

The book has a good index and excellent bibliography. The presentation is enhanced by the clear line-diagrams and two informative appendices on the symbols used in res-

piratory mechanics and the technique of electromyography. It is altogether a well-conceived presentation, which should be of interest to workers in a number of fields

ranging from physiology into chest disease, neurology, and rehabilitation.

D. HUGHES

## Postgraduate Ophthalmology

**Perspectives in Ophthalmology.** Vol. 2. Ed. J. E. Winkelman and R. A. Crone. (Pp. 214; £5.65.) Excerpta Medica. 1970.

This book has two main sections. The first is devoted to genetics and ophthalmology and covers a wide spectrum in twelve separate papers. Corneal dystrophies, dysgenesis of the iris, tapeto-retinal and other dystrophies, homocysteineuria, hypo- and a-beta-

lipoproteinaemia, optic atrophy, and chromosomal abnormalities are all described in relation to case reports. In the second section strabismus and related problems are discussed. Amblyopia is considered in several of its aspects, and there is a balanced essay on orthoptic exercises and what they may achieve.

This volume makes an excellent companion to the first and like its predecessor

is well illustrated and produced with great care. It is in fact the 1969 postgraduate course in ophthalmology organized in Amsterdam by the Netherlands Ophthalmological Society to mark the retirement of Professor A. Hagedoorn, and it maintains the standard we have learnt to expect when Dutch ophthalmologists put pen to paper.

STEPHEN MILLER

## Museum Specimens

**Anatomical Techniques.** 2nd edn. D. H. Tompsett, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Pp. 283; £5.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

The author, in his preface to this second edition, describes the book as a final report on his 25 years' work as prosector of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The general layout is similar to that of the first edition, published in 1956. The first 90 pages are devoted to the preservation, dissection, and illustration of anatomical material. Here, quite apart from the general advice offered, it is most refreshing to find a graphic artist who is willing and able to commit to paper a working method for making illustrations of dissections.

The remainder of the book is devoted to descriptions of the newer methods, usually more sophisticated than the old, for pro-

ducing museum specimens. Much of this section is concerned with casting in cold-setting polyester resins by techniques which have been almost entirely developed by the author himself. The casting of each viscous is described in minute detail, yet every pitfall and potential failure has been dealt with in the text in such a manner that the reader is automatically encouraged to try this type of preparation for himself. Dr. Tompsett rightly insists that success in this work will be obtained only by total attention to minute detail. There are no short cuts, but the end in this case certainly justifies the means. The collection of casts in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons bears eloquent testimony to the rewarding nature of this standard of workmanship. Some of these preparations—the injected lymphatics of the lower limb, for

example—must represent some of the most detailed and intricate macroscopic material ever produced, yet instructions for the preparation of injected lymphatics are dealt with almost routinely in this manual.

The book is excellently laid out and well illustrated, many of the photographs are in colour, and the illustrations of lung casts in particular are superb. These particular structures are notoriously difficult to photograph attractively. Finally, the end of the book contains a list of suppliers of various raw materials, a great relief to all who find the hunt for vendors of small quantities of highly specialized raw materials a time-consuming chore. The book is an essential acquisition for any establishment preparing biological material for display or teaching purposes.

DAVID BROWN

## Mature Reflexions

**The Ruminations of an Orthopaedic Surgeon.** George Perkins, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 188; £1.50.) Butterworths. 1970.

This small book consists of the reflexions on professional themes of a retired orthopaedic surgeon about subjects which even a mature surgeon finds difficult. Among them are osteoarthritis, stiff joints, muscle idleness, cartilage in joints and in nose and ear, and interpretation of x-rays. Accidents are dis-

cussed, with particular reference to severe fractures in and about the major joints. With decisive competence the author draws attention to problems often neglected, and does so not in an academic manner but in one essentially practical. The reader will be amused by his cynical remarks on "ologists," and impressed by his surgical memory and his teaching methods expressly intended to make others think and store up knowledge. Although he uses some of the

principles of Hugh Owen Thomas, he makes no mention of him or Robert Jones.

There are reproductions of many radiographs which are well chosen to illustrate his thoughts. The book is certain to be of value to postgraduates and will provide good material for discussion groups, since it is provocative and gives considerable scope for disagreement among experts.

ST. J. D. BUXTON

## BOOKS RECEIVED

Books noticed here may be reviewed later

**Computers and Brains.** Ed. J. P. Schade and J. Smith. (Pp. 263; £9.50.) Elsevier. 1970.

**Atlas of Descriptive Histology.** 2nd edn. Edward J. Reith, Ph.D., and Michael H. Ross, Ph.D. (Pp. 243; £5.35.) Harper & Row. 1971.

