

Red Cell Disease

The Polycythemic Disorders. Baruch Modan, M.D. (Pp. 177; \$26.) Charles C. Thomas, 1971.

This is a useful monograph on a subject of current interest by an author who has himself made important contributions to our knowledge of the disease. Modan points out that polycythaemia vera is a relatively rare disease, but long survival as a result of modern management means that many doctors have such patients under their care.

The monograph starts with a long account of the properties of erythropoietin, though it is admitted that no significant abnormality can be found in polycythaemia. Modan recognizes that in addition to polycythaemia vera there are many other forms, including a "benign familial" one; the differential points of the various types are well set out in a Table. His criteria for the presence of

polycythaemia vera "in the absence of an overt cause" are a haematocrit of 55% or more in males, of 52% or more in females, and three of the following: leucocytosis, thrombocytosis, normal oxygen saturation, panhyperplastic marrow with increased megakaryocytes, increased leucocyte alkaline phosphatase activity, and splenomegaly. Age and sex distribution are set out with details in tabular form, but he thinks that most reported cases of children were really the benign familial form. The incidence does seem to be increased in Jewish people, but only in those of European descent, not those born in Asia or north Africa, as determined by a survey carried out in Israel. Modan agrees with the idea that polycythaemia vera is due to over-production of red cells, and not to their prolonged survival. He is unimpressed by the evidence that there is a specific chromosomal abnormality in un-

treated patients. His own studies showed variable patterns.

Since thromboembolism and haemorrhage are often causes of serious complications and even death, full consideration is given to the extensive literature about clotting factor and platelet abnormalities. The relation of polycythaemia vera to the occurrence of leukaemia has a chapter to itself, and Modan remains convinced that the main cause of the appearance of acute leukaemia in these patients is the increased risk involved in treatment with radioactive phosphorus. Secondary polycythaemia due to anoxaemia and renal disease and associated with various tumours is well discussed.

There is a full bibliography of 849 references, which help to make this a valuable book for anyone working in this field.

M. C. G. ISRAËLS

Decade of Therapeutic Advance

Drugs 1960-1970. Graeme S. Avery. (Pp. 280; £3.85.) Karger, 1971.

The title of this book suggests, unfortunately, that it is another of those textbooks of pharmacology which so often fail to relate to the problems of the practising, prescribing doctor. In fact, it is a set of articles commissioned by an editorial board under the auspices of the Australasian Drug Information Services. Each article is written by the leading authorities in Australia and New Zealand and presents the therapeutic advances in the author's field in the last decade. An excellent balance is achieved because the reader learns not just the clinical applications of the new drugs but also the new uses to which the old drugs are being put. All the subdivisions of medicine are represented, and there are contributions on anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and oral medicine.

Inevitably some articles are more useful

than others. Dr. Priscilla Kincaid Smith has given a wonderfully lucid contribution on renal disease. The authors of the sections on psychotropic drugs and immunosuppressives and antineoplastic drugs have managed to classify the great majority of the very many new drugs and at the same time clearly describe the general principles that govern their use. Despite the great pressure on space most of the authors have been able to present the arguments and controversies that make therapeutics such an entertaining subject. However, in the space available to them Dr. J. F. Cade and his colleagues, dealing with cardiovascular drugs, could not fully develop some interesting themes.

The last three sections, on research in the pharmaceutical industry, drug research in the university, and drug trials could, with little loss to the reader, have been run together as a single general paper on the development of drugs for clinical use. The available space could then have been devoted to drug allergy and to clinical pharma-

cology, the new science of the 1960s. Too many doctors are unaware of the clinical significance of variation in binding and metabolism of drugs, and in the other ways in which drugs may interfere with each others' action. Though some of the authors touched on these problems, others did not and the lack of a chapter on clinical pharmacology is a real deficiency.

This book will be very useful to any student or doctor who wants to get on terms with the changing face of therapeutics. It has real authority, as every author speaks from experience. And it does what *Prescribers' Journal* has not done—it covers the whole subject in one handy volume. *Drugs 1960-1970* is well referenced, but any future edition published in Britain will be better received if unfamiliar trade names are removed and if articles referring to problems specific to Australia could be modified.

ROBERT WOOD

Up to Date Dermatology

Modern Trends in Dermatology—4. Ed. Peter Borrie, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 292; £7.) Butterworths, 1971.

The appearance of this volume, the fourth in the series, is to be welcomed. This time there are 16 contributors and 12 chapters.

Since each chapter is an independent monograph, unrelated to the rest, there is no continuing theme in the book, and the standard is inevitably rather variable. It is perhaps the editor's intention to provide

something for everybody in this way, for the choice of subject and author predictably leads to some chapters being lightweight compared with others; and thus it is. By comparison, other chapters are excellent and contain a mass of information not readily obtainable elsewhere without extensive research of the literature, and a synthesis which only its author can make. For the dermatologist all the subjects considered are of great interest, though there are some which are of direct concern only to the

research worker in a particular field. Most have a strong practical bent.

