

thought on many aspects of this complex condition are developing. There are papers on immunochemistry of asthma, on anaphylaxis, slow-reacting substance, histamine production and excretion, and on reagins and skin-testing. The pathology of asthma and its relationship to bronchitis and emphysema are reviewed, detailed accounts are given of the mechanism of corticosteroid action, and an attempt is made at clinical classification and delineation of the psychological factors in the disease.

This slim volume cannot provide a complete review of every aspect of asthma but it does open the reader's eyes to many recent and significant developments. The well-edited discussions of each paper indicate where disagreement and uncertainty persist. Many readers will be grateful for the trouble taken by Sir Geoffrey Todd and his collaborators in the organization of this conference and for publishing the proceedings for the wider audience which can now profit from it.

C. M. FLETCHER.

### "Hot Dope"

**The Year Book of Medicine. 1965-1966 Series.** Edited by Paul B. Beeson M.D., et al. (Pp. 830; illustrated. 72s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. Chicago: Year Book Medical. 1965.

The *Year Book* as usual is divided into sections on infections, the chest, the heart and blood-vessels and the kidney, the digestive system, metabolism, and the blood and blood-forming organs. Each of these six sections contains appropriately arranged abstracts of recent articles in the field. Looking through the index of subjects one sees few if any contributions that are large or impressive, though the introduction of allopurinol for gout seems a significant advance. For the most part it is like the slow growth of a coral reef. The index to authors includes about 1,400 names. To be recorded in this

index is one of the new status symbols of Western medicine, like holding a travelling fellowship or a higher qualification. Many of the articles are followed by a comment by the sectional editor intended to put it in proper perspective, and these comments are sometimes more instructive than the articles. One might instance Ingelfinger on double-blind trials that are physiologically or clinically nonsensical, and on the deluge of articles on intestinal disaccharidase deficiencies. One misses the editorial introductions to the sections which are given in some of the other *Year Books*.

The book becomes steadily a little longer and heavier and is now up to 830 pages. Well illustrated, strikingly free from typographical errors, and printed by classical methods, it is produced with astonishing speed. The present volume, published in Britain in November 1965, contains abstracts of articles published in the earlier part of that year, and it lists Paul Beeson as Nuffield Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford. This, in fact, is what is irreverently known as the hot dope. It belongs to the world of the clinicopathological conference and the post-graduate ward round, a highly professional and esoteric world which is rather remote from the ordinary practitioner's consulting-room. The sexagenarian who turns its pages may murmur a little equivocally, *Et in Arcadia ego.*

L. J. WITTS.

### Words and Concepts

**Patterns of Meaning in Psychiatric Patients. Semantic Differential Responses in Obsessives and Psychopaths.** By I. M. Marks, M.D., D.P.M. (Pp. 142 + viii. 55s.) London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1965.

Since verbal communication must be the primary tool in virtually all psychiatric diagnosis and therapy it is surprising that the literature should contain so few studies of words and meaning. The piece of research

reported in this volume employed Osgood's technique of the "semantic differential" as a means of controlled association in exploring differences in meaning and understanding of a number of emotionally loaded concepts in two widely differing groups of psychiatric patients. The groups, each of 20 patients, were diagnosed as suffering from obsessive compulsive syndrome and from psychopathy respectively, and a control group of 40 non-accident-prone orthopaedic patients were also studied. The obsessive group contained fewer young people, a quarter of the group had experienced intensive psychotherapy, and nearly as many had been subjected to prefrontal leucotomy, but the influence of these factors is not adequately considered.

The technique of the study and the sophisticated statistical analysis of the data are described in great detail. A number of conclusions are drawn from the data and their clinical relevance is discussed. The psychopaths were found to have disturbed parental concepts, increased fear of anger-hostility concepts, and a dislike of concepts of affection. The findings appear to support the view that psychopathic individuals—in psychiatric practice at least—experience guilt or pangs of conscience but fail to respond by modifying their behaviour. Both clinical groups showed disturbed concepts of the self and the psychopaths disturbed parental concepts also, but only the controls had indications of a mature, erotic love factor. No support was found for the clinical view that obsessives use their symptoms to defend themselves against aggression.

Studies of this type are laborious, demanding, and time-consuming, but have obvious relevance in the design and interpretation of rating scales, interviews, and indeed of nosological concepts. This volume is clearly an important contribution to the field of psychiatric semantics, but the telegraphic prose and the large amount of information in it make it heavy reading, likely to be undertaken only by other workers with a direct interest in the subject.

SYDNEY BRANDON.

### Books Received

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

**The Human Body.** By Fritz Kahn, M.D. (Pp. 288; illustrated. 84s.) London: Nelson. 1966.

**Dansk Selskab for Intern Medicin.** 1916-1966. (Pp. 134. No price given.) Copenhagen: Bibliotek for Laeger. 1965.

**Biomechanics and Related Bio-Engineering Topics.** Symposium, Glasgow. Edited by R. M. Kenedi. (Pp. 493 + xviii; illustrated. £7.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1965.

**A Handbook on British Student Health Services.** By Nicolas Malleson, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 91. 12s. 6d.) London: Pitman. 1965.

**Textbook of Medical Treatment.** 10th edition. Edited by Sir Derrick Dunlop, B.A.(Oxon.), M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.P.Lond., and Stanley Alstead, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.P. Glasg., F.R.C.P.Lond. (Pp. 1,003 + xvii. 70s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

**Proceedings of the First International Conference on Tetanus.** Bombay, 1963. Edited by J. C. Patel. (Pp. 728 + xv; illustrated. No price given.) Bombay: Study Group of Tetanus. 1965.

**Contributions to the Psycho-Biology of Aging.** Edited by Robert Kastenbaum, Ph.D. (Pp. 115 + x. \$3.00.) New York: Springer. 1965.

**Pathology for Students of Dentistry.** 3rd edition. By George L. Montgomery, C.B.E., T.D., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.Edin. and Glasg., F.C.Path., F.R.S.E. (Pp. 399 + vii; illustrated. 50s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

**The Autonomic Nervous System.** 2nd edition. By J. Harold Burn, M.D., F.R.S. (Pp. 134 + viii. 18s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1965.

**Cleft Palate and Speech.** 6th edition. By Muriel E. Morley, D.Sc., F.C.S.T., F.A.C.S.T. (Pp. 285 + xx; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

**Fracturen Van de Aangezichtsschedel.** By Dr. C. A. Merkx. (Pp. 20. No price given.) Nijmegen: Dekker & Van de Vegt N.V. 1965.

**Repair and Reconstruction in the Orbital Region. A Practical Guide.** By John Clark Mustarde, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S., F.R.C.S.Eng. (Pp. 382 + xv; illustrated. 95s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

**Functional and Surgical Anatomy of the Hand.** 2nd edition. By Emanuel B. Kaplan, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 337 + xiv; illustrated. £6 6s.) London: Pitman. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. 1965.

**Serotonin and its Derivatives.** By Johan Offermeier. (Pp. 135. No price given.) Nijmegen: Thoben Offset. 1965.

**Invloed van de Beadening op het Hart-Minuut-Volume.** By Frans Jan Kuyper. (Pp. 230 + viii. No price given.) Nijmegen: Drukkerij Gebr. Janssen N.V. 1965.

**Primum Non Nocere.** By Dr. W. A. Moonen. (Pp. 24. No price given.) Nijmegen: Dekker & Van de Vegt N.V. 1965.

**Operative Obstetrics.** 2nd edition. By Professor R. Gordon Douglas and William B. Stromme. (Pp. 779 + xiii; illustrated. \$22.50.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1965.