

tion in the production of cellular damage (Slater *et al.*; Dianzani; Bitensky) is confusing and serves merely to bring out, what many of us have realized for a long time, the highly complex nature of cell injuries and death. Apparently they dislike an excess of vitamin A (Dingle).

Of course, a short notice such as this can scarcely hope to give the reader any idea of the industry and thought that back up the trends so clearly displayed in the Symposium. The full discussions appended to each paper are lively, often amusing, and exhale the convivial spirit that makes for success and true enjoyment even when a group of highly strung, sometimes touchy scientists meet together. Clearly a great deal depends upon the chairman, in this instance Professor J. F. Danielli, but all who know the admirable work of the Ciba Foundation will recognize the skilful touch of the Deputy Director, Mr. A. V. S. de Reuck, and the other devoted members of the staff in providing perfect conditions for the meetings and a splendid record of what came out of these.

ROY CAMERON.

## Synopsis of Cardiology

**Synopsis of Cardiology.** By D. Weitzman, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 200; illustrated. 30s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1964.

This short book once formed part of Sir Henry Letheby Tidy's *Synopsis of Medicine* and follows the same style of presentation. The sections on heart disease are comprehensive and well balanced. Those on the more general aspects of cardiology sometimes suffer from a lack of balance. For example, the chapter on hypertension has at least a page on phaeochromocytoma and dismisses pyelonephritis in three lines. In the discus-

sion of cor pulmonale, Boeck's sarcoid is listed with three other causes of pulmonary heart failure but no mention is made of chronic bronchitis.

A short book such as this may be useful for physicians seeking to revise their knowledge of cardiology. A disadvantage is that the concise presentation rarely allows sufficient space to give a reasoned account of the disordered physiology which underlies the clinical signs.

C. T. DOLLERY.

## Anglo-Saxon Medicine

**The Medical Background of Anglo-Saxon England.** A Study in History, Psychology and Folklore. By Wilfrid Bonser. (Pp. 448 + xxxv; 50s.) London: Wellcome Historical Medical Library. 1963.

The Anglo-Saxon period extended from the little-known fifth century to the Norman Conquest. Until this book appeared, the author claims that there was no adequate monograph on Anglo-Saxon medicine. J. F. Payne's FitzPatrick Lectures, *English Medicine in the Anglo-Saxon Times* (1904), first explored this subject. In 1920 Charles Singer read his important paper on "Early English Magic and Medicine" to the British Academy. He followed this in 1958 by *Anglo-Saxon Magic and Medicine*, in collaboration with J. H. G. Grattan. In order to write these works Singer taught himself Anglo-Saxon. Sir William MacArthur has published a number of valuable articles on Anglo-Saxon disease and epidemics; and Dr. F. W. D. Shrewsbury, professor of bacteriology, University of Birmingham, has also studied Anglo-Saxon pestilences.

From these authorities and others Dr. Bonser, a librarian, has obtained the medical knowledge without which this book could not

have been completed. It has had a long gestation, for it was accepted for publication in 1949 and the first proofs were corrected in 1954.

Part 1, General, deals with the source material, including monastic chronicles and biographies (Bede is quoted frequently), Anglo-Saxon medical manuscripts, the aetiology of disease, and sources of knowledge of medicine. The Anglo-Saxon leeches had more knowledge of classical, post-classical, Oriental, and Salernitan medicine than is usually supposed. Part 2, Historical, treats chiefly of epidemics. There is a useful table (pp. 59-63) for reference. Part 3 describes the pagan background and pagan survivals, including witchcraft and astrology. Part 4, The Church as Physician, discusses healing by saints and their relics. Part 5, Magic as an Adjunct to Medicine, includes some religious rites which more properly belong to Part 4. Part 6, Diseases and Conditions Treated by Magical Means, includes touching for the "King's Evil," which also might be in Part 4. Part 7, Remedial Measures, is partly therapeutic and partly magical. Part 8 discusses food, drink, and diet. In Part 9, Organic (and a Few Other) Diseases and their Treatment, the author returns to the medical aspect of his book. Part 10, Veterinary and Agricultural Magic, concludes the work.

