

general and to the social scientist in particular. They are:

(a) "The serious motoring offender is a respectable citizen whose behaviour, apart from his offence, is reasonably in accordance with the requirements of law and order."

(b) "The majority of serious motoring offences are derived from accidents and there is nothing in the offender's personality that predisposes him to break the law."

Dr. Willett challenges these hypotheses and seeks to reject them on the basis of his collected evidence. It is of interest to note that the approach is in terms of the testing of hypotheses, and the author makes appeal to the canons of science within what he sees as obviously a criminological-sociological framework. What emerges, however, cannot be called a serious scientific study, and the two major hypotheses (if they can be called hypotheses in this form) remain relatively unshaken by the presented evidence.

The approach is descriptive, non-experimental, and case-centred. With respect to the first "hypothesis" the evidence presented is that 23% of the sample did in fact have additional convictions for non-motoring offences. With respect to the second "hypothesis" the evidence presented is that so far as personality factors are concerned 25% of the sample showed "personality disturbance." Stated in another way, this means that the public generalizations (undoubtedly over-generalizations, and based on inadequate information) are about 75% correct on the basis of the evidence presented in this book. It seems that the somewhat dramatic title of this book has little to do with its contents. Even if the presented evidence in this work were overwhelmingly opposed to the public generalizations, the research would be unacceptable as a scientific contribution because of the methods employed to collect the evidence. For example, one need single out only the naive understanding of personality disorder and the unacceptable methods of assessing these phenomena. The author is no unaware of these shortcomings when he says, "The resultant material is, therefore, a mixture of fact and impression, with rather more of the latter than is desirable . . . what is offered is, at best, a comprehensive

and unprejudiced interpretation of the available evidence, and at least something better than mere speculation." In fact, "mere speculation" in the form of the public generalizations does rather well indeed when put to this sort of test.

The book is interesting and commendable in the sense that it challenges commonly held conceptions and contains some interesting documentary data. It is not a scientific study, and the reader should not be lulled into believing so by the use of statistical tables and the formulation of "hypotheses."

S. BOYD.

Centipedes

Centipedes of the British Isles. By E. H. Eason, M.A., M.B.(Cantab.), F.L.S. (Pp. 294+x; illustrated. \$3.30.) London and New York: Frederick Warne. 1964.

It has long been customary to lump together the centipedes and the millipedes as a single class, the Myriapoda. But they are widely different animals, and it is now recognized that the centipedes by themselves form a "class," equivalent to the class of insects, which is termed the Chilopoda. The millipedes are mostly vegetarian and certain of them are harmful to cultivated plants. The centipedes are predacious, with powerful curved poison-claws just behind the head, by means of which they not only grasp but paralyse and even kill their victims. The small centipedes of this country are harmless to man; the large species of the tropics can inflict a painful bite. The dangers of centipede bites are probably exaggerated; but the truth of the matter is difficult to sift, for the legends about them are such that impressionable folk can die of fright after being bitten.

How many legs has a centipede? The commonest sorts in this country belong to the Lithobius group and have 15 pairs. Our sole representative of the Scolopendra group (which contains most of the poisonous tropical species) has 21 pairs. The long and slender Geophilus group, often known as "legged worms," always have more than 35 pairs and may have as many as 101. The

young of the Geophilus group emerge from the eggs in a delicate "foetal" state. In their early days they are brooded by the mother coiled around them. The young Lithobius must fend for themselves from the start; but the number of their segments is incomplete and new ones are added, each with a pair of legs, as the animal grows.

Dr. Eason's book is directed mainly at the collector of centipedes. It is a fully illustrated technical guide to the identification, distribution, and habits of the 44 species in the British Isles.

V. B. WIGGLESWORTH.

Recent Forensic Work

Methods of Forensic Science. Vol. III. Edited by A. S. Curry. (Pp. 342+xiii; illustrated. 95s.) London: John Wiley. 1964.

