

lege of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The subject matter is referred to by Professor Gelfand as medicine and custom in the African, or "medical anthropology" as he prefers to call it; in fact it is even wider in that it includes an account of the origin of man, which may well in fact have been in Africa. There is an outline of the steps by which religious cults and medical practices have developed in concert with the evolution of the means of maintenance of life from the earliest stage of hunting and collection of edible roots to the period of stock-breeding and soil cultivation. Magic takes a prominent place in primitive populations; its role in the causation of disease and in its cure naturally leads to a consideration of the witch doctor or African medicine man. The witch doctor is conventionally depicted by the sensation monger as entirely corrupt and evil; Professor Gelfand deprecates this sensationalism; he considers that witchcraft is a philosophical cult affording an explanation of cause and effect, and it provides an interpretation of the inexplicable; witchcraft, in any event, is not confined to Africa. The African medicine man lays claim to inherited supernatural guidance for his talents; he resorts to the use of bones and other equipment for divination, as well as for diagnosis and treatment. He may be a herbalist, treating not only with herbs but with animal products; the latter are not uncommonly prescribed symbolically—for example, the eating of a lion's heart to give courage. The ethical standards obtaining between rival medicine men are very high, and indeed are an example to Western doctors; but there is no consultation between them, and this largely accounts for their failure to progress in knowledge.

In the later chapters of this book there is an account of the methods of rearing children

in different African communities, and of traditional African dietaries and food habits; the diets of most African groups share the common feature of lack of animal products. The customs associated with birth, marriage, and death, all major events of life, vary from area to area in Africa. The author's long and close study of the African in Mashonaland shows that these customs all emphasize the very close attachment to one another of members of the Shona family—a most admirable feature of their life and one in which the Shona are markedly superior to the European of to-day. The influence of contact with Western culture, the socio-medical effects on the African of its adoption, the effect of urbanization on the African, and the probable future development of life in African communities as a result of these and other factors are discussed with knowledge and wisdom. Fascinating reading for itself, this small book contains a remarkable wealth of information essential to the proper understanding of the African races. It can heartily be commended to any European or other visitor to Africa who wishes to enlarge his comprehension of that continent and its inhabitants.

A. R. D. ADAMS.

Travelling Physician

Journal of a Younger Brother. The life of Thomas Platter as a medical student in Montpellier at the close of the sixteenth century. Translated and introduced by Séan Jennett, with a foreword by Jack Lindsay. (Pp. 275; illustrated. £2.) London: Frederick Muller Limited. 1963.

Loss of the confessional was, for many Protestants in the sixteenth century, com-

pensated for by keeping a journal. As a therapeutic exercise it had added assets greater than now: a verbal and visual record could be kept for the family. Events could be assembled into a pattern, and, for a collector, notes of gardens could be kept. Thomas Platter's journal was just such a one. Lodged to-day in the university library of his home town of Basle—1,608 folios with diagrams, maps, and engravings—some of it has been exhumed and translated by Séan Jennett to provide an account of Platter's travels to and from the notable University of Montpellier, where he obtained the baccalaureate of medicine in 1597 by explaining and arguing against the professors the proposition, *An ulcerum medicatio sit exsiccatio*, and his doctorate in the following year by expounding and commenting on Galen's book *De arte parva*. The day before he took his doctorate he took a large number of licentiates, bachelors, and students of medicine to the pastry-cooks, where, as he said, "I furnished the cost of food and drink so that they might be the more punctual at my examination and give me their support."

Platter went to other medical examinations on his travels. At the University of Barcelona he even argued against the candidate and was offered copies of the theses together with a pair of gloves of perfumed skin, both of which he sent back to Basle. Nor were these the only objects he collected. Seeds, garden implements, and curios of all kinds he records, together with anecdotes and fragments of legend. He was a shrewd diagnostician of social customs too, and his observations on the various towns in southern France and Spain would make this book entertaining bedside reading for those on the Costa Brava run this summer.

