

to learn, which enhances their ability to teach, is shown by the fact that since the first edition they have decided that the technique of choice for Wertheim's hysterectomy is Okabayashi's rather than Meigs's modification, since they have found that it gives equally good results with a lower incidence of complications. An extended abdominal hysterectomy—a so-called "little Wertheim"—is recommended for micro-invasive carcinoma of the cervix. The authors' attention to detail is shown by the inclusion of an illustration of Simmons's modified perineorrhaphy, which is designed to avoid the bridge of vulval skin that otherwise causes dyspareunia.

In addition to full descriptions of all the conventional gynaecological operations separate chapters are devoted to opening and closing the abdomen and the repair of hernias, intestinal operations such as appendicectomy and colostomy, resection and repair of the bowel, and urological procedures including ureteric anastomosis, transplantation, the repair of fistulae, and nephrectomy. This volume therefore provides practical advice not only for gynaecologists in training but also for those more experienced who may be faced with the need occasionally to perform unfamiliar operations. The whole range of gynaecological operations is described, but the authors always state their own choice and their reasons for doing so.

The text both illuminates the illustrations by giving many practical hints and also lists the indications, contraindications, complications, and results that can be expected from each procedure. The references are all recent and representative of practice and advances made throughout the world. The illustrations are beautifully clear and explicit, and although the text more than repays reading any operation can easily be followed by studying the illustrations alone. The publishers are to be congratulated on the excellence of presentation; in particular the format of the second edition is more pleasing than that of

the first. As predicted, this atlas has become a classic of German gynaecological literature. An English edition would be sure of similar success.

PETER J. HUNTINGFORD.

Devoted Genius

Davidson Black. A Biography. By Dora Hood. (Pp. 145+x; illustrated. 40s.) Toronto: University Press. London: Oxford University Press. 1964.

In 1929, after one of the most extensive operations ever undertaken in search of traces of our human ancestors, after a whole hillside had been torn off a mountain near Peking, the seekers found, amid the fossil bones of extinct animals, the first skull of *Pithecanthropus pekimensis*. No other relic of early man has been so immediately and thoroughly recorded. In the same buried cave were found crudely made tools of chipped bone and stone and carbonized ashes which provide the first solid evidence of the use of fire in human history.

The dedicated leader of the team was Davidson Black, a Canadian of Scottish descent who died at the early age of 49 in his laboratory in China, a Fellow of the Royal Society, honoured by scientific bodies all over the world. In order that his name should be remembered and his achievements perpetuated in his native country, Dora Hood, the distinguished Canadian bibliophile, has produced a most readable biography of her subject, and at the same time has introduced her readers to a number of fellow-workers who helped Black to achieve his goal.

The need to eke out the allowance from his widowed mother compelled Black to seek paid vacation work during his university studies. This he obtained in field biological stations in Northern Ontario and in working

with the geological survey of Canada. The knowledge thus obtained proved vital to him in later life. After graduating in medicine and arts (reversing the usual order of study), Black went to teach anatomy at Cleveland, U.S.A., where T. Wingate Todd had just arrived from Elliot Smith's department at Manchester. The influence of Todd and Elliot Smith lasted throughout his life.

Black's appointment to the anatomy department of the Union Medical College at Peking, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, was preceded by a period of work with Elliot Smith at Manchester. He also attended the Manchester School of Art and acquired amazing skill in making plaster casts. In his early days in Peking the Rockefeller inspector was displeased with the amount of time spent by Black on anthropology and palaeontology, and instructed him to confine his work to the teaching of topographical anatomy to medical students, but when his amazing capacity and enthusiasm were finally realized the Foundation provided him with repeated generous grants. The workers were frequently caught in the crossfire of warring political armies, and there was always the threat of the arrival of the Japanese, but in Peking there was constant coming and going of men of all nationalities to make life stimulating.