We have nothing but praise for Dr. Bonser's prolonged investigation and erudition. The book would have been easier reading and more helpful to the medical historian if medicine, religious healing, magic, and folklore could have been treated separately. The probable explanation why this presentation was not adopted is that, in Dr. Bonser's judgment, all the above elements were mingled, inextricably, in Anglo-Saxon medicine.

ARTHUR S. MACNALT.

## Books Received

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

**Operations in the Practitioner's Surgery.** By Richard Goldhahn, M.D. Translation of the 7th German edition, revised by Professor Gerhard Jorns, M.D. (Pp. 178; illustrated. 26s.) Berlin: Veb Verlag Volk und Gesundheit. 1963.

**Consultations Journalières en Biologie Clinique.** By Raymond Rivoire and Jeanne Rivoire. (Pp. 222. 32 F.) Paris: Masson. 1963.

**Thrombophlebitis.** A Treatise on Its Etiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By J. Earle Estes, B.S., M.S., M.D. (Pp. 66+ix. \$4.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

**Lakeside Pioneers.** Socio-medical Study of Nyasaland (1875-1920). By Michael Gelfand, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 330+x; illustrated. 30s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1964.

**Recent Advances in Radiology.** Edited by Thomas Lodge, M.B., B.Ch., F.F.R., F.C.R.A., D.M.R. 4th edition. (Pp. 346+ix; illustrated. 65s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1964.

**Funktionsabläufe unter Emotionellen Belastungen.** Symposium vom 24/25 Mai 1963 an der II Medizinischen Universitätsklinik, Wien. Edited by K. Fellingner. (Pp. 204; illustrated. DM. 32.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1964.

**Effects of Ionizing Radiation on the Reproductive System.** Proceedings of an International Symposium held at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Edited by William D. Carlson and F. X. Gassner. (Pp. 478+xii; illustrated. £5.) Oxford, London, New York, and Paris: Pergamon. 1964.

**Biologie des Thymus.** Nach dem heutigen Stande der Forschung. By J. F. A. P. Miller and P. Dukor. (Pp. 98; illustrated. S. Fr. 20.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1964.

**Application of Niamid in Children.** International Conference, Grindelwald, March 1963. (Pp. 113 +v; illustrated. S. Fr. 12.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

**Tetrabenazine (Nitoman) in the Treatment of Psychoses.** With a discussion on the central mode of action of tetrabenazine and reserpine. By Odd Lingjaerde. (Pp. 109. 30s.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. London: Dawson's. 1963.

**Epidemiological Study of High Blood Pressure.** With special reference to the influence of blood pressure and age on cardiac signs and symptoms. By Sigurd Bj. Humerfelt. (Pp. 233; illustrated. 60s.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. London: Dawson's. 1963.

**The Wonderful Story of You.** Your Body, Your Mind, Your Feelings. By Benjamin C. Gruenberg and Sidonie M. Gruenberg. (Pp. 182; illustrated. 21s.) Tadworth, Surrey: World's Work (1913) Ltd. 1964.

**Apexcardiography, Phonocardiography and Balistocardiography—their Diagnostic and Prognostic Significance in Coronary Heart Disease.** By Karl Rörvik. (Pp. 77; illustrated. 25s.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. London: Dawson's. 1963.

**Aphasia Handbook.** For Adults and Children. By Aleen Agranowitz, A.B., and Milfred Riddle McKeown, A.B., M.A. (Pp. 319+xv; illustrated. \$12.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

**Medicine and Custom in Africa.** By Michael Gelfand, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R. (Pp. 174+viii; illustrated. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1964.

**This is My Story.** A Self-recorded Questionnaire. Designed and compiled by Daniel Cappon, M.B., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 28. \$1.00.) Don Mills, Ontario: Burns & MacEachern. 1964.

**Pathology of the Pulmonary Vasculature.** By C. A. Wagenvoort, M.D., and Donald Heath, M.D., Ph.D., M.R.C.P., and Jesse E. Edwards, M.D. (Pp. 494+xiii; illustrated. \$25.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

**Biology of the Prostate and Related Tissues.** National Cancer Institute Monograph 12. (Pp. 446+xii; illustrated. \$4.00.) Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A.: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. 1963.