

to orthoptists, including the prevention and treatment of amblyopia and the encouragement of full binocular function. Finally there is a chapter on dyslexia which, though not ophthalmological, widens the scope of those who are concerned with the sense of sight.

All over the world there are busy ophthalmic surgeons who find difficulty in keeping up to date with current developments, and who have not enough time to cover the very wide range of journals which rightly contain much that is of academic rather than immediate practical value. There must be very few who would not derive instruction as well as fresh stimulation from reading a book such as this.

This volume, like its predecessor, is beautifully produced and illustrated, and is another fine achievement by the ophthalmic team of St. Louis.

HAROLD RIDLEY.

## Using Computers Usefully

**Medical Records, Medical Education, and Patient Care.** By Lawrence L. Weed, M.D. (Pp. 250+x; illustrated. 63s.) Cleveland: Press of Case Western Reserve University. 1969.

This book is to be welcomed. It is a long time since we had a new book on basic medical documentation. In the enthusiastic rush to play with computers it is often forgotten that successful computer application depends as much as anything else on the original data input. "Garbage in, garbage out" is dutifully taught in all the computer training courses. It is as dutifully repeated by the numerous offending pupils without any sense of their own guilt. But the plain truth is that though a computer can be given rules for the detection of the more obvious errors of commission or omission and can be given rules for assuming the correction of some items that should conform to pattern (age, for example), it can do nothing to repair a seriously deficient record.

The author of this book has set out to

demonstrate this simple truth; he has done it exceedingly well and has provided a valuable service to medicine. He argues that developed standards for the preparation of the medical record do not exist. This is perhaps a little unfair to earlier work in the U.S.A. Edna Huffman in her pioneering textbook on medical records<sup>1</sup> insisted that "to be complete, the medical record must contain sufficient data written in sequence of events to justify the diagnosis and warrant the treatment and end results" and she demonstrated very clearly what she meant. Later we had Professor Mary Servatia's excellent book<sup>2</sup> on case record analysis, the analysis in question representing a comparison of content and presentation against a standard. Both volumes have extensive bibliographies so that it is not quite true to say that "there is in existence at the present time no body of literature on how to structure the medical record. . . ."

In the modern context, especially now that computers have made every record more dynamic (more retrievable), the author's next point is valid. "The medical record need not be simply a static *proforma* repository of medical observations . . . in the meaningless order of source . . . it can be problem-oriented." This is what the book is all about. He goes on to show how the problem-oriented record can become a powerful vehicle for medical education. What precisely is meant by problem-oriented is then developed in detail. First the problem list—the reference here is to the patient's medical and social problems; then the plan for dealing with the problem; then the monitoring of the plan—that is, the progress notes. Flow sheets to facilitate comprehension and interpretation of related data are then considered, and finally the discharge summaries are considered in similar form. A chapter on "computerization of the medical record" begins with the wild generalization that "every phase of medical action will benefit from computerization"; it is mainly concerned with the improvement of the data base and the value of proper record structure in facilitating computer processing whether for visual display or statistical analysis.

The book is generously illustrated and written in an attractive style. The experience of Dr. Weed is apparent in the commonsense of every sentence, and it makes good general medical educational reading.

B. BENJAMIN.

### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Huffman, Edna K., *Manual for Medical Records Librarians*, Chicago, Physicians' Record Company, 1941.
- <sup>2</sup> Servatia, Mary, *Medical Case Record Analysis*, Saint Louis, Missouri, The Catholic Hospital Association, 1956.

## Doctor's Autobiography

**Under the Cherry Tree.** By Robert Hughes Parry. (Pp. 163; illustrated. 25s.) Llandysul: Gomerian Press. 1969.

Robert Hughes Parry is known internationally as a fervid Welshman, as a leading British authority on the teaching and practice of social medicine, and as a most distinguished former Medical Officer of Health of Bristol—one of the most progressive cities in England.

