

laboratory workers wherever they may be. It is a "must" for every medical library and laboratory.

A. E. MOURANT.

Medicine through the Ages

Medical Advance, Public Health and Social Evolution. By Charles Wilcocks, C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H. (Pp. 271+vi; illustrated. 21s.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1965.

This is an important and interesting book. It is published in a paperback, although many of its readers are likely to consider it worthy of a more durable form. Dr. Wilcocks, an eminent authority on tropical medicine, has employed his well-earned leisure in writing a book showing the relation of medical advance to the various periods of history.

Egyptian medicine is regarded by Hebrew and Greek historians as the original source of medical knowledge, and we know from Herodotus how specialized was its practice. "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians," and the book of *Leviticus* is a compendium of sanitary law. Assyria had a code of medicine—the Hammarubi Code. Dr. Wilcocks rightly devotes his first chapter to Greek and Roman life and medicine, with special reference to Hippocrates, Aristotle, Galen, and Celsus. As Osler said: "Like everything that is good and durable in the world modern medicine is the product of the Greek intellect." The practice of hygiene, life in the open air, sunlight-therapy, and a balanced dietary were familiar to the Greeks in the fifth century B.C. They had the sun temples of Cos and Epidauros, the health principles of Hippocrates, Alcmaeon, and Empedocles; and Greek medicine was active and progressive until the schoolmen of the Middle Ages considered that the writings and teaching of Galen could not be improved upon or their validity questioned. There is

a brief discussion on Indian and Persian life and medicine as set forth by Sigerist.

The chapter on the Middle Ages mentions that Latin translations of Arabic versions were available to medical practitioners of that period. Indeed, modern historical research shows that they and their patients benefited from the advances they made in practical medicine and public health, while Roger Bacon and others explored the mysteries of science. Then came the Renaissance and with it the resuscitation of science and medicine in England by William Gilbert, William Harvey, Francis Bacon, and others leading on to the foundation of the Royal Society and the notable medical advances made in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

The remaining chapters deal with subjects concerning special discoveries and aspects of medicine, including the development of hygiene, knowledge of infection, midwifery, surgery, bacteriology, public health administration, antibiotics, anaesthesia, occupational and psychological medicine, the welfare state, and the National Health Service.

This scholarly work is much more than a book for senior form schoolboys, its ostensible purpose. Students of medicine, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, will find it helpful and informative.

ARTHUR S. MACNALT.

Murder-Suicide

Murder Followed by Suicide. An Inquiry Carried Out for the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge. By Dr. D. J. West. (Pp. 181 +vii. 35s.) London: Heinemann. 1965.

The ratio of suicides to murders in England and Wales was 5,000/150 when this study was carried out some years ago. One-third of the murders, which is a surprisingly high proportion, were followed by suicide. Twenty-eight per cent of the patients admitted to Broadmoor following charges of murder during the last 20 years had attempted suicide at the time of the crime.

These are the sober facts with which this inquiry, carried out for the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge, is concerned. A sample of 148 murders followed by suicide was compared with an equally large sample of murders only. The former group was found to be less socially deviant than the latter. The overt motives of the murder-suicides were similar to those of suicide. They appeared to be suicides extended to involve an innocent victim rather than murders followed by suicide as an afterthought of fear or remorse. Only 19 out of 148 murder-suicides had a record of a previous criminal conviction. Half of both the murder-suicide offenders and the murderers were legally insane or could claim diminished responsibility. This proportion has remained constant throughout this century.

A detailed study of murder-suicide confirmed the importance of aggressive tendencies in depressive illness emphasized by psychoanalysts. A significant number of the legally sane murder-suicides were in poor physical health, and a history of previous suicidal attempts was common. Among the murder-suicides there was a large number of women offenders and child victims. Only a few of them had previous convictions, and the young thug so common among the murderers was entirely absent. Several of the murder-suicide offences could have been prevented by timely psychiatric diagnosis.

This study is a notable contribution to the understanding of the relationship between homicide and suicide, which proves to be much closer than is generally assumed. If, as the author has demonstrated, one in three murders are extended suicides, and half of all the murderers are mentally ill, the need for more psychiatric research in this area is overwhelming.

It will be interesting to see whether the abolition of the death penalty will in the long run have an effect on the ratio between murder-suicides and murders. It would not be surprising if it had, because the death penalty is experienced as self-inflicted punishment by some murderers.

E. STENGEL.

Books Received

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

Lectures on Glaucoma. By Paul A. Chandler, M.D., and W. Morton Grant, M.D. (Pp. 431; illustrated. 93s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1965.

L'Occhio. Iconografia Anatomica. Part 1, vol. 1. By Giorgio W. Vassura. (Pp. 99. 43 plates. No price given.) Milan: Italseber. 1966.

Serving the Cause of Public Health. Selected Papers of Andrija Stampar. Edited by M. D. Grmek. (Pp. 258; illustrated. \$7.) Zagreb: Andrija Stampar School of Public Health. 1966.

One Man's Practice. By Ray S. Greco, M.D., A.A.G.P., with Rex A. Pittenger, M.D. (Pp. 124+xviii. 25s.) London: Tavistock. 1966.

Clinical Surgery. Vol. 12. Fractures and Dislocations. Edited by Ronald Furlong, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 276+ix; illustrated. £4 10s. per volume in complete set.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

Clinical Surgery. Vol. 11. Ear, Nose and Throat. Edited by Maxwell Ellis, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 283+ix; illustrated. £4 10s. per volume in complete set.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

A Correlative Study Guide for Neuroanatomy. By James L. Hall, Ph.D., and Albert O. Humbertson, Jun., Ph.D. (Pp. 146+ix; illustrated. 30s.) New York and London: Harper & Row. 1966.

The Brain Vascular System. By Harry A. Kaplan and Donald H. Ford. (Pp. 230; illustrated. 70s.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier. 1966.

Enquête sur l'Étiologie et la Prophylaxie de la Bronchite Chronique et de l'Emphysème Pulmonaire. By R. Kourilsky, D. Brille, J. Carton, J. Hatte, and J.-C. Hinglais. (Pp. 284. 12.50 F.) Paris: Hôpital Saint-Antoine. 1966.

The Ciba Collection of Medical Illustrations. Vol. 4. Endocrine System and Selected Metabolic Diseases. Prepared by Frank H. Netter, M.D. (Pp. 287+xiv; illustrated. £7 16s. 9d.) Horsham, Sussex: Ciba. 1966.

Orthopedics. A Concise Guide to Clinical Practices. By William R. MacAusland, Jun., M.D., and Richard A. Mayo, M.D. (Pp. 330+x; illustrated. £2 5s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

Statistical Atlas on Public Health in the Federal Republic of Germany. Vol. 2. 1965 edition. In German, English, and French. (Pp. 228; illustrated. DM. 25.) Stuttgart and Mainz: Kohlhammer. 1966.

Foundations of Thoracic Surgery. By F. Ronald Edwards, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 180+vii; illustrated. 50s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Livingstone's Pocket Medical Dictionary. 10th edition. By Nancy Roper, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., R.N.T. (Pp. 557+xvi; illustrated. 8s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

The Year Book of Radiology. 1965-1966 Series. Edited by John Floyd Holt, M.D., Walter M. Whitehouse, M.D., and Howard B. Latourette, M.D. (Pp. 478; illustrated. 90s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.