

Disorders of the Biliary Tract

The Biliary Tract. By Gerald S. Dowdy, jun., M.D. (Pp. 316 + xiii; illustrated. 162s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1969. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger.

The prospect of a 300-page volume devoted solely to the biliary tract might appear to be daunting. However, this single author volume proves that it is possible to be quite comprehensive and yet completely avoid dullness. The book is an absolute mine of information on all matters relating to structure, function, disease, investigation, and surgical treatment of the gall bladder and bile ducts, and it is clear that a considerable amount of work and experience has been incorporated in its pages. Much of the writing, even where it deals with essentially factual matter, has a distinct scholarly style, which sustains the reader's interest, and encourages him to read on. Historical notes in medical text books are often simply catalogues of the first people to recognize pathological changes, or introduce new forms of treatment, but Dr. Dowdy has an obvious deep respect for those who have laid the foundations of our present day understanding of disorders of the biliary tree, and his historical comments are both entertaining and instructive.

Many practical tips regarding both the investigation and treatment of biliary tract diseases are contained in the chapters on radiology, clinical and laboratory diagnosis, and surgery. The illustrations are numerous and well selected, and of particular value are the realistic line diagrams of the many various operative procedures. In a few instances the quality of reproduction of x-rays perhaps leaves a little to be desired.

As can be expected from a North American book, there is a strong tendency to advocate early surgical treatment of patients presenting with acute cholecystitis. In sev-

eral sections of the book the pros and cons for this policy are argued quite reasonably, and perhaps the only moderate criticism which might be made is the strong persistence in favouring the early operative approach even in the face of data from the author's own impressive series showing clearly an increase in both mortality and morbidity following operations for acute cholecystitis as compared with similar surgery for more chronic conditions. There are, however, many sides to this question, and it is but one example of how it is possible to interpret data in a variety of different ways. The British reader might also be a little surprised at the average length of time taken to perform the various standard operations calculated from large series.

These small criticisms in no way detract from the overall high quality of this book. The trouble taken over its writing is rewarded in a book which is easy to read, full of useful information, well laid out, adequately indexed—but regrettably expensive.

IAIN E. GILLESPIE.

How Fast is Speed?

The Child's Conception of Movement and Speed. By Jean Piaget. (Pp. 306 + xi; 50s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1970.

In this world of parsecs and sophisticated travel we may be inclined to take concepts of movement and speed for granted. This is an unwise assumption, and Piaget shows that such concepts develop in the course of a long and laborious process of individual mental evolution. Piaget's contributions to the study of mental development include the recognition of its phasic character and the regularity with which one stage precedes another, each stage being a prerequisite for further development. This approach renders

easier a proper understanding of educational processes and difficulties in the contemporary stage of social development in industrial countries. It also throws light on the handicapped child and on the thinking of primitive man with limited facilities for quantitative measurement, and who is therefore left to rely on qualitative or intuitive assessment of natural phenomena.

Much of the mental activity described by Piaget in this volume is presumably conditioned by the development of measuring devices such as watches, rules, and protractors which soon become familiar to the young child. The change to the metric system symbolizes a step in social evolution away from "natural" measures such as feet and paces to more artificial, though more convenient, measures. The present work is based on studies on young Swiss children and is one of a series of volumes directed to the psychological development of the child. Each volume studies some facet in depth. There is, for example, a separate volume on *The Child's Conception of Time* and another on *The Mechanisms of Perception* which are obviously complementary to the present work.

Piaget distinguishes a long elaboration of responses to experience of movement and speed at first sensori-motor, then intuitive, and finally operational. He suggests that even in the operational stage a qualitative stage is passed through before a quantitative and metrical approach is developed. To those who are not familiar with the conceptual difficulties of young children it may seem strange that at the end of a race they may judge speed intuitively by the order of arrival irrespective of distance covered.

This work is useful for those who do teaching of any kind. For those interested in child development, child psychiatrists, and those concerned with mental handicap or brain function, it is essential reading.

