

have made much use of Symington's atlas in the past.

Only departmental libraries could afford to buy this volume: its price puts it beyond the reach of a student.

R. J. HARRISON.

Oswestry Textbook

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.Ed., 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. 1963.

The Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry, founded by Sir Robert Jones and Dame Agnes Hunt, has a wonderful record in the service of humanity, not only in the borderlands of Wales and Shropshire and the surrounding counties but throughout the world. For half a century it has been a Mecca for men and women from the whole Commonwealth. They have gone there for training not only in the science and practice of orthopaedics but also in the loving care and practical ideals of a devoted community that was originally founded for the salvage and restoration of children suffering from crippling diseases and injuries of the locomotor system. It is now equally concerned with the similar problems of adults. The work of the hospital, which lies near a small country town, has been directed by the enthusiasm and enlightenment of men from Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Shrewsbury. Its debt to its founders is immeasurable and the secret is the spirit of teamwork that they established with every type of professional staff. Everyone working in orthopaedics, even if he has not served at Oswestry, recognizes its influence and counts himself lucky if he can have an Oswestry nurse or physiotherapist working with him. The surgeons who have worked there are among the leaders in present-day orthopaedics the world over.

This book is a welcome and long-needed statement of the principles of orthopaedic nursing. This applies particularly to the second part, which deals with those matters usually regarded as tedious but to which the Oswestry staff devote such skill—the design and application of splints, plaster technique, and practical nursing methods.

Though the nineteen writers are rightly proud of their traditions, they show the progressive approach of their "school." The clinical and pathological discussions of the first half of the book give a concise review of the wide scope of orthopaedics to-day in a way that would be of value to physiotherapists as well as nurses. The book is well produced and at present costs the price is moderate.

NORMAN CAPENER.

Two Iberian Pioneers

Two Pioneers of Tropical Medicine: Garcia d'Orta and Nicolas Monardes. By C. R. Boxer, F.B.A. (Pp. 36; illustrated. 3s. 6d.) London: Wellcome Historical Medical Library. 1963.

At the end of the fifteenth century, when the might of the Spanish Empire was near its zenith and when Portuguese sailors were pioneering the Cape route to India, a Jewish refugee fled over the border from his native Spain and in Portugal begat a son, Garcia d'Orta, who spent most of his adult life as a physician in Goa, to which he had gone as personal physician to the Governor-General of Portuguese Asia. He remained in Goa till he died, acquired wealth and fame as a physician, owned the island of Bombay, was much patronized by Indian potentates, and described the first recorded meeting between a European physician brought up in the Graeco-Roman and Arabic traditions of medicine and practitioners of the Indian Ayurvedic system.

In 1563 he published in Goa his *Colloquies on Medicinal Remedies of India* and was the first European to describe the diseases and vegetable drugs of that country. To mark the quatercentenary of this work the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian councils and the Wellcome Historical Medical Library sponsored a lecture by Professor C. R. Boxer, Camoens professor of Portuguese at King's College, London, in honour of Garcia d'Orta, the pioneer pharmacognosist of Asia and of his Spanish contemporary, Nicolas Monardes, who first described the most important medicinal plants of America.

To the medical historian this slim paper-covered book is important as it corrects errors in the traditional versions of d'Orta's life and death. D'Orta was remarkable for his willingness to correct, contradict, or amend classical authorities whenever his own personal observations or evidence of reliable witnesses convinced him they were wrong, though he admitted "if I were in Spain I would not dare to say anything against Galen or the Greeks." In 1580 his body was dug up and burnt in an *auto-da-fé* as a crypto-Jew.

He gave accurate descriptions of aloes, sandalwood, camphor, and betel, and his account of Asiatic cholera, a malady unknown to physicians in Europe, constitutes a classic of clinical description.

Nicolas Monardes never left Spain but showed remarkable powers of observation and description of plants and vegetables that were brought from America, and he used his garden in Seville to good purpose in propagating some of them. In *Dos Libros* he extolled the medicinal value of many American plants and herbs—including sarsaparilla, tobacco, coca, and sassafras.

The author earns our gratitude for introducing us to these remarkable Iberian physicians, whose works were translated into Latin and propagated throughout Europe by the Flemish physician Carolus Clusius.

GEORGE R. McROBERT.

Books Received

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

Health Visiting in the Sixties. By Joyce M. Akester, H.V.Cert., Diploma in Nursing (London), and Angus N. MacPhail, M.C., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., and the Health Visitors, City of Leeds. (Pp. 63; illustrated. 6s.) London: Macmillan and Company Limited. 1963.

Ornitoza. By Dan Sarateanu. (Pp. 351; illustrated. (No price quoted.) Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Populare Romine. 1963.

Neurometabolic Disorders in Childhood. Proceedings of a Symposium held in Sheffield, England, in May 1963. Edited by K. S. Holt and J. Milner. (Pp. 111 +vii; illustrated. 15s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964.

Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products. Acute Poisoning (Home and Farm). By Marion N. Gleason, M.Sc. (h.c.), Robert E. Gosselin, M.D., Ph.D., and Harold C. Hodge, Ph.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 1,211 +xv. £8 16s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Co. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1963.

Actualités Endocrinologiques. Exposés Présentés aux Journées Endocrinologiques de la Pitié. By M. J. Decourt and M. Gilbert-Dreyfus. (Pp. 360; illustrated. 48 F.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique Française. 1963.

Blood Diseases. By M. A. Atamer, M.D. (Pp. 616 +viii. \$16.50.) New York: Grune & Stratton. 1963.

Psychological Reprints. By J. P. Crawford, M.D., M.R.C.P. (5s.) London: Ash & Co. Ltd. 1959.

Surgical Gynecology. Including Important Obstetric Operations. By J. P. Greenhill, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S.(Hon.), F.A.C.O.G. (Pp. 368; illustrated. £3 12s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1963.

Doctors and Family Planning. By Mary Jean Cornish, Florence A. Ruderman, and Sydney S. Spivack. (Pp. 100. \$2.00.) New York: National Committee on Maternal Health Inc. 1963.

Biochemical Clinics. Number 2. **The Kidney.** (Pp. 525 +xviii; illustrated. No price.) New York: Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation. 1963.

Techniques in Endocrine Research. Proceedings of a N.A.T.O. Advanced Study Institute held at Stratford-upon-Avon, England, under the auspices of the University of Birmingham. Edited by Peter Eckstein and Francis Knowles. (Pp. 319 +xvi; illustrated. £3 3s.) London: Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd. New York: Academic Press Inc. 1963.

The Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. (1963-1964 Year Book Series.) Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S.(Hon.), F.A.C.O.G. (Pp. 584; illustrated. £3 4s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Incorporated. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1963.

Morphology and Anatomy of the Human Dentition. By Alan H. Segal, B.S., D.D.S. (Pp. 107; illustrated. £2 2s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1963.

Atlas of Diseases of the Eye. Typical Ocular Diseases with Diagnosis, Differential Diagnosis and Histopathology. By Dr. Rudolf Thiel. Volume 1 (Pp. 350 +xvi; illustrated). Volume 2 (Pp. 351-673 +xii; illustrated. £45 per set). Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1963.