From retirement in a garden in Wales he has written a charming, gossipy, anecdotal autobiography in which he mixes stories of his activities in America during and after the war—under the aegis of the Ministry of Information—with accounts of advisory visits by invitation to Greece, Iran, and other countries, and of a jaunt to Australia and New Zealand for a B.M.A. meeting. The world is full of his friends and admirers, and his book reflects his cheerful but basically sound philosophy. His comments on overcentralization of health administration and on local government organization are worthy of close study, as is his advice on the conduct of visiting technical advisers in countries with civilizations older than our own.

He is to be congratulated on a most readable book which, with its numerous photographs of the Parry family and of people met on his travels, will give pleasure to a host of friends this winter.

GEORGE R. McROBERT.

## Books Received

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later.*

**Ophthalmology:** Principles and Concepts. 2nd edition. By Frank W. Newell, M.D., M.Sc. (Ophth.) (Pp. 527+x; illustrated. 140s.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1969. London: Henry Kimpton.

**Cardiac Arrest and Resuscitation.** 3rd edition. By Hugh E. Stephenson, jun., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 659+xix; illustrated. 265s.) St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1969. London: Henry Kimpton.

**The Dawn Warriors:** Man's Evolution Toward Peace. By Robert Bigelow. (Pp. 277+x; 35s.) London: Hutchinson. 1970.

**Preparation for the Study of Medicine.** Edited by Robert G. Page and Mary H. Littlemeyer. (Pp. 287+vii; 45s.) Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press. 1969.

**Progesterone:** Its Regulatory Effect on the Myometrium. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Julie Knight. (Pp. 193+x; illustrated. 30s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1969.

**Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment.** Edited by Richard Green, M.D. and John Money, Ph.D. (Pp. 512+xxii; illustrated. 143s.) London: Johns Hopkins. 1969.

**Mind, Brain and Adaptation in the Nineteenth Century.** By Robert M. Young. (Pp. 278+xiv; 65s.) Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1970.

**Congenital Defects.** By Lauri Saxen and Juhani Rapola. (Pp. 247+viii; illustrated. \$5.95.) New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston. 1969.

**Gastroenterologic Medicine.** Edited by Moses Paulson, M.D. (Pp. 1627+xviii; illustrated. 540s.) London: Henry Kimpton. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger. 1969.

**Cell and Tissue Culture.** 4th Edition. By John Paul, F.R.S.E., Ph.D., M.R.C.P., M.C.Path. (Pp. 430+xi; illustrated. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

**Davison's Compleat Pediatrician.** 9th Edition. Edited by Jay M. Arena, M.D. (Pp. 792+xi; 175s.) London: Henry Kimpton. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger. 1969.

**Shaw and the Doctors.** By Roger Boxill. (Pp. 199+xviii; \$5.95) New York, London: Basic Books. 1969.

**The Medical and Legal Aspects of Sanitary Reform.** By Alexander P. Stewart and Edward Jenkins. (Pp. 100; 32s.) Leicester: Leicester University Press. 1969.

**Analytical Serology of Microorganisms.** Vol. II. Edited by J. B. G. Kwapinski. (Pp. 681+viii; illustrated. 260s.) Chichester, Sussex: John Wiley. 1969.

**The Late Effects of Head Injury.** Edited by A. Earl Walker, M.D., W. F. Caveness, M.D., and MacDonald Critchley, M.D. (Pp. 560+xvii; illustrated. \$24.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

**Diseases of the Colon and Anorectum.** Vol. 1 & 2. 2nd Edition. Edited by Robert Turrell, M.D. (Pp. 1375; illustrated. Set 552s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1969.

**The Practice of Behaviour Therapy.** By Joseph Wolpe, M.D. (Pp. 314+x; 50s. Flexi-cover.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1969.

## Coming Events

**Cardiff Medical and Dental Old Students' Association.**—Conversazione, 7 February, Medical School House, Howard Place, Cardiff. Details from Academic Registrar, Welsh National School of Medicine, 34 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1YE.