**Genetic Counselling in Relation to Mental Retardation.** Ed. J. M. Berg, M.Sc., M.B. (Pp. 34; 75p.) Pergamon Press. 1971.

**Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin and Telodrin.** K. W. Jager. (Pp. 234; £3.50.) Elsevier. 1970.

**Upper Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage.** Eddy D. Palmer, M.S., M.D. (Pp. 410; £22.75.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**The Fluorination of Body Water.** Charles Dillon, D.D.S. (Pp. 111; £1.75.) The Oban Times. 1970.

**Scientific Reports on Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases in Czechoslovakia.** (Pp. 183; No price.) Institute of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Diseases in Prague. 1970.

**Operative Surgery.** 2nd edn. Ed. Charles Rob, M.C., M.Chir., and Rodney Smith, M.S. (Pp. 400; £10.50.) Butterworths. 1970.

**A.B.C. of Drug Addiction.** Collected articles by various authors. (Pp. 93; 80p.) John Wright & Sons. 1970.

**Army and Air Force Doctor.** E. A. Lumley. (Pp. 159; £2.50.) Leo Cooper. 1971.

**Frontiers of Radiation Therapy and Oncology.** The Interrelationship of Surgery and Radiation Therapy in the Treatment of Cancer. Vol. 5. Ed. J. M. Vaeth. (Pp. 275; £7.90.) S. Karger. 1970.

**Nucleic Acid Therapy in Aging and Degenerative Disease.** Benjamin S. Frank, M.D. (Pp. 136; \$7.50.) Psychological Library Publishers. 1969.

### Relatives of Hospital Patients

In a written answer on 2 February Mr. PAUL DEAN, Under Secretary, Health and Social Security, said that the cost of visiting a close relative in hospital was one of the items taken into account when supplementary benefit was being calculated.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccine

In a written answer on 2 February Mr. MICHAEL ALISON said that the effectiveness of poliomyelitis vaccine could be

judged by the decline in the disease in this country since its introduction into general use in 1956. In that year a total of 3,096 cases of poliomyelitis were notified in England. Subsequently the numbers declined sharply, and annual notifications for the years 1968, 1969, and 1970 were 24, 10, and 6 respectively.

### Doctors in the Hospital Services

In a written answer on 11 February Mr. ALISON gave figures showing the number of doctors employed in the hospital services in

England and Wales and how many of them were immigrants, as at 30 September 1970.

	Regular Appointments	Locums	Total
All countries of birth .....	24,775	1,475	26,250
Number born in Northern Ireland or Irish Republic	725	44	769
Number born outside United Kingdom or Irish Republic	8,217	822	9,039

The total number of hospital nursing and midwifery staff in England and Wales at 31 March 1970 was 281,905.

## MEDICAL NEWS

### New Cancer Units

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has announced that it will pay the running costs of the Medical Oncology Unit set up at St. Bartholomew's Hospital under the direction of Dr. Gordon Hamilton Fairley. It is also to provide the funds for building and running a Tumour Immunology Unit at University College, London, with Professor N. A. Mitchison as director. The cost of setting up and running the two units for the next five years will be more than £500,000.

### European Cancer Research

Fifteen research projects involving 1,500 patients in various European centres were in progress in 1970, according to the annual report of the European Organization for Research on Treatment of Cancer. The organization, whose council met six times during the year, coordinates research among cooperative groups on major types of cancer and cancer therapy. It has recently prepared a training programme for clinical oncologists and intends to develop a long-term strategy for cancer research within Europe. Among new members elected to the Council in 1969-1970 were Professor E. H. Cooper of Leeds, Dr. L. G. Lajtha of the Christie Hospital, Manchester, Dr. T. A. Connors of the Chester Beatty Institute, Professor L. A. Elson of the Institute of Cancer Research, and Professor W. J. C. Ross of the Chester Beatty Institute.

