

a discussion on the curative effect of splenectomy in anti-mony-resistant kala-azar—a subject which, though of little interest to us, is of considerable importance in paediatric practice around the Mediterranean Sea. Of the residents in the Barcelona area only 10% appear to be Rhesus-negative, in contrast to the 35% reported in Basques by Etcheverry and by Mourant. Short essays on allergy and intramedullary transfusion and an article of 228 pages on the treatment of severe neutropenia complete the volume. There seems to be little difference between standard practice in this country and that advised by the authors. This is the second volume of this type received from the Iberian peninsula within the last few months; both show great industry but little profit.

Macia and Marcé's short monograph gives a clear account of infectious mononucleosis and of the laboratory aids to its diagnosis. The clinical section follows Tidy in recognizing three main types of the disease—glandular, anginose, and febrile—but attention is drawn also to the bizarre symptom-complexes which sometimes occur. In the section on laboratory diagnosis the various modifications of the Paul-Bunnell reaction are lucidly described and evaluated. The clarity of the presentation throws the few omissions into relief. Three types of glandular fever cell described by Downey and McKinlay should have been mentioned, and the occurrence of 1–7% of the Type I cells of these workers in infective hepatitis and other virus diseases is sometimes significant. The great increase in staff-form neutrophils over segmented types in the early stages of the disease is of considerable diagnostic value, and the recognition of epidemic outbreaks in which the Paul-Bunnell reaction is consistently negative (recorded in this country by Macfarlane) is very important. The bibliography, though it includes most of the important papers, could well be enlarged. The volume is completed by some long abstracts from the foreign press. It is an unpretentious, useful monograph for isolated workers who read Spanish.

GEORGE DISCOMBE.

Dentistry in Public Health, edited by Walter J. Pelton and Jacob M. Wisan (pp. 363; £1 7s. 6d.; Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company; 1949), is an interesting book by many contributors which illustrates the interest now taken in dentistry from the public health viewpoint in the United States. A considerable amount of research in the last few years has produced valuable results, including the discovery of the role of fluorine in the prevention of caries. It is unfortunate that publicity has been given at times to work and theories that have not been fully evaluated, but in this book evidence is sifted and conclusions are not accepted without adequate supporting facts. Thus, in spite of much that has been written on the subject, it is stated that the topical application of fluorides to the teeth as a preventive measure has not yet been substantiated. It is of interest to see the extensive programme for research into public health dentistry that is proposed. It would be as well if we gave more thought to the subject in this country.

The monograph by the late Dr. Libman and Dr. Friedberg, *Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis* (edited by Henry A. Christian and reprinted from Oxford Loose-Leaf Medicine; pp. 113; illustrated; £1 1s.; New York and London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 1949), is a comprehensive and valuable work based upon large numbers of cases. The pathology, diagnosis, and treatment are presented in detail, but the authors have focused little attention on this infection in congenital heart disease. It is in such patients, in whom the myocardium remains unscathed, that the best results of therapy with antibiotics are to be expected. There is no reference to an important diagnostic method in non-cyanotic congenital heart disease—the use of an arterial as opposed to a venous blood culture when there is a left-to-right shunt. Any means of determining the diagnosis more quickly is of added value now that specific remedies are available. Of interest to readers in this country will be the good colour plate showing Janeway lesions, but the other illustrations are indifferent. A comprehensive bibliography completes and enhances the value of this authoritative monograph.

BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

The Healing Touch. By H. Williams. (Pp. 406. 15s.) London: Jonathan Cape. 1949.

Freedom from Want. Edited by E. E. DeTurk. Foreword by N. E. Dodd. (Pp. 207–84. \$2.00.) Waltham, Mass.: The Chronica Botanica Co. London: Dawson. 1949.

Psycho-Analysis—a Modern Delusion. By F. Kenyon. (Pp. 141. 5s.) London: The Pioneer Press. 1949.

Population Trends and the World's Biological Resources. By G. C. L. Bertram, M.A., Ph.D. No. 5. (Pp. 38. 2s.) London: The Eugenics Society, and Cassell. 1949.

The Medical Clinics of North America. Mayo Clinic Number. Gastro-Intestinal Conditions. (Pp. 923–1,210. No price.) London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1949.

Pedigrees of Negro Families. By R. Ruggles Gates, F.R.S. (Pp. 267. \$5.50.) Philadelphia and Toronto: The Blakiston Company. 1949.

