B. K. Aikat, M.D., D.C.P., Ph.D. (Pp. 195+xii; illustrated. 50s.) London: Butterworths. 1963.

This monograph is concerned with a disorder that poses difficult problems and affects many thousands of people throughout tropical regions. It is based on a study of 190 patients with splenomegaly, from 99 of whom

the spleen was removed. Careful haematological, biochemical, and radiological investigations, including oesophagography and splenoportal venography, were carried out. At operation specimens of liver were removed for histological and other studies, and estimations of the portal venous pressure were made. The reports of the studies are amplified by 43 tables and 120 figures, including many photomicrographs and photographs of splenoportal venograms.

Anaemia was a feature of the cases. It was notable in those patients who had liver damage, and this could not be explained—as it could in those cases with extrahepatic obstruction—by frequent haemorrhages. After splenectomy the clinical state of the patients improved and the pathological features of the liver regressed, and one of the conclusions of the authors is that the anaemia, leucopenia, and thrombocytopenia were not due to local causes but to the inhibitory influence of the enlarged spleen on the bone marrow. They therefore considered that the spleen was exerting an adverse influence on hepatic repair. Experiments with rats were carried out with methyl-cellulose to blockade the reticulo-endothelial cells of the

spleen and thereby reduce their inhibitory effect on liver regeneration. The results indicated that, though the spleen normally exerts an inhibitory control on the regenerative capacity of the liver, this effect may be enhanced when there is hyperplasia of the splenic reticulo-endothelial cells induced by liver injury.

Malaria was found to be a relatively unimportant cause of splenomegaly in this selected series, and it was thought that a virus hepatitis was the prime factor in most cases. While this may have been true for this series it is perhaps unjustifiable to apply it to the term tropical splenomegaly in view of the diversity of other causes which are responsible elsewhere. Thus, Egyptian splenomegaly is almost wholly a result of schistosomiasis, and in other regions malaria may play a much more important part than it did in these 190 patients.

Not all the illustrations are necessary and they have no doubt added to the cost of this quite slim volume. The problem of tropical splenomegaly is far from being solved, but this work forms a valuable contribution towards its solution.

A. W. WOODRUFF..

Books Received

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

Bone Metabolism in Relation to Clinical Medicine. Proceedings of a Symposium organized by the Association of Clinical Pathologists and the Association of Clinical Biochemists held in London at the Royal College of Surgeons, September 28-29, 1962. Edited by H. A. Sissons. (Pp. 129; illustrated. 15s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 1963.

Criminal Responsibility and Mental Illness. By F. A. Whitlock, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 156+xii. £2.) London: Butterworth Limited. 1963.

Outline of Electrocardiography. By H. Harold Friedman, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C. (Pp. 300+xii; illustrated. 46s.) New York and London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Limited. 1963.

Homosexuality. A Psychoanalytic Study. By Irving Bieber, Harvey J. Dain, Paul R. Dince, Marvin G. Drelich, Henry G. Grand, Ralph H. Gundlach, Malvina W. Kremer, Alfred H. Rifkin, Cornelia B. Wilbur, and Toby B. Bieber. Third printing. (Pp. 358+xii. 50s.) New York and London: Basic Books. 1963.

Clinical Examinations in Neurology. Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation. By James A. Bastron, M.D., Reginald G. Bickford, M.B., Joe R. Brown, M.D., Edward C. Clark, M.D., Norman P. Goldstein, M.D., Frank M. Howard, jun., M.D., Edward H. Lambert, M.D., Clark H. Millikan, M.D., Donald W. Mulder, M.D., E. Douglas Rooke, M.D., Joseph G. Rushton, M.D., Robert G. Siekert, M.D., Juergen E. Thomas, M.D., Jack P. Whisnant, M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 396+xxi; illustrated. £2 19s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

The Hand of Man. An Inaugural Lecture delivered at University College, Cardiff, February 13, 1963. By J. D. Lever, M.A., M.D. (Pp. 24. 3s. 6d.) Cardiff: University of Wales Press. 1963.

