

that the earlier the cure the greater the saving, and the guidance here given is the result of approbation derived from experience. This book has a distinct value in that it serves to focus attention on those particular remedies that have upheld their reputation for efficiency in manifold experience over a long period of time, and it may serve usefully to save from oblivion many of the older remedies that tend to become submerged under the increasing numbers of new drugs. The information is conveniently arranged under alphabetically catalogued diseases, and it is in all ways a handy book for prescribers.

*Incompatibility in Prescriptions* contains the memoranda and the explanations relating to incompatible medicaments. The treatment of the subject of incompatibilities can be generalized only in regard to comparatively few cases, as the one characteristic of incompatibilities is their unexpectedness. Both prescribers and dispensers therefore need a ready-to-hand book of reference for guidance, and this work has been prepared in a useful form for that use. The subject-matter is conveniently arranged under an alphabetical system headed by the name of the article to be prescribed, and there is also a good general index.

T. TICKLE

### THE HEALING TOUCH

*The Healing Touch.* By Harley Williams. (Pp. 408; 8 illustrations. 15s.) London: Jonathan Cape. 1949.

Dr. Harley Williams has done it again. In his book *Doctors Differ* he showed that he could make comparatively recent medical history come alive and interesting to lay as well as to medical readers. In *The Healing Touch* he takes such diverse characters as Sir William Knighton, Sir James Clark, and Sir William Jenner—all doctors of royalty; goes on to Chadwick and Southwood Smith and their pioneer work in public health; gives a penetrating analysis of Florence Nightingale; recounts the almost incredible career of Brown-Séquard; and ends with the Mayo family. He has the great gift of dramatizing the people he deals with and makes them live again, and this applies to his many subsidiary characters also. We get sidelights on George IV, Queen Victoria, and many other interesting patients. The final section is not only the story of the Mayo family but that of the rise of modern surgery in the U.S.A., in which Welch, Halsted, and Harvey Cushing are described in a most engaging manner. Billroth and Virchow come in—not dragged in, but as important factors in what was happening in the U.S.A. The book is full of humanity, with wit, humour, and understanding. I congratulate the author on an undoubted success.

ALFRED COX.

*The Chemistry of Penicillin*, edited by Hans T. Clarke, John R. Johnson, and Sir Robert Robinson (pp. 1,094; illustrated; £9 9s. or \$36; London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 1949), is a very large book of 11 by 8 inches, containing nearly 1,100 pages. It describes a co-operative effort between British and American chemists that was effected during the war by the Medical Research Council in this country and the Office of Scientific Research and Development in the United States. The twenty-nine sections are each on a separate aspect of the chemistry of the drug, and for the most part the authors of each chapter are different. The book therefore describes varied approaches to a single problem; and provides the expert with a fascinating picture of the outlook and resources of his fellows.

Professor Rudolf Thiel's atlas of the diseases of the eye (*Atlas der Augenkrankheiten*; pp. 225; M. 60; Stuttgart: Georg Thieme, 1948) is now in its fifth edition. The first edition was a useful students' book, and in the great tradition of German ophthalmology. Subsequent editions appeared during the war. The present volume was published last year, but the additions and expansions are unbalanced and inaccurate, and detract greatly from the value of the original work.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*Length of Life.* By L. I. Dublin, Ph.D., and others. (Pp. 379. \$7.) New York: Ronald Press. 1949.

*The Vitamins in Medical Practice.* By J. Shafar, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 383. 25s.) London: Staples Press. 1949.

*Elements of Food Biochemistry.* By W. H. Peterson, Ph.D., and others. (Pp. 259. 21s.) London: Staples Press. 1949.

*The Mammalian Adrenal Gland.* By G. H. Bourne. (Pp. 239. 30s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1949.

*The Medical Annual, 1949.* (Pp. 448. 25s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1949.

*Frustration.* By N. R. F. Maier. (Pp. 264. 21s.) London: McGraw-Hill. 1949.

*May and Worth's Diseases of the Eye.* By M. L. Hine, M.D., F.R.C.S. 10th ed. (Pp. 548. 22s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1949.

*Russia Puts the Clock Back.* By J. Langdon-Davies. Foreword by Sir Henry Dale, O.M., F.R.S. (Pp. 160. 7s. 6d.) London: Gollancz. 1949.

*Manual of Medical Emergencies.* By S. C. Cullen, M.D., and E. G. Gross, M.D. (Pp. 267. 21s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1949.

*The L.C.C. Hospitals—A Retrospect.* Foreword by the Rt. Hon. Walter Owen. (Pp. 158. 7s. 6d.) London: Staples Press. 1949.

*What is Man? Evolution's Answer.* By A. Machin. (Pp. 209. 10s. 6d.) London: Watts. 1949.

*Annual Review of Biochemistry.* Edited by J. Murray Luck. Vol. 18. (Pp. 739. 48s., plus 2s. 6d. postage.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1949.

*Epilepsy and Convulsive Disorders in Children.* By E. M. Bridge, M.D. (Pp. 670. 51s.) New York, Toronto, and London: McGraw-Hill. 1949.