### Treatment of Drug Dependence

In a written answer on 5 February Mr. MICHAEL ALISON, Under Secretary, Health and Social Security, said that 25 hospitals held special clinics for the outpatient treatment of drug dependence. All had access to inpatient facilities. The special clinics were in the following places: *Cheshire*: Moston Hospital, Chester. *Hampshire*: Knowle Hospital, Southampton; St. James' Hospital, Portsmouth. *Hertfordshire*: Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City. *Lancashire*: Prestwich Hospital, Prestwich. *London*: Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.2; Guy's Hospital, S.E.1; Hackney Hospital, E.9; Lambeth Hospital, S.E.11; The Maudsley Hospital, S.E.5; Norwood and District Hospital, S.E.19; Paddington Day Clinic, W.2; Queen Mary's Hospital, S.W.15; St. Clement's Hospital, E.15; St. Giles Hospital, S.E.5; St. George's Hospital, S.W.17; St. Luke's Hospital, N.10; St. Mary's Hos-

pital, W.9; University College Hospital, W.C.1; West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, Middlesex; Westminster Hospital, S.W.1. *Nottinghamshire*: Mapperley Hospital, Nottingham. *Oxfordshire*: Littlemore Hospital, Oxford. *Sussex*: Herbert Hone Clinic, Brighton. *Warwickshire*: All Saints Hospital, Birmingham

### Holidays for Invalids

The 1971 edition of the Chest and Heart Association's holiday guide for patients with chest, heart, or cerebrovascular disease has just been published, price 25p. The hotels and boarding houses listed do not offer nursing care but are familiar with the problems of patients and are anxious to help. Prices range from £8 to upwards of £30 weekly. Patients needing nursing care should consult *Some Nursing Homes for Chest, Heart, and "Stroke" Patients*, price 40p. Both guides are available from the Chest and Heart Association, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JE

### Hunterian Society Dinner

Celebrating the 243rd anniversary of the birth of John Hunter the Hunterian Society held its annual dinner in London on 11 February, with its president Mr. Reginald Murley in the chair. Proposing the toast to the society, the Reverend Lord Soper commended the Renaissance spirit of accumulating evidence, the resolute sitting before the facts "as little children," and reason as the bond of fellowship. Mr. Murley replied for the society. Sir Hedley Atkins (in the unavoidable absence of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Solicitor General) responded at short notice to Mr. Henry Thompson's toast to the guests.

## COMING EVENTS

**Institute of Urology.**—Weekend course, "Recent Advances in Urology," 19-21 March. For details see advertisement on page xxviii.

## 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, 22 February**

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—4.30 p.m., Dr. S. S. Bleehen: Disorders of Pigmentation.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—4 p.m., Dr. D. Doniach: Familial and Genetic Aspects of Autoimmune Disorders.

**Tuesday, 23 February**

**KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—5.30 p.m., Mr. V. Kakkar: Deep-vein Thrombosis.

**ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.**—5 p.m., Professor D. F. N. Harrison: Some Unusual Head and Neck Tumours.

**WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—At Page Street lecture theatre, 5.15 p.m., Dr. A. F. Lant: clinicopathological conference.

**Wednesday, 24 February**

**INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.**—5 p.m., Dr. K. M. Citron: Pulmonary Aspergillosis.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—11.45 a.m., Clinicopathological conference by Dr. R. H. Dowling: Non-responsive Coeliac Disease.

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—4.30 p.m., Dr. J. Pegum: The Apocrine Glands.

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.**—(1) 6 p.m., Dr. Marthe Vogt: Neurohormonal Status of Dopamine. (2) 7 p.m., Dr. R. B. Godwin-Austen: Therapy of Basal Ganglia Disorders in Relation to Dopamine.

**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. E. Kendell: International Differences in Diagnosis of Mental Disorders.

**INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.**—5 p.m., Dr. G. A. Rose: Medical Investigation and Treatment of Renal Calculi.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Professor J. Hedley-Whyte (Harvard): New Concepts of Lung Structure and Function.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.**—5.15 p.m., Professor J. Brod (Hanover): Functional Basis of Differential Diagnosis of Renal Disease.

**WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL, LONDON.**—At Academic Centre, 11.30 a.m., Professor S. J. G. Semple: Some Aspects of Treatment of Respiratory Failure.

**Thursday, 25 February**

**ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.**—At medical buildings, Foresterhill, 5 p.m., Professor J. N. Walton: Changing Face of Neurology.

**DUNDEE UNIVERSITY.**—At Medical Sciences Institute, 5 p.m., Professor A. W. Wilkinson: Neonatal Intestinal Obstruction.

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.**—6 p.m., Neuro-otological meeting: Tinnitus.

**LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—At Medical Society of London, 8.15 p.m., annual oration.

**WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—At Page Street lecture theatre, 5.15 p.m., Professor G. W. Taylor: Surgery of Parathyroid Disease.

**Friday, 26 February**

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE REGIONAL NEUROLOGICAL CENTRE.**—At Newcastle General Hospital, 5.30 p.m., Professor H. Verbiest (Utrecht): Artificial Slow Flow Carotid Angiography.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—11 a.m., Research in Progress meeting; 4 p.m., Dr. J. M. Barnes: Pesticides in the Environment.

### Notice to Authors

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