Lehrbuch der Inneren Medizin. By H. Assmann, G. v. Bergmann, and others. Foreword by H. Schwegk and A. Jores. Vols 1 and 2. Berlin: Springer. 1949.

Children of Today and Tomorrow. By E. Dukes and M. Hay. Preface by D. Mace, Ph.D. (Pp. 249. 12s. 6d.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1949.

Office Management for Health Workers. By F. King and L. L. Feldman. (Pp. 164. 12s. 6d.) New York: The Commonwealth Fund. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1949.

Kinderärztliche Notfallfibel ein Exkurs für die Praxis. By B. de Rudder. (Pp. 134. M. 7.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Aus dem Leben Fritz Richard Schaudinn's. By C. Kuhn. (Pp. 73. M. 3.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. Vol. 67. (Pp. 530. 40s.) London: Churchill. 1948.

Medullary Nailing of Küntscher. By L. Böhler, M.D. Translated by H. Tretter, M.D. (Pp. 386. 38s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1948.

Communicable Diseases and their Nursing Care. By E. Pearce, S.R.N. Foreword by W. Gunn, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 392. 14s. 6d.) London: Faber. 1949.

The Human Body and its Functions. By C. H. Best, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.S., and N. B. Taylor, V.D., M.D., F.R.S. Canad. 2nd ed. (Pp. 500. 18s.) London: Chapman and Hall. 1949.

A New Dictionary of Chemistry. Edited by S. Miall, LL.D., B.Sc., and L. M. Miall, B.A., F.R.I.C. 2nd ed. (Pp. 589. 60s.) London: Longmans, Green. 1949.

Modern Practice in Ophthalmology, 1949. Edited by H. B. Stailard, M.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 525. 65s., plus 1s. 6d. postage.) London: Butterworth. 1949.

Lippincott's Quick Reference Book for Medicine and Surgery. By G. E. Rehberger, A.B., M.D. 14th ed. (Pp. 1,723. £6.) Philadelphia, London, and Montreal: Lippincott. 1949.

A Study of Certain British Seaweeds and their Utilisation in the Preparation of Agar. By S. M. Marshall, L. Newton, and others. Edited by L. Newton. (Pp. 184. 27s. 6d.) London: H.M.S.O. 1949.

The New York Academy of Medicine. Its First Hundred Years. By P. Van Ingen. (Pp. 573. 55s.) New York: Columbia University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1949.

Principles of Human Physiology (Starling). By C. Lovatt Evans, F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Chapters on Special Senses by H. Hartridge, M.D., F.R.S. 10th ed. (Pp. 1,193. 42s.) London: Churchill. 1949.

as casualty house-surgeon at the Westminster Hospital he went into general practice in Dalston. Freeman's personality and skill soon brought him a large and busy practice, but he found time to keep in contact with hospital work at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham, where he held a series of clinical assistantships. In 1932 he obtained the diploma of master of midwifery of the Society of Apothecaries, moved to the West End of London, and practised midwifery. Six years later, at the age of 44, he passed the primary examination for the F.R.C.S., and he became a Fellow in 1941. By a stroke of good fortune he was able to perform surgical operations with a senior acting as his "assistant" during the war years. He took every advantage of this opportunity and soon became a competent surgeon. As an associate lecturer on surgery at the North-East London Postgraduate College he helped undergraduates who had failed in surgery at their first examination to pass at their second attempt. During the whole of the war he and his wife were in charge of an air-raid casualty centre in Holborn, and they were both on duty at this centre every night. He also operated on air-raid casualties at the Royal Albert Dock Hospital. Sir Hugh Griffiths has paid tribute to him as a "skilled and kindly surgeon and very gallant gentleman." Harry Freeman was appointed assistant surgeon to the National Temperance and Albert Dock Hospitals in 1946. Subsequently he studied gastroscopy under Mr. Hermon Taylor and published original articles on this subject. He also wrote a section of a book on gastroscopy which is in course of publication. His courage, strength of character, hard work, and great ability, which enabled him to conquer his early difficulties, will remain an inspiration to his friends. He leaves a devoted wife, who is in active medical practice, and two daughters, who are married and live abroad.—W. E. T.