A book of this kind has two important uses. Firstly, to review a selected subject and bring the reader up to date. There are one or two chapters where the extent of recent advances has not made this particularly necessary. Secondly, it is important that a book of this kind should provide a bibliography for those who wish to read further, and this has been amply achieved.

F. RAY BETTLEY

SELECTED NEW TITLES

Autistic Children. A Guide for Parents. Lorna Wing, M.D. (Pp. 157; £3.) Constable, 1971.

British National Formulary 1971. (Pp. 389; 90p.) British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

A Short Textbook Ear Nose and Throat. R. Pracy, F.R.C.S., J. Siegler, F.R.C.S., and P. M. Stell, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 155; £1.75 in board; 95p Unibook edition); The English Universities Press, 1971.

Endolymphatic Radiotherapy in Malignant Lymphomas. Recent Results in Cancer Re-

search No. 37. S. Chiappa, R. Musumeci, and C. Uslenghi. (Pp. 129; £6.90.) Heinemann, 1971.

Paediatric Intensive Care. A Manual for Resident Medical Officers and Senior Nurses. Keith D. Roberts, F.R.C.S., and Jennifer M. Edwards, F.F.A.R.A.C.S. (Pp. 271; £3.25.) Blackwell, 1971.

MEDICAL NEWS

Chair of Medical Oncology

Dr. G. Hamilton Fairley, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund medical oncology research unit at St. Bartholomew's Hospital since 1970, has been appointed to the I.C.R.F. chair of medical oncology tenable at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London. Dr. Hamilton Fairley, born 1930, was educated at Geelong Grammar School, Australia, Marlborough College, and Oxford University. He trained at Barts and qualified B.M., B.Ch. in 1954. After various house appointments he was awarded, from 1958-61, a Leverhulme research scholarship by the Royal College of Physicians of London and he worked at Barts under Sir Ronald Bodley Scott and at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School under Professor J. V. Dacie. He was chief assistant to Sir Ronald Bodley Scott and Dr. W. E. Gibb at Barts from 1961 until 1965. Since then he has been consultant physician at that hospital and since 1967 he has been consultant physician at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey. Dr. Hamilton Fairley's research has been concerned with tumour immunology and the medical treatment of malignant disease.



Chair of Renal Medicine

Dr. A. Polak, consultant physician to the Portsmouth group of hospitals and physician to the Wessex regional renal unit, has been appointed to the chair of renal medicine at Southampton University, with effect from 1 August 1971. Dr. Polak, who is 47, trained at Cambridge and University College Hospital and qualified in 1949. He later became a senior registrar at St. Mary's



Hospital, London. In 1958-60 he was a research fellow in Professor W. B. Schwartz's department at Boston, Mass. His main interest is in the mechanisms by which the kidney regulates the volume and composition of the body fluids, and the effects of disease and drugs upon these mechanisms. Dr. Polak was granted the title of honorary clinical professor in 1969. He will remain in Portsmouth as consultant physician and as physician to the Wessex renal unit which is the university's centre for renal medicine.

Record Spending on N.H.S.

The proportion of national income spent on the National Health Service in 1970 ex-

ceeded 5½%, a new record level. This is the 15th successive year that the health service has increased its share of national resources. If this growth rate continues Britain's health spending will keep pace with other countries in the 1970's, according to an Office of Health Economics report published last week.

Scientology

The report of the *Enquiry into the Practice and Effects of Scientology* made by Sir John Foster, Q. C., was published on 22 December by H.M.S.O. price £1.20. The report gives a lengthy review of the theory and practice of Scientology, and Sir John recommends that legislation should be introduced to restrict the practice of psychotherapy for reward to "members of a profession properly qualified in its techniques." He points out that such legislation exists already in some European countries and the U.S.A.

People in the News

Dr. L. S. Illis, consultant neurologist, Southampton Hospital Group, and clinical senior lecturer in neurology at Southampton University Medical School, has been appointed visiting professor of neurology to the University of Ceylon, Kandy, January-April 1972.

Dr. J. J. A. Reid, medical officer of health for Buckinghamshire, has been appointed honorary consultant in community medicine to the Army, a new appointment.

Mr. J. C. Ballantyne, consultant E.N.T. surgeon, Royal Free Hospital and Royal Northern Hospital, has been appointed honorary consultant in E.N.T. to the Army.

COMING EVENTS

St. Helier Hospital Postgraduate Medical Centre.—Details and copies of the programme, January-March, are obtainable from the clinical tutor at the centre, St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey.

Royal College of Physicians of London.—Teaching, "Urinary Infections," by Lord Rosenheim, 4 January. For details see advertisement on page xiv.

King Edward's Hospital Fund For London.—Drug Dependency Discussion Group meeting, 20 January, 10 a.m. Fee £2 (including lunch). Applications by 6 January to the assistant director of the Fund, Hospital Centre, 24 Nutford Place, London W1H 6AN. (Tel. 01-262 2641.)