BRIAN KIRMAN.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Angiostromylosis in the Pacific and South-East Asia. By Joseph E. Alicata, Ph.D., and Karel Jindrak. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

Tuberculosis. By Anthony M. Lowell, Lydia B. Edwards, and Carroll E. Palmer. (Pp. 230 + xxvi; illustrated. \$6.00.) Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. 1969.

Clinical Neuro-ophthalmology. 3rd edition. Vols. 1, 2 & 3. By Frank B. Walsh, M.D., F.R.C.S., and William Fletcher Hoyt, A.B., M.D. (Pp. 2763 + xi; illustrated. 1100s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1969.

A Way of Life. By William Osler. An Address Delivered to Yale Students Sunday Evening, 20 April, 1913. (Pp. 41 + ix; \$3.95.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1969.

Standardization in Immunofluorescence. A Symposium Edited by E. J. Holborow, M. M.D. (Pp. 282 + xv; illustrated. 75s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1970.

Handling of Radiation Accidents. Proceedings of a Symposium, Vienna, 19-23 May 1969. (Pp. 710; illustrated. 166s. 8d.) London: H.M.S.O. 1969.

Environmental Contamination by Radioactive Materials. Proceedings of a Seminar, Vienna, 24-28 March, 1969. (Pp. 746; illustrated. 166s. 8d.) London: H.M.S.O. 1969.

Radiation-Induced Cancer. Proceedings of a Symposium, Athens, 28 April-2 May, 1969 (Pp. 496; illustrated. 108s. 4d.) London: H.M.S.O. 1969.

Conybeare's Textbook of Medicine. 15th edition. Edited by W. N. Mann, F.R.C.P., and M. H. Lessof, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 935 + xii; illustrated. 160s.) Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

The Human Kidney: What Everyone Should Know. By James F. Mowbray, M.R.C.P., and Richard A. Parker, M.D. (Pp. 58, illustrated. 12s.) London: Health Horizon 1970

Mechanisms of Urine Concentration and Dilution in Mammals. By S. E. Dicker, M.D. (Pp. 214 + x; illustrated. 65s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1970.

In the Beginning. Studies of Maternity Services. Edited by Gordon McLachlan and Richard Shegog. (Pp. 186 + xi; 35s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1970.

Surgical Gynecology. 4th edition. By J. P. Greenhill, M.D. (Pp. 403; illustrated. 117s.) Chichester, Sussex: John Wiley. 1970.

Mass Field Trials of the Diet-Heart Question. By Edward H. Ahrens, Jun. (Pp. 51 + xi; \$4.00.) New York: American Heart Association. 1969.

The Care of the Elderly Diabetic. (Pp. 20; 1s. 6d.) London: British Diabetic Association. 1970.

Mild Diabetes: The Management at Home of Mild Diabetes who do not Require Insulin Therapy. By Joan B. Walker, M.D. (Pp. 29; 3s.) London: British Diabetic Association. 1970.

International Targets for Development. Edited by Richard Symonds. (Pp. 266; 25s. Paperback. 50s. Cloth.) London: Faber & Faber. 1970.

Living Anatomy: A Photographic Atlas of Muscles in Action and Surface Contours. By R. D. Lockhart, M.D., Ch.M. (Pp. 91; illustrated. 15s.) London: Faber & Faber. 1970.

A History of Bladder Stone. By Harold Ellis, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 77 + x; illustrated. 35s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1970.

Christiaan Barnard One Life: By Christiaan Barnard, and Curtis Bill Pepper. (Pp. 536, illustrated. 55s.) London: George G. Harrap. 1970.

Textbook of Pediatrics. 9th edition. Edited by Waldo E. Nelson, M.D. (Pp. 1590 + xxiv; illustrated. 183s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1969.

Psychiatric Research in Our Changing World. Edited by G. F. D. Heseltine. (Pp. 184 + xii; illustrated. 113s.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1969.

La Chirurgie des Anévrismes des l'Aorte. By Ch. Dubost, D. Guilmet and R. Soyer. (Pp. 296; illustrated. 120 F.) Paris: Masson. 1970.