**Royal Medico-Psychological Association.**—Two-day lecture course, 9-10 February, Royal Society of Medicine. Admission is by ticket and is open to members of the R.M.P.A. and to those who signify their intention of becoming members. Early application should be made to the Registrar, R.M.P.A., Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W.1.

**Harveian Society of London.**—Meeting, "Medicine and the Common Market," 18 February, 8.15 p.m., Royal College of Physicians of London. Lord Cohen will speak first, followed by speakers from Common Market countries.

**Mental Health Research Fund.**—Sir Geoffrey Vickers lecture, "Recent Research into Aggressive Behaviour—Junction of Biological and Behavioural Sciences" by Professor D. A. Hamburg (California), 18 February, 5.30 p.m., Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London W.1.

**Institute of Urology.**—Week-end course, "Essentials of Urology," 20-22 February. For details see advertisement on page xx.

**Lectures in Orthopaedic and Accident Surgery.**—At Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, and Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, February—December. Copies of the programme are obtainable from Mr. R. H. Maudsley, Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berks.

**Cripps Postgraduate Medical Centre, Northampton.**—Details of the programme of meetings and lectures for February-May are obtainable from the Clinical Tutor, General Hospital, Northampton.

**North London Postgraduate Medical Centre.**—Details of the programme of meetings and lectures for February-July are obtainable from the Postgraduate Secretary, Block 6, St. Ann's General Hospital, St. Ann's Road, South Tottenham, London N.15.

## Societies and Lectures

For attending lectures marked ● a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

**Monday, 2 February**  
**BLAIR BELL RESEARCH SOCIETY.**—At Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 5.30 p.m., ordinary meeting, papers will be read.  
**INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.**—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference.  
**LONDON MEDICAL GROUP.**—At Westminster Medical School, 5.45 p.m., symposium: When is Death?

**Tuesday, 3 February**  
**BOLTON AND DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—At Bolton Medical Institute, 8.15 p.m., B.M.A. lecture by Professor R. H. Girdwood: Disorders due to Drugs and Doctors.  
**CROYDON MEDICAL CENTRE.**—At Mayday Hospital, 1 p.m., talk by the pathologists: Tropical Problems in Darkest Surrey.

**GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.**—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 8 p.m., R.C.G.P. meeting, Mr. L. P. Thomas: Minor Surgical Problems—Pilonidal Sinus, Ingrowing Toenails, and Venous Ulcers.  
**LONDON MEDICAL GROUP.**—At Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 5.45 p.m., Dr. D. W. Vere: Testing Drugs.  
**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor J. E. A. Wickham: A Method of Regional Renal Hypothermia.

## Wednesday, 4 February

**GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.**—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 2.15 p.m., combined round; 5 p.m., surgical meeting, clinical research report by Mr. L. P. Thomas.  
**INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.**—5 p.m., Dr. H. Nicholson: Aspergillosis in Pulmonary Tuberculosis.  
**INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPAEDICS.**—At Great Portland Street, London, W.1, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon, 6 p.m.—7 p.m., and 8.15 p.m., instructional course: Growth and Metabolic Disorders.  
**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. I. M. Marks: Flooding and Desensitization in Treatment of Phobic Disorders.  
**INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.**—5 p.m., Dr. R. C. B. Pugh: Pathology of Urothelial Malignancy.  
**MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.**—At National Institute for Medical Research, London, N.W.7, 4.30 p.m., Professor J. M. Ghuysen (Liege): Biochemistry of Bacterial Walls in Relation to the Membrane.  
**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Professor R. F. Jacox (New York): Possible Role of Emotions in Rheumatoid Arthritis.  
**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.**—5.15 p.m., Tudor Edwards memorial lecture by Professor J. G. Scadding: Lung Biopsy in Diagnosis of Diffuse Pulmonary Disease.  
**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.**—5.15 p.m., Dr. Celia Oakley: Infective Endocarditis.  
**BROOK GENERAL HOSPITAL, LONDON.**—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, 8.15 p.m., Dr. R. S. Kocen: Epilepsy and other Causes of Loss of Consciousness.  
**ASSURANCE MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—At 11 Chandos Street, London W.1, 5 p.m., Professor C. T. Dollery: Prognosis of Treated Hypertension.