Modern Marriage. By Edward F. Griffith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 26th edition. (Pp. 285+xvii. 9s. 6d.) London: Methuen and Company. 1963.

Handbuch der Kinderheilkunde. Volume 5. Edited by H. Opitz and F. Schmid. (Pp. 1,259+ix; illustrated. DM. 360.) Berlin, Göttingen, and Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag. 1963.

Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System. By Sheila Sherlock, M.D.(Edin.), F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E. Third edition. (Pp. 714+xv; illustrated. 70s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

The Oesophagus. By Geoffrey Flavell, F.R.C.S.(Eng.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 168+xvii; illustrated. 55s.) London: Butterworth Ltd. 1963.

John Flynn. Apostle to the Inland. By W. Scott McPheat. (Pp. 286+xiii; illustrated. 25s.) London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1963.

Vascular Allergy and its Systemic Manifestations. By Joseph Harkavy, M.D. (Pp. 304+xviii; illustrated. 75s.) London: Butterworth and Co. 1963.

Life and Disease. New Perspectives in Biology and Medicine. Edited by Dwight J. Ingle. (Pp. 441+xi; illustrated. 60s.) New York and London: Basic Books Inc. 1963.

The Genetics of Migrant and Isolate Populations. Proceedings of a Conference on Human Population Genetics in Israel held at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Edited by Elizabeth Goldschmidt. (Pp. 369+xxi; illustrated. 72s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1963.

Zur Psychologie des Produktiven Denkens. By Dr. Karl Duncker. (Pp. 135+xvii. DM. 24.) Berlin, Göttingen, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag. 1963.

Preparation of the Physician for General Practice. Papers prepared for a European Conference on the Training of the Doctor for his Work in the Community, Edinburgh, 1961. Contributors: R. Berfenstam, E. E. Boesch, John R. Ellis, W. Hobson, Villars Lunn, Richard Scott, Raoul Senault, and L. Vandendriessche. (Pp. 114. 6s. 8d.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1963.

Value for Money in Medicine. By John and Sylvia Jewkes. (Pp. 61+xviii. 6s. 6d.) Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 1963.

Tables for Testing Significance in 2x2 Contingency Table. Compiled by D. J. Finney, R. Latscha, B. M. Bennett, and P. Hsu. (Pp. 103+vi. 16s.) Published for the Biometrika Trustees. Cambridge: University Press. 1963.

Air Pollution. A Survey of Existing Legislation. (Pp. 45. 3s. 6d.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1963.

A Primer of Skin Diseases for Physicians and Students. By Townsend W. Baer, M.D. (Pp. 105+xii. \$5.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

General Pathology. By J. B. Walter, M.D., M.R.C.P., and M. S. Israel, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.P. (Pp. 937+xii; illustrated. £5.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

Towards Earlier Diagnosis. A Family Doctor's Approach. By Keith Hodgkin, B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 459+xii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

Development of Cerebral Function in the Dog. By G. Pampiglione, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 68+xv; illustrated. £2.) London: Butterworth Limited. 1963.

Calcifications of the Heart. By Jerome M. Shapir, M.D., Harold G. Jacobson, M.D., Berta M. Rubinstein, M.D., Maxwell H. Poppel, M.D., John B. Schwedel, M.D. (Pp. 198+x; illustrated. \$12.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

Trombin-Fibrinprodukte und ihre therapeutische Anwendung. By Dr. Daniel Bagdy, Dr. Michael Gerendas, and Dr. Ladislaus Winter. (Pp. 231+ix; illustrated. DM. 45.10.) Jena: Veb Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1963.

The Oswestry Textbook for Orthopaedic Nurses. Edited by R. Roaf, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., and Leonard J. Hodgkinson, S.R.N., S.T.D. (Pp. 458+xiv; illustrated. 35s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Company Limited. 1963.