Dr. DONALD CAMPBELL died on June 19 at his home near St. Helens, Lancs, at the age of 66. Dr. Campbell qualified in Dublin in 1915. He had been in general practice in St. Helens since 1919, and his sudden death came as a shock to his colleagues, since he had been working right up to the last. In 1928, while still in practice, he took the M.R.C.P. During the 1914-18 war Dr. Campbell served first of all as a combatant in the Indian Army and was later transferred to the R.A.M.C., serving in France, where he was wounded. During the recent war he was a medical officer for the local Home Guard. Dr. Campbell had studied in the School of Medical History at Oxford, and he was the author of *Arabian Medicine and its Influence in the Middle Ages*. He had always been interested in medico-political work and was honorary secretary of the local panel committee from 1924 onwards. He was chairman of the St. Helens Insurance Committee from 1933 until 1948, when he became vice-chairman of the local executive council. Dr. Campbell was always a helpful and agreeable colleague, and he will be sadly missed by his patients and his friends in the St. Helens area.—A. A. W. M.

Dr. JANET YOUNG LAIDLAW died on August 9 at the age of 66 after a long illness. She was a student at the London School of Medicine for Women, and qualified in 1931. She graduated M.B., B.S. two years later, and was for a time a resident house-physician at the Royal Free Hospital. Thereafter her professional work was mainly among children. She was school medical officer in Cambridge until increasing ill-health enforced her retirement just over a year before her death.

K. F. writes: I first knew Janet Laidlaw when we were students together over 20 years ago. She was then in her late thirties, for her opportunity to study medicine had only just arrived. Her determination and tenacity were almost hidden by her quiet and unobtrusive manner. She did not seek knowledge, or skill, or advancement for her own ends, but because she cared about the needs and the rights of others. Humility, integrity, charity—those of us who knew her and loved her know that she measured up to the true meaning of these old-fashioned words. Outside her work among the children whom she loved and understood her interests were in her own folk, in her garden, and in the little house in Galloway to which she turned whenever she could and which she had made into a haven of rest and peace for her friends.

Medico-Legal

DOCTOR CENSURED TRIBUNAL FINDINGS

A Tribunal set up under Section 42 of the National Health Service Act recently considered a case which was reported in these columns (June 4, p. 1009) when it came before the Medical Services Committee of the West Sussex Executive Council. At the hearing both the complainant and the respondent medical practitioner were legally represented.

The Tribunal found as facts that the doctor, when he attended the infant whose father made the original complaint, "was under the influence of alcohol to such an extent that his professional judgment was impaired"; and that on the night in question the doctor had failed to notify his partner of his intention to be away. Though the respondent might have arrived at the house with greater promptitude than he did, it could not be said that the delay in his arrival was unreasonable or excessive. The doctor then examined the child, failed to appreciate that it was gravely ill, failed to prescribe any treatment for it, and left the house about 10 minutes after he had arrived. Within the next half-hour the child died. The doctor admitted before the Tribunal a serious error of professional judgment, an error which might well not have been made had he not been under the influence of alcohol.

The Tribunal did not find that the doctor failed to make a proper examination of the infant. Nevertheless all the members of the Tribunal took "an extremely grave and serious view of the conduct and behaviour of the doctor" on the night in question. However, the Tribunal considered that all these facts amounted only to a single incident and came to the conclusion that it was not justified in saying that this single incident was such as to cause the inclusion of the respondent in the Medical List to be prejudicial to the efficiency of the General Medical Services. The Tribunal was further of the opinion that "in all probability no treatment, whatever it might have been, would if administered at the time at which the respondent arrived at the house (or possibly even three or four hours earlier) have saved the life of the child" and that "no negligence of the respondent in any way caused or contributed to the death of the child."

The Tribunal made no order as to the costs of the parties to the inquiry.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Thomas Shirley Hele, M.D., F.R.C.P., Master of Emmanuel College, has been reappointed a Deputy Vice-chancellor of the University for the year 1949-50.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A course of six lectures in physiology will be delivered by Dr. Bernhard Katz at University College, Gower Street, London, W.C., on Fridays, October 21 and 28 and November 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 5.15 p.m. His subject is "Transmission of Excitation in Nerve and Muscle."

Dr. Charity Waymouth will deliver two lectures on "Technique and Applications of Tissue Culture" at University College on Mondays, October 24 and 31, at 4.45 p.m.

