

The Catholic Case

Catholics, Marriage and Contraception. By John Marshall, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.M. (Pp. 212+ xv. 21s.) Dublin: Helicon. 1965.

This is a good statement of the present position of the Roman Catholic Church as marriage and contraception affect its adherents. It can be read with profit by those outside this particular Church, for ignorance of what the Church allows and of what it teaches are rife among the attackers of Roman Catholicism, and indeed even among those who profess this faith. The making of real progress in any argument depends upon the protagonists sympathetically listening to and understanding one another. The author deserves a tolerant audience from among those who do not and never will subscribe to his views.

At the outset terms are defined, and this is a great help to following the theme. One notable exception is the word conception, for to some this means fertilization only, and to others it means all the processes from fertilization up to embedding.

A historical sketch of marriage in Catholic thought is of great interest, especially where it deals with St. Paul and St. Augustine and their influence. It would seem that now marriage is not regarded as being inferior to celibacy. Later sections deal with love and Christian marriage and the need for the regulation of births. That some regulation is needed is accepted; the argument is about the means. The contraceptive pill is rejected on moral grounds, but periodic abstinence is allowed and the reasons for this are given in full. Other contraceptive methods are little touched on, for they are proscribed. None of this may be new, but

the manner of the presentation, which is without polemics, is worthy of note.

Dr. Marshall presents the Catholic case very well. Having set himself a restricted aim he has done what he wished to do. But one leaves his book wondering about the catholicity of his views. He speaks to and for an influential minority group whose opinions command respect. The bigger problem is that of the attitudes to marriage and contraception of those within the Christian tradition but not of the Christian religion. For them Dr. Marshall's opinions are one extreme of a spectrum to which neither more nor less weight will be given than to shades of opinion emanating from elsewhere. The *via media* for them is harder to find than it is for any groups whose actions are held within narrower confines.

PHILIP RHODES.

Steroid Research

Hormonal Steroids. Biochemistry, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics. Proceedings of 1st International Congress on Hormonal Steroids. Vol. 2. Edited by L. Martini and A. Pecile. (Pp. 673+xxi; illustrated. £8.) London and New York: Academic Press. 1965.

An international scientific conference is organized for the primary purpose of interchanging information among experts. The essential requirement for papers given at it is that they shall deal with technical points of topical interest and at the growing front of knowledge. The publishing of proceedings of such conferences can help greatly to disseminate knowledge, but only if they appear in print as rapidly as possible.

In the *B.M.J.* of 20 March 1965, p. 780, we criticized Volume 1 of the proceedings of this steroid conference because of the great delay in publication. It is surely very difficult to justify the publication of the second volume of the proceedings of the same conference some nine months later still. One must sympathize with the 136 contributors of papers in this volume for having to wait more than three years before seeing their work in print. They would have done far better by publishing in the orthodox medical periodicals, and would have gained the added great advantage that their work would have been recorded in the Medlar's computer, and thence listed in the *Index Medicus*. It is not an adequate defence to point to the complexity of editing papers from such widespread sources. The same complexity faced the authors, editors, and publishers of the proceedings of the second international congress of endocrinology, yet these two volumes of similar size were published within ten months of the date of the congress. Great credit should go to those who show by such example what is both desirable and possible. Judging by the experience of medical libraries and of authors receiving reprint requests, the active interest in a paper wanes rapidly after two years. After three years many papers become out of date and out of context.

Further studies of consumer appeal on the lines of the analysis of P. Weiss (*Science*, 1960, 131, 1716) may be needed to convince some publishers of the need for greater urgency in publication. All genuine research workers are very much aware of the need. They are not likely to require this book in their work, for they will surely have taken steps long ago to find out what transpired in their own fields at this congress in May 1962.

C. L. COPE.

Books Received

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

A Guide to Cardiology. 2nd edition. By J. C. Leonard, M.D., M.R.C.P., and E. G. Galea, M.B., M.R.C.P., M.R.A.C.P. (Pp. 306+xii; illustrated. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Handbook of Physiology. Section 2: Circulation. Volume 3. Edited by W. F. Hamilton. (Pp. 1,787-2,765+vi; illustrated. £12 16s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1965.

Paediatric Therapy. 2nd edition. By Harry C. Shirkey, B.S.(Pharm), M.D., F.A.A.P. (Pp. 1,223+xx; illustrated. £6 18s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1966.

Principles of Pathology. 2nd edition. By Howard C. Hopps, M.D. (Pp. 403+xvii; illustrated. No price given.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1964.

Schöpfungstag und Mensch der Zukunft. By Paul Lüth. (Pp. 350. DM. 14.80.) Düsseldorf: Eugen Diederichs. 1965.

Protides of the Biological Fluids. 13th Colloquium, Bruges, 1965. Edited by H. Peeters. (Pp. 476+x; illustrated. £7 5s.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier. 1966.

Cliniques Africaines. By M. Payet, P. Pène, and M. Sankalé. (Pp. 505; illustrated. 56 F.) Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 1966.

Clinical Venereology. For Nurses and Students. By Benjamin Schwartz, M.D.(Lond.), D.P.H. (Pp. 135+viii. 15s.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1966.

Canadian Cancer Conference. Proceedings of 6th Canadian Cancer Research Conference, Honey Harbour, Ontario, 1964. (Pp. 525+viii; illustrated. £5 5s.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1966.

Treatment of Haemophilia and Other Coagulation Disorders. Edited by Rosemary Biggs, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., and R. G. MacFarlane, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.S. (Pp. 391+xvii; illustrated. 75s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

Current Diagnosis and Treatment. 5th edition. By Henry Brainerd, M.D., Sheldon Margen, M.D., and Milton J. Chatton, M.D. (Pp. 916. 72s.) Los Altos, California: Lange. Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

Basic Human Embryology. By P. L. Williams, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.(Cantab.), C. P. Wendell-Smith, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.A.C.E. (Pp. 136; illustrated. 25s.) London: Pitman. 1966.

Current Topics in Thyroid Research. Proceedings of 5th International Thyroid Conference, Rome, 1965. Edited by C. Cassano and M. Andreoli. (Pp. 1,219+xxvii; illustrated. £16 16s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1966.

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Vol. 5. Edited by Geoffrey H. Bourne. (Pp. 330+ix. £7.) London: Pitman. 1966.

The Foundations of Genetics. By F. A. E. Crew, F.R.S. (Pp. 202+xiii; illustrated. 21s.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1966.

Vertebrate Biochemistry. In Preparation for Medicine. 2nd edition. By M. W. Neil, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 396+xiv. 45s.) London: Pitman. 1966.

Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences. 13th edition. Edited by Eric W. Martin, Ph.C., B.Sc., M.S., Ph.D. (Pp. 1,954+xii; illustrated. £10 12s.) London: John Wiley. 1966.

The Hand. Clinical Surgery—7. Edited by R. Guy Pulvertaft, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 355+ix; illustrated. £4 17s. 6d.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

Ischio-Femoral Arthrodesis. By John Crawford Adams, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 112+vi; illustrated. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Renal Function and Renal Failure. By Lionel M. Bernstein, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 143+viii; illustrated.) **A Programmed Text.** By Lionel M. Bernstein, M.D., Ph.D., Jerome S. Allender, Ph.D., Arthur S. Elstein, Ph.D., and Robert B. Epstein, M.D. (Pp. 215+viii; illustrated. 60s. each book. £5 8s. set of 2 books.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1965.