W. H. G. ARMYTAGE.

Books Received

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

Aluminium. Its Applications in the Chemical and Food Industries. By Paul Junière and M. Sigwalt. Translated from the French by Winifred C. E. Barnes, B.A. (Pp. 267+xiii. 55s.) London: Crosby Lockwood. 1964.

Nursing of the Elderly Sick. Practical Handbook of Geriatric Nursing. By T. N. Rudd, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 131. 15s.) London: Faber and Faber. 1964.

Industrial Injuries. Their Prevention and Treatment. By Donald F. Featherstone. (Pp. 154+ix; illustrated. 32s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1964.

Anaesthesia for Patients with Endocrine Disease. Edited by M. T. Jenkins, M.D. (Pp. 234+xiii; illustrated. 40s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1963.

Being-in-the-World. Selected Papers of Ludwig Binswanger. Translated and with a Critical Introduction to his Existential Psychoanalysis by Jacob Needleman. (Pp. 364. 52s. 6d.) London: Basic. 1964.

Clinical Investigation in Medicine: Legal, Ethical, and Moral Aspects. An Anthology and Bibliography. Edited by Irving Ladimer, S.J.D., and Roger W. Newman, LL.B. (Pp. 507+x. No price quoted.) Boston: Law-Medicine Research Institute. 1963.

Standards for Morale. Cause and Effect in Hospitals. By R. W. Revans. (Pp. 134+xvi. 7s. 6d.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1964.

Questions and Answers in Ophthalmology. By Harvey D. Wright, B.Sc. in Phar., M.D. (Pp. 354+ix. \$10.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

What is Sportsmedicine? By Ernst Jokl, M.D. (Pp. 86+vi. \$4.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Coronary Heart Disease. A Personal, Clinical Study. By Harold Feil, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 148+xi. \$6.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

The Fight Against Leprosy. By Patrick Feeny. (Pp. 191; illustrated. 25s.) London: Elek Books. 1964.

Clinical Neurology. By Lord Brain, D.M., F.R.C.P. 2nd edition. (Pp. 400+ix; illustrated. 38s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1964.

Stress and Release in an Urban Estate. Study in Action Research. By John Spencer. With the collaboration of Joy Tuxford and Norman Dennis. (Pp. 355+xiv. 45s.) London: Tavistock. 1964.

Studies on the Electrocardiograms of the Racehorse. By J. D. Steel, B.V.Sc. (Pp. 48; illustrated. £A.2 2s.) Sydney: Australasian Medical Publishing Company Limited. 1963.

Nurse's Guide to Anaesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care. By W. Norris, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., and D. Campbell, M.B., Ch.B., D.A., F.F.A.R.C.S. (Pp. 116+vii; illustrated. 20s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1964.

Ergebnisse der Medizinischen Strahlenforschung. New series, Vol. 1. Diagnostik. Therapie. Nuklearmedizin. Biologie. Edited by H. R. Schinz, R. Glauner, A. Rüttimann. (Pp. 561+xi; illustrated. DM. 160.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1964.

Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde. Ein Kurzgefasstes Handbuch in Drei Bänden. Vol. 1: Obere und untere Luftwege. Edited by Prof. Dr. med. R. Link. (Pp. 948+xx; illustrated. DM. 224.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1964.

Some Medical Aspects of Mathematical Biology. By Nicolas Rashevsky. (Pp. 314+xxiii; illustrated. \$12.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Meniscuslaesion. Praktische Probleme der Klinik, Arthrographie und Therapie. By Dr. P. Rickli, Dr. A. Rüttimann, and Dr. M. S. Del Buono. (Pp. 156; illustrated. DM. 48.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1964.

Vascularization, Oxygen Tension, and Radio-curability in Cancer of the Cervix. A Colposcopic, Polarographic, and Clinical Study. By Per Kolstad, M.D. (Pp. 152; illustrated. 45s.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. London: Dawson. 1964.