A course of four lectures on "Bacterial Toxins" will be delivered by Dr. W. E. Van Heyningen at University College on Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 4.45 p.m.

On Monday, December 5, at 5.30 p.m., Dr. G. L. Brown, Jodrell Professor of Physiology in the University, will deliver his inaugural lecture at University College.

Professor V. du Vigneaud, of Cornell University Medical College, will deliver a course of three lectures on "The Indispensability of Biologically Labile Methyl Groups in the Diet and Transmethylation" in the Meyerstein Lecture Theatre, Westminster Medical School, Horseferry Road, London, S.W., on October 28 and 31 and November 2, at 5.30 p.m.

Admission to all the above lectures is free, without ticket.

Friday

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., October 21, 2.15 p.m., Diagnosis Section meeting, "*The Value of Tannic Acid Barium Enema in Colonic Investigation*," by Dr. J. H. L. Conway-Hughes; "*The Causes of Failure After Gastrectomy for Peptic Ulcer*," by Dr. C. N. Pulvertaft; "*The X-ray Appearances of Acquired Collapse (Atelectasis) of the Upper Lobes*," by Dr. G. Simon.

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS: INDUSTRIAL SPECTROSCOPY GROUP.—At 47, Belgrave Square, London, S.W., October 21, 4 p.m., annual general meeting; "*Physical Methods in the Forensic Laboratory*," by Dr. F. G. Tryhorn.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At University College, Gower Street, London, W.C., October 21, 5.15 p.m., "*Transmission of Excitation in Nerve and Muscle*," by Dr. Bernhard Katz.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At University College (Anatomy Theatre), Gower Street, W.C., October 21, 5.30 p.m., "*Growth and Reproduction of Bacteria*," by Sir Paul Fildes, F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY, 14, Gordon Square, London, W.C.—October 21, 5.15 p.m., "*Russell's Theory of the External World*," by Professor H. H. Price.

ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourne Place, Edinburgh.—October 21, 8 p.m., "*Clubbing of the Fingers*," by Mr. K. Wood.

WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At South Kensington Hotel, 41, Queen's Gate Terrace, London, S.W., October 21, 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m., dinner; 8.30 p.m., "*The Dramatic in Gynaecology and Obstetrics*," Presidential address by Mr. V. B. Green-Armytage.

Saturday

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At Biochemistry Department, King's College, Strand, London, W.C., October 22, 2 p.m., 280th meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Herbert Kent, formerly Fellow in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the New York University, Bellevue Medical Center, and National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, has been appointed Chief of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Indianapolis.

The Secretary of State for Scotland has appointed Dr. Catherine Haldane Stobie Begg to be a Deputy Commissioner of the General Board of Control for Scotland.

Dr. Begg graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Glasgow University in 1932 and has held appointments in Glasgow Royal and Western Infirmarys, Glasgow Southern General Hospital, and various mental hospitals. She is at present Senior Medical Officer at Stoneyetts Mental Hospital, Glasgow.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.—The following appointments have been announced: *Deputy to the Medical Adviser and Secretary*, L. J. H. Burton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.; *Assistant*, Anne F. Burgess, M.B., Ch.B. L.D.S.

NELSON, IVAN D. M., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Dewsbury.

RAFTERY, LILIAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.M.S.A., M.R.C.O.G., Assistant Visiting Gynaecologist and Obstetrician, King Edward VIII Hospital, Durban, South Africa.

RUNWELL HOSPITAL, near Wickford, Essex.—*Clinical Research Fellow*, P. Macdonald Tow, M.B., B.S. *Senior Registrar*, M. G. Valentine, M.D., D.P.M.

STEWART, R. H. M., M.D., Assistant Senior Medical Officer, Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Black.—On October 2, 1949, at Dunfermline, to Hilda (née Murray), wife of J. Murray Black, F.R.C.S.Ed., a daughter.

Ferguson.—On September 6, 1949, at Douglas, Isle of Man, to Frances (née Wright), wife of Dr. J. H. Ferguson, a brother for Frances, Elizabeth, and Robert—George Wright.

Mills.—On October 6, 1949, to Margaret Jane, M.B., D.A., wife of Wilfrid Mills, F.R.C.S., a son.

MARRIAGES

Binns—Whitaker.—On September 17, 1949, at Ewell, Surrey, Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander George Augustus Binns, R.N., of Leicester, to Joan Whitaker, of Ewell.