Freeman of Liverpool

LORD COHEN OF BIRKENHEAD is to be made a Freeman of Liverpool "in recognition of his service to humanity in the advancement of medical knowledge and the treatment and care of the sick."

Coming Events

Institute of Cancer Research: Royal Cancer Hospital.—Course, "The Lymphoid System and its Tumours," 13-15 April, Chester Beatty Research Institute, London S.W.3. Fee £10 10s. Applications, by 30 March, to the Dean, Institute of Cancer Research, 34 Summer Place, London S.W.7. (Tel. 01-584 9112).

Croydon Medical Centre.—Copies of the programme of lectures and courses, April-June, are obtainable from the clinical tutor of the centre, Mayday Hospital, Mayday Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 7YE. (Tel. Thornton Heath 6999, extn. 355.)

General Practitioner Research Club.—One-day research symposia, 10 April, Aberdeen. Details from Dr. R. C. Fraser, 28 Uppingham Road, Leicester. (Tel. Leicester 67439).

1st International Congress on Group Medicine.—"New Horizons in Health Care," 26-30 April, Winnipeg. The congress is sponsored by the Canadian Association of Medical Clinics and is endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association. Details from the Congress Secretariat, 425 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba, Canada.

Irish Ophthalmological Society.—Annual meeting, 30 April-1 May, Dublin. Details from Mr. G. P. CROOKES, 18 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

Second International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association.—3-8 May 1970, Brighton. Details from the Secretary-General of the Congress, Land House, 20 Newgate Street, London E.C.1.

First Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology Congress.—7-13 May, Turkey. Applications, not later than 30 March, to the Congress Administrative Office, P.K.76, Cebeci-Ankara, Turkey.

Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in South Africa.—One-day regional meeting, 9 May, Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town.

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, 16 March

INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH.—5.30 p.m., Mr. H. Shaw: Some Modern Techniques in Diagnosis of Head and Neck Cancer.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.—5.30 p.m., Combined staff consultation clinical meeting.

LONDON MEDICAL GROUP.—At Westminster Medical School, 5.45 p.m., Professor T. C. N. Gibbens: Effect of Imprisonment on Society and the Individual.

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL POSTGRADUATE CENTRE.—5.30 p.m. Clinical conference.

Tuesday, 17 March

CROYDON MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Mayday Hospital, 1 p.m., Dr. D. Ryde: Medical Puzzle—Mini Hypnosis in General Practice.

GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 8 p.m., Medical Society Meeting: Some Aspects of Surgery of Adrenal Gland.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Hammersmith Hospital (1) 2 p.m., Professor P. Curzen: Anaemia in Pregnancy; (2) 4.30 p.m., Dr. Elizabeth Tylden: Psychiatric Aspects of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.)●

LONDON MEDICAL GROUP.—At Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine 5.45 p.m., Miss Josephine Barnes: Women in Medicine.

Wednesday, 18 March

BRITISH PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL SOCIETY.—At Friends House, Euston Road, London N.W.1, 8.15 p.m., Ernest Jones lecture by Sir Denis Hill: The Contributions of Psycho-Analysis to Psychiatry.

GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 2.15 p.m., gynaecological and obstetrics meeting, Mr. B. Eton; 2.15 p.m., medical meeting.

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 UROLOGY.—5 p.m., Dr. H. J. G. Bloom: Radiotherapy in Urinary Tract Malignancy.

MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Birmingham Medical Institute, 8.30 p.m., Professor C. J. Polson: Murders that Never Were.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS.—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference: (1) Tuberculous Endometritis and Pregnancy; (2) Lesions of the Cervix simulating Carcinoma.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND: FACULTY OF ANAESTHETISTS.—4 p.m., Joseph Clover lecture by Professor J. P. Payne: The Quality of Measurement.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Kent and Sussex Hospital, 12.45 p.m., Dr. R. M. Miller: Tiredness.

WILLESDEN GENERAL HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—8.30 p.m., Dr. M. P. Joyston-Bechal: The Mask of Depression.

