

Acclimatization to Cold

Local Effects of Acclimatization to Cold in Man. By Bjørn Hellström. (Pp. 156. 35s.) London: Scandinavian University Books. 1965.

In this age of rapid scientific advance it is increasingly difficult to keep abreast of published work. It is therefore incumbent upon author, editor, and publisher to ensure that newly published work is concise, to the point, and contains a useful addition to available material. If a book is published one would expect the author to survey his field critically, present his new facts in the light of this review, and formulate a hypothesis which could become the stepping-stone for future investigations.

This book contains the results of large-scale investigations performed by the author. It is too long and yet leaves out the details of the results; nor does the author review past work critically enough. The book appears to be the publication of an examination thesis and should have been published in the form of two or three papers, subject to the discipline of the editor's wishes.

The well-known phenomenon of the deterioration of hand function in the cold was examined in some considerable detail on groups of subjects with different histories of exposure to cold. In an unexposed group an "acclimatization" experiment was performed. The methods used were only very slightly modified from those described previously. In spite of the large scale of the experiments the differences detected between various groups are relatively small.

The one positive finding was to confirm that during exposure to cold the hands of outdoor workers remained warmer than those of indoor workers. The hands of outdoor workers therefore functioned better in the cold. No evidence was produced to indicate that this improvement might have been partially due to local tissue changes as well as circulatory changes. It was found impossible

to simulate the circulatory changes by artificial acclimatization, presumably because too little cold was applied for too short a time. Once again changes in the central nervous system are postulated to account for the decrease in cold-induced pain and the cold pressor reaction, though nothing new is added.

In summary, the book will no doubt find a place on the shelf of the specialist in this very special field, chiefly for its many useful references and partly for the description of the various methods of testing the reaction of the hand to cold. But it is to be regretted that the results of these experiments should have been published in this over-ambitious form.

R. GOLDSMITH.

Bailey and Love

Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery. 13th edition. Revised by A. J. Harding Rains, M.S., F.R.C.S., and W. Melville Capper, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 1,314 + xi; illustrated. £4 4s.) London: Lewis. 1965.

No surgical textbook could reach its 189th thousand and its 13th edition without possessing some exceptional qualities, and that is certainly true of this book, which now appears under the editorship of Harding Rains and Melville Capper, with chapters by John Charnley, William Cleland, and Geoffrey Knight. Priced at four guineas, it offers very good value in its 1,300 pages. Its content is thoroughly up to date with present surgical thoughts, and as one might expect from its editors and special contributors the surgery of the abdomen, orthopaedics, thoracic surgery, and neurosurgery are handled in such a manner as to make it attractive reading for the postgraduate as well as the student requiring an introduction to surgery. There are many good diagrams and x-ray photographs. No names in surgery are mentioned without a biographical footnote, and this can make even a casual glance at the book most interesting.

One of the criticisms of this book in the past was of something that has been in a sense its great virtue: it made learning easy for the student, and inevitably this was sometimes achieved by slick presentation and avoidance of the doubts that are an essential part of surgery. This seems a good deal less obvious in the present edition, which, like its predecessors, is assured of success—and deserves it.

EDWARD G. MUTR.

Tribute to Eccles

Studies in Physiology. Presented to John C. Eccles. Edited by D. R. Curtis and A. K. McIntyre. (Pp. 276 + viii; illustrated. DM. 36.) Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York: Springer. 1965.

In this collection of 47 essays the authors were invited to review briefly that aspect of physiology which currently interested them. The hope of the editors was that the resulting papers would be an up-to-date review of many physiological problems.

The width of interests is seen in the paper by A. W. Liley, of Auckland, in which he describes his beautiful work on the intrauterine perfusion of the human foetus after its affliction with haemolytic disease in the third trimester of pregnancy. This entailed diagnosis by early amniocentesis and spectrophotometric examination of the amniotic fluid. Hydrops and foetal malformation had to be excluded by amniography, and radiography had to show the location of the placenta, of the needle in the peritoneal puncture, and of the position of the catheter in the peritoneum when packed erythrocytes are transfused.

The beauty of Dr. Liley's essay is on a par with the other essays, each valuable in itself and collectively invaluable, all paying testimony to the inspiration in physiology and medicine given by Sir John Eccles to workers in Dunedin, Oxford, Sydney, and Canberra.

A. ST. G. HUGGETT.

Books Received

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

Progestagen Therapy. By Maxwell Roland, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.A.C.O.G. (Pp. 88 + xv; illustrated. \$9.00.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1965.

Embryopathic Activity of Drugs. Symposium, Biological Council. Edited by J. M. Robson, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.(Ed.), F. M. Sullivan, B.Sc., R. L. Smith, Ph.D., B.Pharm. (Pp. 305 + xii; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

Plastic Surgery for Nurses. By Ian A. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.C.S.(Glasg.), and Wm. Henry Reid, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.C.S.(Ed.), F.R.C.S.(Glasg.). (Pp. 120 + vi; illustrated. 15s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Coagulation and Transfusion in Clinical Medicine. By Shirley A. Johnson, Ph.D. and Tibor J. Greenwalt, M.D. (Pp. 203 + xii. 67s. 6d.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

Medicine in Transition. By Iago Galdston, M.D. (Pp. 220 + xii. 44s. 6d.) Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. 1965.

Anatomy and Physiology. Elementary Textbook Applied to Nursing. 2nd edition. By Janet T. E. Riddle, R.C.N., R.F.N., O.N.C. (Pp. 151 + vii; illustrated. 14s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Gerichtliche Medizin. By Gerhard Hansen. (Pp. 301 + x illustrated. £2 11s. 2d.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1965.

Audiometry: Principles and Practices. Edited by Aram Glogic, M.D. (Pp. 271 + xiii. 78s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1965.

Calling the Laboratory. 2nd edition. Edited by William A. R. Thomson, M.D. (Pp. 126 + ix. 17s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Actualités Cardio-Vasculaires Médico-Chirurgicales. 2nd series. Artériopathies Coronariennes et Artériopathies des Membres. Edited by R. Froment, A. Gonin, and P. Michaud. (Pp. 328. 58 F.) Paris: Masson. 1965.

Proceedings of the Regional Conference. Western Pacific Region. International Planned Parenthood Federation. (Pp. 267 + ii. No price given.) Korea: Seoul. 1965.

The Excitement and Fascination of Science. Collection of Autobiographical and Philosophical Essays. By George H. Bishop *et al.* (Pp. 566 + x; illustrated. Cloth \$5.50. Paper \$2.45.) Palo Alto, California: Annual Reviews. 1965.

Care of the Newly Born Infant. 3rd edition. By W. S. Craig, B.Sc.(Glasg.), M.D., F.R.C.P.(Edin.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), F.R.S.E. (Pp. 635 + vii; illustrated. 55s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Las Arritmias Cardiacas. By Carlos A. Bertolasi, Pedro G. Justich, Norberto Pisani, and Guy Feune de Colombi. (Pp. 214. No price given.) Buenos Aires: Editorial Vergara. 1965.

The Gastrointestinal Tract. Handbook of Roentgen Diagnosis. By Fred Jenner Hodges, B.S., M.D. and Walter Macintire Whitehouse, A.B., M.S., M.D. (Pp. 384; illustrated. 90s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. London: Lloyd-Luke. 1965.