This is the third volume of the series on current scientific methods in the field of legal medicine initiated under the editorship of the Danish biochemist Lundquist. Rapid expansion in the application of newer scientific methods to law enforcement has resulted in a spate of literature with which even the expert finds it difficult to keep pace.

The subjects covered in this volume include two of particular value—that by Tompsett on lead poisoning, a well-balanced review and technical assay, and a joint survey of neutron-activation analysis by Hamilton Smith, with Lenihan, of Glasgow, in biological fields and Vincent Guinn in non-biological fields. The last two are models of clarity in exposition in a new method which has already proved of value in the detection of arsenic.

Guatelli's review of the toxicology of the cyanides is loose, and a chapter on erasures by Harrison is below the standard so far contributed to this series. With these exceptions the general level is very high and this volume most successfully continues a valuable review of the literature in the field of forensic sciences. The choice of Curry as overall editor is plainly a happy one.

K. SIMPSON.

Books Received

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

Autoregulation of Blood Flow. American Heart Association Monograph, No. 8. Edited by Paul C. Johnson, Ph.D. (Pp. 291; illustrated. No price stated.) New York: American Heart Association. 1964.

Scintillation Scanning in Clinical Medicine. Edited by James L. Quinn, III, M.D. (Pp. 278+viii; illustrated. £4 0s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1964.

Munro Kerr's Operative Obstetrics. 7th edition. By J. Chassar Moir, C.B.E., Hon.L.L.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 1,003+x; illustrated. £6 6s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1964.

Normale und Pathologische Anatomie der Haut, II. Handbuch der Haut- und Geschlechtskrankheiten. Vol. 1, part 2. Edited by O. Gans and G. K. Steigleder. (Pp. 1,000+xiv; illustrated. DM. 318.40.) Berlin, Göttingen, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer. 1964.

To-day's Drugs. Specially Commissioned Articles from the *British Medical Journal*. (Pp. 400+viii. 30s.) London: British Medical Association. 1964.

Textbook of Surgical Physiology. 2nd edition. By R. Ainslie Jamieson, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.S.Glas., F.R.C.S.Eng. (Pp. 760+viii; illustrated. 84s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1965.

Multiple Sclerosis. A Reappraisal. By Douglas McAlpine, M.D.(Glas.), F.R.C.P., Charles E. Lumsden, M.D.(Aberd.), F.C.Path., and E. D. Acheson, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.), M.R.C.P. (Pp. 415+viii. 50s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1965.

Agar Gel Electrophoresis in Neurology. By A. Lowenthal. (Pp. 204+x; illustrated. 60s.) Amsterdam, New York, and London: Elsevier. 1964.

Occurrence, Causes and Prevention of Over-nutrition. Symposia of the Swedish Nutrition Foundation, Fallsterbo, August 1963. Edited by Gunnar Blix, M.D. (Pp. 152. No price given.) Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell. 1964.

Mental Health on a New Housing Estate. Comparative Study of Health in Two Districts of Croydon. Maudsley Monograph, No. 12. By E. H. Hare, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., and C. K. Shaw, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M. (Pp. 135+vii; 38s.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1965.

Anesthetic Techniques for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Analgesia. By Daniel C. Moore, M.D. (Pp. 211+xi; illustrated. \$10.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Pharmacy in History. By George Edward Trease, B.Pharm., D. de l'U., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., F.L.S. (Pp. 264+vii; illustrated. 50s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1964.

The Meridians of Acupuncture. By Felix Mann, M.B., B.Chir.(Cambridge), L.M.C.C.(McGill). (Pp. 173+xii; illustrated. 42s.) London: William Heinemann. 1964.

Tropical Eosinophilia. By N. Islam, M.B., B.S.(Cal.), T.D.D.(Wales), M.R.C.P.Ed., F.C.P.S.(Pk.). (Pp. 142; illustrated. No price given.) Chittagong, East Pakistan: A. Islam. 1964.