Thursday, 19 March

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY.—At Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, department of child health, 5.30 p.m., Dr. C. M. Drilling: Low Birth Weight and Some of its Consequences.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 3 p.m., discussion: Rhesus Incompatibility. Speaker, Professor D. V. I. Fairweather. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.)●

KENNEDY INSTITUTE OF RHEUMATOLOGY, LONDON.—5 p.m., Dr. J. T. Dingle: Immuno-inhibition in the Study of Articular Tissue degradation.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—8 p.m., Florence Blair-Bell memorial lecture by Sir Brian Windeyer.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Wright Fleming Institute Theatre, 5 p.m., Mr. G. C. Liggins (Auckland): Regulation of Myometrial Function in Pregnancy.

Friday, 20 March

BRITISH BURN ASSOCIATION.—At Postgraduate Centre, Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, 10.30 a.m., one-day conference.

CORNWALL CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At Royal Cornwall Hospital, Triliske, Truro, 8.30 p.m., Sir Hedley Atkins: The Functions of the Royal College of Surgeons.

CROYDON MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Mayday Hospital, 1 p.m., pathological demonstration.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.—5.30 p.m., Mr. V. T. Hammond: Management of Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES MEDICAL CENTRE.—12.30 p.m., Dr. A. A. Cunningham: Paediatric case presentation.●

MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASES.—At Royal Society of Medicine, London W.1. 8 p.m., joint meeting with R.S.M. Sections of Pathology and Dermatology: Wart Viruses.

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL POSTGRADUATE CENTRE.—12.30 p.m. Professor M. Balasegaram: Surgery in Malaysia.

Saturday, 21 March

NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY.—At Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford, 8.30 a.m., Mr. T. H. Morgan (Baltimore): Musculoskeletal Response to Injury; 9.45 a.m., Professor A. R. Cowley (Baltimore): Significance of the Liver in Shock.

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL POSTGRADUATE CENTRE.—10.30 a.m., Therapeutics by Dr. P. D. Marsden: Tropical Diseases.

Appointments

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—M. P. Walsh, M.D., M.R.C.Path. (consultant chemical pathologist, Peterborough, Stamford, King's Lynn and Wisbech areas of the region).

OXFORD REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—B. R. Silk, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. (consultant paediatrician, Kettering area).

WESSEX REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—H. Charterjee, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.L.O. (consultant E.N.T. surgeon, West Dorset).

Universities and Colleges**LIVERPOOL**

At the annual degree congregations to be held on 10 and 11 July the following honorary degrees will be conferred:

CH.M.—Miss Isabella Forshall, M.B., F.R.C.S., for many years senior paediatric surgeon at the Royal Liverpool Children's and the Alder Hey Children's Hospitals; president of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, 1958-60; president of the Paediatric Section, Royal Society of Medicine, 1960-1; president of the Liverpool Medical Institution, 1963.

M.A.—Isaac J. J. Lipkin, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., chairman of the North-west Cancer Research Fund since 1963, and vice-chairman, 1955-63; past-president of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool.

BIRMINGHAM

Appointment.—Dr. S. W. Clarke (lecturer, department of medicine).

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Authors wanting reprints of their articles should notify the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

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Doctors who are not members of the B.M.A. can subscribe to the *B.M.J.* The rates for doctors resident in the United Kingdom and abroad are given on the first page of the classified advertisements. These include the rate for the *North American "Air Express,"* which is available to both members and non-members of the B.M.A.

Classified Advertisements

Doctors Abroad.—Copies of the appointment vacancies advertised in the *B.M.J.* can be sent by airmail on request. Members' rate: the minimum cost is 40s. for six weeks' supply, for which copies of vacancies in up to five sections of the classified advertisements will be sent. Non-members' rate 60s. minimum for six weeks' supply of five headings or less. Additional headings (for members and non-members) 10s. each for six weeks' supply. Orders for specific grades in any section cannot be accepted. Payment must be prepaid and enclosed with the application.

Details of rates, etc., for classified advertisements appear on the first page of the classified section.