## Thursday, 5 February

**CENTRAL MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.**—12 noon, Special guest lecture by Professor W. Peart, F.R.S.: Transplantation.  
**CHILTERN MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—At Wycombe General Hospital, High Wycombe, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting.  
**LONDON MEDICAL GROUP.**—At Guy's Hospital Medical School, 5.45 p.m., Dr. J. Read: Beliefs and their Effect on Students and their Parents.  
**NORTHAMPTON MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—8.30 p.m., Wing Commander P. Stevens: Forensic Aspects of Fatal Flying Accidents.  
**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—5.30 p.m., otolaryngology lecture by Mr. J. E. Wright: Proptosis.  
**ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.**—6 p.m., Nuffield lecture by Professor M. Polanyi, F.R.S.: Science and Man.  
**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—At Wright Fleming Institute Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. Elizabeth Stanley: Psychosexual Disorders.

## Friday, 6 February

**BROOK GENERAL HOSPITAL, LONDON.**—At Postgraduate Medical Centre, 2 p.m., general medicine, Dr. W. E. Mahon will show cases.  
**CROYDON MEDICAL CENTRE.**—At Mayday Hospital, 1 p.m., Dr. A. Graham: Psychiatric Assessment of Suicidal Risk.  
**INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. L. Sinclair: The Child's Face.  
**NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY.**—At Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford, 6.30 p.m., Mr. N. W. Nisbet: On the Introduction of Immunological Tolerance.  
**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.**—3 p.m., Professor I. D. A. Johnston: Late Results of Surgery for Peptic Ulceration.  
**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—10 a.m., Staff round; 11 a.m., Mr. K. C. McKeown: Carcinoma of the Oesophagus (and film); 12 noon, discussion by Mr. R. H. Franklin.

## Saturday, 7 February

**NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY.**—At Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford, 8.30 a.m., Mr. N. W. Nisbet: Delayed Hypersensitivity States and Autoimmunity; 9.45 a.m., Dr. J. G. G. Ledingham: Musculoskeletal Problems in Renal Transplantation.  
**BRITISH SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY.**—At Royal Society of Medicine, London W.1, 10.30 a.m., meeting: Oral Communication in the Deaf.

## Appointments

**NORTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.**—M. Fanning, M.B., F.F.A. R.C.S. (Consultant Anaesthetist to the South Essex Group of Hospitals); D. P. Winstanley, M.B., M.R.C.P., M.C.Path. (Consultant Pathologist to Brentwood Group of Hospitals).

## Universities and Colleges

## ABERDEEN

M. D. *In absentia*.—D. P. Dhall (with commendation), D. Femi-Pearse.

## GLASGOW

M. D.—I. A. Chisholm, \*O. O. Hunponu-Wusu, \*J. A. Thomson.

Ph.D.—*In the Faculty of Medicine*: A. Lang, Helen Thomou.

M.B., Ch.B.—W. R. Cook, H. A. A. G. Fleming, Barbara J. Forgan, C. M. Kesson, Fiona MacK. Key, R. K. J. Mackinnon, R. P. O'Hare, Anne G. Robb, R. B. Stoney, A. R. T. Thompson.

\* With commendation.

## DUNDEE

Appointment.—Dr. P. M. Ford (lecturer in medicine).

## CAMBRIDGE

Ph.D.—*In the Faculty of Medicine*: E. P. Wraight.

M.B.—I. A. H. Sitwell.

## Corrections

## Progress in Medical Genetics

The last paragraph of Dr. R. T. C. Pratt's review of Vol. 6 of *Progress in Medical Genetics* (10 January, p. 100) should have read: Human genetics have been well served with the publication of these volumes.

## Anticholinergic Drugs in Diarrhoea

A letter on this subject from Dr. Joseph Zelmanowits (10 January, v. 114) was wrongly titled "Purgatives." The letter dealt with the treatment of diarrhoea.

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