DEATHS

Aspinwall.—On October 2, 1949, at Heswall, Cheshire, Joan Fullerton Aspinwall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 85.

Bentley.—On September 26, 1949, Harold Bentley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., late of Mitcham, Surrey.

Ford.—On October 3, 1949, at 2, Derwent Road, Eastbourne, Frank Chubb Ford, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., late of Wimbledon and Rotherfield, aged 69.

Freeman.—On September 29, 1949, Harry Freeman, F.R.C.S., M.M.S.A., of 69, Harley House, London, N.W.

Greenwood.—On October 5, 1949, in London, Major Greenwood, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., of Hillcrest, 102, Church Hill, Loughton, Essex, aged 69.

Hoffman.—On September 26, 1949, at his home, The Red House, Cranham, Gloucester, Geoffrey Arthur Hoffman, B.A., M.B., T.C.Dub.

Johns.—On September 27, 1949, at the Old Mill House, Adderbury, Oxon, Archibald Tisdall Johns, M.D., aged 77.

Mathews.—On September 24, 1949, at Wayside, Gossamer Lane, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, Sussex, William L'Estrange Mathews, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Prentice.—On September 19, 1949, in hospital, John Stuart Prentice, M.B., Ch.B.

Williams.—On September 21, 1949, Geoffrey Comeline Williams, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., of 8, Belbroughton Road, Oxford.

Any Questions ?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

Trachoma

Q.—What is the cause of trachoma? How useful are the sulphonamides and antibiotics in the treatment of this condition? Where are the best articles to be found concerning the disease in all its aspects?

A.—It is now generally agreed that trachoma is due to a virus infection, the virus being one of the large-sized variety. The mode of transmission—for example, the question whether the virus is louse-borne—is still in dispute. As with the other infections due to large-size viruses, the sulphonamides have proved of great value. The place of penicillin in the treatment of trachoma is still uncertain. When the sulphonamides are used it is advisable to eradicate secondary infection by a course of sulphonamide systemically. The trachoma itself appears to be readily amenable to local sulphonamide therapy, which may have to be continued for several months. Daily painting with 30% sodium sulphacetamide, and the use of an ointment of 6% of the same drug three or four times a day, give good results. It is advisable to eradicate as much of the infective material as possible by mechanical means such as expression before starting on local therapy. In old-standing cases eradicating a virus infection does not, of course, overcome mechanical distortion of the lid from shrinkage of tissue.

The best account of modern teaching is the *Aetiology of Trachoma* by L. A. Julianelle (Oxford University Press, 1938). *Trachoma*, by A. F. MacCallan (London, Butterworth & Co., 1936), is also useful, especially for the older teaching. An account of the use of sulphonamides in trachoma is contained in a paper on the treatment of trachoma by Arnold Sorsby in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* (1945, 29, 98).

Hyoscine for Sea-sickness

Q.—A family consisting of the parents and two children, aged 4 and 2, are travelling to South Africa. What would be the appropriate dose of hyoscine in each case? Should it be started before embarkation? How long should it be continued, and are there any side-effects?

A.—Presumably the hyoscine is intended to prevent sea-sickness. If so, an adult should take a daily dose of 1/100 gr. (0.65 mg.) of hyoscine hydrobromide. One dose daily is enough, taken in the morning. A child of 4 should take one-fifth of this dose, and a child of 2 one-tenth. There is no need to start taking the drug before embarkation. It can be continued throughout the voyage. The only reaction is some dryness of the mouth.

Prostatectomy and Sexual Potency

Q.—What is now considered the most satisfactory surgical approach in prostatectomy? What is the effect of the operation on the sexual life of an otherwise healthy male of middle age, particularly in relation to potency and libido, power of erection, emission and ejaculation, orgasm, spermatogenesis, and ability to procreate?

A.—Potency and libido are not usually affected by prostatectomy in a healthy middle-aged male. Many of the patients undergoing prostatectomy have already ceased to have coitus, but Thomson-Walker found that, among males of all ages, no difference was observed in sexual power in 67%; 20% suffered subsequently from a gradual loss of vigour; and 13% became impotent. Ejaculation does not usually occur after enucleation of the prostate, the semen passing back into the bladder and being voided in the next specimen of urine. In spite of this the patient has an orgasm. It is usually said that sterility follows prostatectomy, but the writer has known two or three