"The Latest Developments in the Control of Obesity."—Series of lectures by Professor W. H. Sebrell (Columbia University), 10 January, 8 p.m., Edinburgh; 11 January, 3 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., London W.1. Applications for tickets and further information should be made to the Information Officer, 1-2 Thames Street, Windsor, Berks. (Tel. Windsor (95) 52221.)

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, 3 January

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference.

Tuesday, 4 January

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Mr. N. L. Browse: Thromboembolism.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Professor D. A. Willoughby: The Role of the Modern Academic Rheumatology Department—a back-room view.

Friday, 7 January

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Mr. W. McKenzie: Vertigo.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

At a meeting of the college held on 17 December, with Professor D. M. Douglas, president, in the chair, the following were admitted as Fellows:

R. Ahmad, H. M. R. Al-Doori, M. C. Alexander, Suham A. Al-Kassid, H. M. Ameen, M. Ashiq, B. H. Barrow, J. G. Bennett, B. N. Bhargava, M. E. Blacklee, B. R. Bolton, P. B. Boulos, M. J. K. M. Brown, S. Brown, S. J. Burroughs, Sai Hing Chan, A. E. Cook, P. A. Cooke, R. Dalling, S. K. Das, M. R. Q. Davies, H. C. Dhayagude, W. Dunlop, R. K. Dutta, A. P. Dwyer, A. S. Edin, J. C. W. Evans, K. Gajadharsingh, Samir K. Ghosh, J. R. Goldring, K. Haider, Hamidullah, D. R. Harper, J. A. Harvey, A. M. Hassani, C. S. Haw, W. M. Henderson, S. P. F. Hughes, M. J. V. F. Hunter, S. C. Jain, C. P. Jardine-Brown, N. P. Jha, C. F. Jones, P. V. Kelkar, H. Khan, P. N. Khot, M. A. Lathe, A. Lukanga-Ndawula, C. W. E. McDonald, J. MacIntyre, D. B. Mackenzie, I. MacLennan, N. A. H. Mahmoud, P. C. L. Mandevia, P. N. H. Martin, I. K. Mayes, I. McK. Miller, W. Miller, S. K. Mukerjee, Pasumarthi S. N. Murthi, D. C. Nandy, S. D. Nathanson, M. W. J. Older, D. J. Y. Page, D. C. Parr, J. G. Penn, Krishnapillai, B. Pillai, P. J. Pownall, M. N. K. Rahaman, Babu Ramdev, M. R. Reddy, I. L. Rosenberg, R. G. Rowe, A. Roychowdhury, J. C. Saha, Ghazi F. Sako, Santanu Sanyal, Christa-Maria Schnitzler, P. D. R. Scott, S. P. Seetharamdoo, D. S. Shah, M. J. A. Shah, F. T. Shannon, A. K. Sharma, C. P. Sharma, J. R. Shearer, Sheo N. Sinha, A. S. Soora, N. N. Sorour, M. A. Stuart, S. Subramaniam, D. D. Suliman, R. Thakur, A. Thavendran, H. J. W. Thomas, H. O. Thomas, Khin Maung Tu, K. W. R. Tuson, J. R. Van Dellen, T. Verghese, L. Vukovic, Narendra V. Wijemann, G. L. Willard, Wai Ping Wong, F. Y. Yacoub.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the college held on 6 December, with the president, Professor E. M. McGirr, in the chair, the following Members were elected to the Fellowship *qua* Physician:

C. Borg, J. C. Brocklehurst, A. J. M. Campbell, K. Y. Chan, J. Colvin, J. K. Dutta, Iris I. J. M. Gibson, R. Good, E. B. Hendry, T. Jack, Margaret M. Kerr, F. I. D. Konotey-Ahulu, A. H. Laing, J. R. Lauckner, A. I. Macdougall, W. B. McKenna, J. S. Millar, R. A. Miller, J. J. Morrow, N. Nagarathnam, J. McE. Neilson, J. Paul, R. Paul, D. A. Pitkeathly, G. B. S. Roberts, C. M. Ross, R. G. Spector, A. L. Speirs, J. M. J. Supramaniam, F. A. Walkev, J. Wallace, D. A. L. Watt, C. Weymes, R. G. White, J. McI. Williamson.

Adeleye Okuboyejo was admitted Member *qua* Physician.

The following were admitted Colleague Members: Nareesh C. Chaturvedi, Subrata Chaudhuri, B. P. Dunn, W. S. Hillis, Eve C. Johnstone, N. Krasner, Rona McL. Mackie, T. S. Murray, H. C. Thomas, A. Zafar.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

F.F.A. R.C.S.I.—T. N. Fozarty, K. G. Lindsay, D. C. Moriarty, S. D. Macdonald, Aileen O'Brien, Sophie Mavrokalikou-Papasiopoulou, D. A. H. Rolfe, Y. K. A. Demian.

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