

Pharmacy in History

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.

Beecham's, Boots, and Allen and Hanbury's are household words, indicators of the intimate connexion between pharmacy and social life in Britain. Between them and Dioscorides (whose work remained the basis of all books on *materia medica* until the seventeenth century) lie nearly two millennia of history. In England from the arrival of Scribonius Largus and the Roman Army Medical Service we can see the organization of pharmacy. With the Normans came the spicers and apothecaries. With the formation of the Guild of St. Anthony in 1345 we discern an early professional organization. According to Professor G. E. Trease, of the University of Nottingham, in this well-documented history, "for many years English pharmacy followed a French pattern and there was little or no time lag in the transmission of Continental developments to England" (p. 34).

Such is the vagueness of written records that one gets the impression that apothecaries could turn their hand to many things. Apart from selling spices "by unusual and unfaithful weights" they could forge coins (John Hexham, hanged for so doing, inadvertently provided historians with the earliest inventory of his trade to survive) and mix poisons. But such eccentricities were severely limited when the apothecaries dissociated themselves from the grocers and formed their own society in 1617, just as the enormous accretion of drugs from that continental botanical garden, the Americas, gave them enough to occupy their attention. As herbalists gave way to botanists and the institutional records exfoliated, as "heborizings" yielded catalogues of plants, and the London pharmacopoeias began to grow, as universities began to make room for botanic gardens, as the Army and Navy (the first to

use the term dispenser) made increasing use of pharmaceutical preparations, as new hospitals took shape, so manufacturing druggists emerged. Bevan and John Allen were but indices of the complex of social factors that contributed to the emergence of pharmacy—a complex which readers of this fascinating, authoritative survey, with its comprehensive ten-page index, can tease out for themselves.

W. H. G. ARMYTAGE.

Pericardial Disease

Chronic and Constrictive Pericarditis. By David H. Spodick, M.D. (Pp. 369+xiv; illustrated. \$14.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1964.

This book is a companion volume of another by the same author on acute pericarditis, and is in five parts. Part I deals with the pathology of the pericardium and its reaction to prolonged inflammation. Part II describes the mechanism and the recognition of cardiac compression. Parts III and IV respectively deal with constrictive pericarditis and chronic pericardial effusion, while Part V gives a brief account of inflammatory cysts and diverticula of the pericardium.

No other disease is more difficult to describe than disease of the pericardium, for it manifests itself in such diverse manner, appearing either as a primary illness confined to the pericardium or as part of a disease principally affecting other parts of the body. This makes repetition inevitable when dealing with the effects of inflammation of the pericardium, the occurrence of pericardial effusion, and the presence of cardiac compression. Duplication of information is evident when referring to the index, which shows that particular features of pericardial disease are described on several and interspersed pages, and again when consulting Figure 6, where the complexity of the eventual results of pericarditis receives emphasis.

As a book of reference on the subject this can have no equal, and an appended bibliography lists nearly a thousand treatises. No author can write again on this condition without having this carefully prepared book at his side to help him deal faithfully with any aspect of pericardial disease.

WILLIAM EVANS.

Common Cold

The Common Cold. By Christopher Andrewes, K.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. (Pp. 187; illustrated. 25s.) London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson. 1965.

This book can be read as medical science, popular science, or even as a sort of thriller. By the main architect of modern research on the common cold, it deals with the subject from every aspect. It ranges from symptoms to the effect of weather, from colds in cats to vaccines, from viruses to sneezing patterns. There is even a chapter on the anatomy of the nose. One valuable section deals with the difficult problem of cold cures. A most interesting section of the book describes the ups and downs in the research at the Common Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, leading finally to the successful isolation (and christening) of rhinoviruses.

The book is intended for the layman, and is written in a light-hearted and amusing style which may irritate the serious-minded doctor. He should perhaps wait and read a weightier volume by Dr. Tyrrell which will follow. In fact there is a wealth of detail in Sir Christopher's book, which deals freely with abstruse topics such as haemadsorption, capsomeres, picornaviruses, and so on. Experimental details are not given, but despite (or because of) this it may be read as much by medical men as others. No one should miss this fascinating story, especially if they happen to be laid low by a stinker.

M. STOKER.

Books Received

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

Obstetrics for Students. By Lance Townsend, V.R.D., M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., D.T.M.&H. (Pp. 785+xi; illustrated. £8.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1965.

Immunochemistry of Cancer. By Eugene D. Day, Ph.D. (Pp. 170+xvii. \$6.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

Pulmonary Physiology in Clinical Practice. By William R. Pace, Jr., M.D. (Pp. 143; illustrated. 24s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1965.

Reconnaissance. An Approach to Exploration. By Alan Mozley, D.Sc., F.R.S.E. (Pp. 60. 9s.) London: Lewis. 1965.

Ecology of the Human Skin. By Mary J. Marples, M.A., M.D., D.T.M.&H. (Pp. 970+xxiii; illustrated. \$28.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Nymphomania. A Study of the Oversexed Woman. By Albert Ellis, Ph.D. and Edward Sagarin. (Pp. 255. 30s.) London: Orlolan Press. 1965.

Trauma to the Ureter: Pathogenesis and Management. By Lazarus A. Orkin, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 530+xx; illustrated. £9.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1965.

Secundus Congressus Societatis Europaeae Ophthalmologicae. Vienna, 1964. International Congress Series No. 79. (Pp. 60. No price given.) Amsterdam, New York, London, Milan, and Tokyo: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1964.

About Sharks and Shark Attack. By David H. Davies. (Pp. 237; illustrated. 40s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1965.

Crisis in Communication. Functions and Future of Medical Journals. Heath Clark Lecture 1963. By Sir Theodore Fox, M.A., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 59. 15s.) London: Athlone. 1965.

Between Two Worlds. Doctor's log-book of life amongst the Alaskan Eskimos. By Kaare Rodahl. (Pp. 208; illustrated. 30s.) London: Heinemann. 1964.

Biochemical Aspects of Neurological Disorders. 2nd series. Edited by John N. Cumings, M.D., F.R.C.P. and Michael Kremer, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 326+vihi; illustrated. 55s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1965.

Les Consultations Journalières en Cardiologie. By Claude Macrez. (Pp. 143+vihi. 20 F.) Paris: Masson. 1965.

Der Misslungene Erweiterte Suizid. By Professor Ehrig Lange. (Pp. 92. 12s. 10d.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1964.

New Directions in Stuttering. Theory and Practice. Compiled and edited by Dominick A. Barbara, M.D. (Pp. 188+ix. \$7.25.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Burns. A Symposium. Compiled and edited by Leon Goldman, M.D. and Richard E. Gardner, M.D. (Pp. 191+x. \$7.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Age With a Future. Proceedings of 6th International Congress of Gerontology, Copenhagen, 1963. Edited by P. From Hansen. (Pp. 662. Danish Kr.ner 134.) Copenhagen: Munksgaard. 1965.

Young Men in Detention Centres. By Anne B. Dunlop and Sarah McCabe. (Pp. 180+xii. 28s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1965.

Surgery in the Making. By Gordon Murray, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.C.S.(Can.), Hon. F.B.C.S., F.A.C.C., Hon. F.I.C.S., F.A.C.A. (Pp. 236; illustrated 21s.) London: Johnson. 1965.