

account of the Coombs test on page 239. There are also topics on which it is difficult to find more than the briefest mention, such as the extrinsic clotting system, ineffective erythropoiesis, and the requirements for vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid—all subjects which require discussion if a book of this sort is to have wide appeal. It is difficult to know for whom this book is principally written.

T. A. J. PRANKERD.

Practical Audiometry

Textbook of Practical Audiometry. By Bernhard Langenbeck. Translated by Francis Bauer, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.L.O. (Pp. 213+xiii. 80s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1965.

British otolaryngologists, few in number, are intensively engaged in the care of large numbers of patients, and generally their departments are inadequately equipped for comprehensive audiometry. Many deaf patients attend these departments, and audiometry has of necessity to be selective. The law, industry, and the Health Service provide little or no stimulus to improvement, and indeed it is the occasional research department and the individual otolaryngologist that prod the law and industry to seek higher standards of care. Consequently British contributions to audiology, though notable, are few. Even young otolaryngologists seek their basic training abroad, usually in the United States, and on return cannot use their specialized knowledge. Under these working conditions Britain must depend on the United States and the Continent for audiological studies.

This book, a translation from the German, is well planned, contains a large amount of useful information, and is an excellent introduction to Continental literature. Much of the work is familiar to English otologists, but to many the use of noise in above-threshold audiometry will be new, interesting, and

stimulating. The Bekesy audiometer unfortunately receives scant attention. Absolute audiograms used as illustrations are illuminating, but the persistent use of musical scale notation throughout the text is foreign and irritating to the English reader. Rule-of-thumb instructions in the use of an audiometer and detailed analyses of illustrative audiograms make reading tedious though rewarding. As with many translations the mode of expression is not attuned to the English ear, and unfortunately this fault in style probably could not be eliminated by rigorous editing. Therefore, despite its undoubted value and the publisher's claim that this book is a suitable introduction for the beginner and a textbook for the post-graduate and advanced student, I cannot see its displacing any of the better American texts. Because of the limitations of English audiometric practice the book may well be relegated unread to departmental and university libraries.

J. D. K. DAWES.

The Myopathies

Mycopathien. Symposium, Freiburg/Breisgau, 1964. Edited by Professor Robert Beckmann. (Pp. 268; illustrated. DM. 58.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1965.

This volume contains the proceedings of a symposium on myopathies, organized by Dr. Robert Beckman and the paediatric clinic of the University of Freiburg and held at Hinterzarten, in the Black Forest, in September 1964. It contains 24 contributions covering the whole range of interdisciplinary approaches to the myopathies, with an introductory historical review by Dr. Karl Thomas, honorary president of the symposium. The papers and discussions cover the fields of genetics, biochemistry, pathology, histology, and electronmicroscopy in relation to nearly all the important forms

of myopathy, not only the progressive muscular dystrophies. Clinical, therapeutic, and social aspects are also discussed. The list of contributors includes many who are well known for their work in muscle diseases in Europe and North America. All but four of the papers are in German.

The book suffers less than usual from the defects inherent in such symposium publications, and careful editing has resulted particularly in the suppression of discursive irrelevancies in the discussions. It can be recommended as providing an up-to-date summary of the views of physicians and scientists actively engaged in research into these relatively uncommon disorders.

J. B. STANTON.

Story of Chemotherapy

The Battle Against Bacteria. A History of the Development of Antibacterial Drugs for the General Reader. By P. E. Baldry, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 102. 22s. 6d. Paperback 10s. 6d.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1965.

This little book is a potted history of medical bacteriology written in straightforward language for the layman. The first four chapters provide a background to those following; these describe the development of chemotherapy from Ehrlich to Fleming, Waksman, and beyond. The story of Fleming and penicillin is treated in most detail (21 pages). Waksman, streptomycin and other drugs for treating tuberculosis occupy another 14 pages. A patient who has greatly benefited from chemotherapy may feel interested to have presented to him in an agreeable form the story of the work which led up to his successful treatment. The photographs include seven portraits of pioneers in the field.

C. H. ANDREWES.

Books Received

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

Diagnostic Procedures in Disorders of Calcium Metabolism. By B. E. C. Nordin, M.D., M.R.C.P., Ph.D., and D. A. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.Ed. (Pp. 268+xii; illustrated. £3.) London: Churchill. 1965.

Radiologic Diagnosis in Infants and Children. By Armand E. Brodeur, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.A.C.R. (Pp. 503+xii; illustrated. £9 18s.) St. Louis, Miss.: C. V. Mosby. London: Henry Kimpton. 1965.

Radioisotopes and Ionizing Radiations in Entomology. 1961-1963. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna. (Pp. 564. £3 6s.) London: H.M.S.O. 1965.

Advances in Chemotherapy. Vol. 2. Edited by Abraham Goldin, F. Hawking, and Robert J. Schnitzer. (Pp. 330+x. \$13.00.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1965.

Peritoneoscopy. By I. Wittman, M.D. (Vol. 1: pp. 187; illustrated. Vol. 2: pp. 171; illustrated. £11 11s. per set.) Budapest: Hungarian Academy of Sciences. 1966.

Current Pediatric Therapy. 1966-1967. By Sydney S. Gellis, M.D., and Benjamin M. Kagan, M.D. (Pp. 956+xii; illustrated. £6 2s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. 1966.

Klinische Anwendung der Kortisonderivate. By Dr. Laszlo Biro and Dr. Hedvig Graber. (Pp. 459. £4 4s.) Budapest: Hungarian Academy of Sciences. 1966.

Surface Anatomy. By Joseph Royce, Ph.D. (Pp. 262; illustrated. £5.) Philadelphia: F. A. Davis. 1965.

The Management of the Diabetic Patient. A Practical Guide. By Elaine P. Ralli, M.D., F.A.C.P., D.I.M. (Pp. 207+xiii; illustrated. \$7.00.) New York: Putnam's Sons. 1965.

The Peripheral Nervous System. By J. P. Schädé. (Pp. 230+3 loose colour charts; illustrated. £3.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier. 1966.

Neuro-Psychopharmacology. Vol. 4. Symposium, Birmingham, 1964. Edited by D. Bente and P. B. Bradley. (Pp. 518+xiii. £8 10s.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier. 1965.

The Law of Burial, Cremation and Exhumation. 2nd edition. By M. R. Russell Davies, Ph.D., LL.M., D.P.A. (Pp. 238+lvii. 50s.) London: Shaw. 1965.

A Practice of Anaesthesia. 2nd edition. By W. D. Wylie, M.A., M.B.(Cantab.), M.R.C.P., F.F.A.R.C.S., and H. C. Churchill-Davidson, M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), F.F.A.R.C.S. (Pp. 1,310+xvii; illustrated. £7 7s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

1966 Supplement to the British Pharmaceutical Codex 1963. Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. (Pp. 154+xviii. 45s.) London: Pharmaceutical Press. 1966.

Backache in Women. By E. Schleyer-Saunders, M.D., F.I.C.S. (Pp. 90. 21s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1965.

Anaesthesia for Nurses. By P. H. Simmons, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. (Pp. 148+vii; illustrated. 15s.) London: Heinemann. 1966.

Manson's Tropical Diseases. A Manual of the Diseases of Warm Climates. 16th edition. By Philip H. Manson-Bahr. (Pp. 1,131+xiii; illustrated. £5 10s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1966.