With his great and growing reputation Black was offered chairs of anatomy in several continents, but he stuck to his post in Peking and the opportunity it afforded to work on the history of the primates. If ever an anthropologist went to his work with Pasteur's "prepared mind" it was Davidson Black—a lovable, happy, devoted genius who expressed his delight in "earning pay for doing what I want to do most." His memory should be held dear in Canada, and this biography should ensure that it is.

GEORGE R. McROBERT.

Books Received

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

Industry, Human Relations, and Mental Health. Address given at 17th Annual Meeting of World Federation for Mental Health, Berne, August 1964. By Sir Geoffrey Vickers, M.A. (Pp. 14. 3s. 6d.) London: Tavistock. 1965.

Ascent from Chaos. A Psychosomatic Case Study. By Peter E. Sifneos, M.D. (Pp. 163+xiii. 27s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1965.

The Heart in Health and Disease. By Rustom Jal Vakil, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.) (Pp. 136+xi. Rs. 9.50.) Bombay: University of Bombay. 1964.

Fibrinolyse et Pathologie Vasculaire. By J. Salmon. (Pp. 219; illustrated. 410 Fr.B.) Brussels: Éditions Arscia. Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1964.

Infantile Spasms. Review of the literature and study of 112 cases. *Clinics in Developmental Medicine* No. 15. By Peter M. Jeavons, M.B., B.Chir., and Brian D. Bower, M.D.Birm. (Pp. 82; illustrated. 20s.) London: Heinemann. 1964.

Problèmes Actuels Relatifs à la Nutrition et à la Diététique. Première Série. Edited by M. Dérot, H. Bour, and G. Héraud. (Pp. 277. 32 F.) Paris: Masson. 1964.

Medical Education in South Africa. Proceedings of Conference, Natal, Durban, 1964. Edited by J. V. O. Reid and A. J. Wilmot. (Pp. 391+xii. 85s.) Pietermaritzburg: Natal University Press. 1965.

Drugs in Cerebral Palsy. Based on symposium, Dallas, 1963. *Clinics in Developmental Medicine* No. 17. Edited by Dr. Eric Denhoff. (Pp. 88; illustrated. 25s.) London: Heinemann. 1964.

Holland—A New Look at Crime. Report on I.S.T.D. Summer School, Netherlands, 1964. By Keith Wardrop, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M. (Pp. 31. 3s.) London: Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency. 1965.

Res Medica. A Personal Philosophy. Inaugural Lecture, University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, July 1964. By Professor Lindsay Davidson. (Pp. 26. 4s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1965.

Men and Snakes. By Ramona and Desmond Morris. (Pp. 223+vii; illustrated. 50s.) London: Hutchinson. 1965.

Arbeitsmethoden der Inneren Medizin und ihr Verwandter Gebiete. Vol. 2. Röntgen-diagnostische Untersuchungsmethoden. I. Lieferung. Edited by Professor Rolf Emmerich. (Pp. 386; illustrated. 37s. 6d.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1965.

Die Glukokortikoid-Therapie Innerer Erkrankungen. By Professor Albrecht Beikert. (Pp. 413; illustrated. £3 10s. 7d.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1964.

Heredity. Introduction to Genetics. By A. M. Winchester, M.A., Ph.D. (Pp. 269+ix; illustrated. 18s.) London, Toronto, Wellington, and Sydney: George C. Harrap. 1965.

Year Book of General Surgery. 1964-65. Edited by Michael E. de Bakey, B.S., M.D., M.S. (Pp. 637; illustrated. 64s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. London: Lloyd-Luke. 1965.

Grundriss der Gynäkologischen Endokrinologie. Für Studierende und Ärzte. By Professor Hans-Joachim Staemmler. (Pp. 185+xii; illustrated. DM. 22.50.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1965.

La Perfusion du Foie Isolé. Son Application à l'Étude de Quelques Problèmes de Biologie. By P. J. Kestens. (Pp. 248; illustrated. 430 Fr.B.) Brussels: Éditions Arscia. Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1964.