*Adolescent Character and Personality.* By R. J. Havighurst and H. Taba. (Pp. 315. 24s.) New York: John Wiley. London: Chapman and Hall. 1949.

*Practical Spectroscopy.* By C. Candler, M.A., F.Inst.P. (Pp. 190. 21s.) London: Hilger and Watts. 1949.

*Notions sur l'Analyse des Mouvements Musculaires.* By A. Govaerts. (Pp. 151. No price.) Brussels: Office International de Librairie. 1949.

*Lehrbuch der Inneren Medizin.* By E. Lauda. (Pp. 569. 36s.) Vienna: Springer. 1949.

*Iron Metabolism and its Clinical Significance.* By A. Vannotti, M.D., and A. Delachaux, M.D. (Pp. 267. 32s.) London: Muller. 1949.

*Simple Craft Jewellery Adapted for Occupational Therapy.* By C. Geoffroy-Dechaume. (Pp. 63. 6s. 6d.) London: Faber. 1949.

*Aids to Fevers for Nurses.* By J. M. Watson, S.R.N. Foreword by A. M. R. Cann, M.D., D.C.H. 3rd ed. (Pp. 388. 5s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1949.

*Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn.* By M. M. Pickles, D.M. (Pp. 181. 15s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1949.

*Experimental Surgery.* By J. Markowitz, M.B.E. 2nd ed. (Pp. 546. 40s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1949.

*The Child in Health and Disease.* By C. C. Grulee, M.D., and R. Cannon Eley, M.D. (Pp. 1,066. 66s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1948.

and educated at Cardiff and the London Hospital, obtaining the conjoint diploma in 1914. After service in the Royal Navy as a temporary surgeon-lieutenant in the cruiser *Drake*, he came to Manchester in 1919 as pathologist to the Salford Royal Hospital, which appointment he held for 27 years. He was also pathologist to the Northern Hospital, Manchester, at the time of his death. His assistance was sought at assizes, at quarter sessions, and by magistrates. Coroners in the East Lancashire area particularly relied on his findings and his careful evidence. Mr. Jessel Rycroft, the Manchester City coroner, said that for many years Dr. Jenkins had been one of the leading pathologists in the county, and that his death was a great loss to the medical profession, adding, "He was a man of kindly heart and painstaking in all his work." Among Dr. Jenkins's published papers, those concerned with special media for the rapid growth of the gonococcus, with the chain formation of the streptococcus, and his latest paper, "The Release of Antibody by Sensitized Antigens," call for special mention. Among Manchester medical men he was best known for the production of detoxicated residual vaccines. His new technique for preparing such vaccines was described in this *Journal*. Dr. Jenkins was secretary of the Salford Division of the B.M.A. from 1925 until 1931, and chairman of the Mid-Cheshire Division from 1933 to 1935. The sudden death of his wife in her early thirties was a great blow to him. To his son and daughter the sympathy of many colleagues and friends will be extended.

—L. D. M.

Dr. GEOFFREY ARTHUR HOFFMAN, medical superintendent of the Cotswold Sanatorium, Cranham, Gloucester, died suddenly at his home on September 26 at the age of 60. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch. in 1915. During the 1914-18 war he served with the R.A.M.C. in Palestine, and on returning home he combined the work of assistant tuberculosis officer for Gloucestershire with that of assisting his father, Dr. Arthur Herbert Hoffman, at the Cotswold Sanatorium. This was one of the first sanatoria to be opened in this country in 1895, and it was taken over by Dr. A. H. Hoffman in 1911. He died in 1931, and his son then became medical superintendent. He remained in control until the time of his death despite the fact that he suffered from severe osteoarthritis for some 20 years. Dr. Hoffman's outlook on the treatment of tuberculosis embraced the belief that the psychological factor was of prime importance, and for this reason he always strove to make life for the patient as free from restriction as was compatible with the principles of rest therapy. He was a supporter of all forms of modern collapse therapy, and also felt very keenly about the climatic factor in dealing with tuberculosis, maintaining, in company with many other physicians in this sphere, that it was far wiser to effect a recovery in the home climate than to go abroad for treatment. In his early life Dr. Hoffman was a keen tennis player and later he became interested in philately. In 1917 he married Miss Mary Wenden, whom he had met when she was serving as a V.A.D. She has since been closely associated with him in the management of the sanatorium. He was a man of deep religious convictions and took an active part in furthering the beliefs to which he subscribed and which meant so much to him. His unflinching kindness, sympathy, and indomitable cheerfulness won him the lasting affection of both patients and staff, and indeed of all who came into contact with him. The loss of "Dr. Geoff," as he was generally known, will be a great personal sorrow to many. He leaves a widow, one son, now studying medicine, and one daughter.

Air Vice-Marshal T. C. Morton writes: James Kyle (October 22, p. 933) entered the newly formed medical branch of the Royal Air Force in 1919. Here his earlier military experience and flair for administration proved of great value during the "growing pains" of a new Service, and lucky was the P.M.O. who had "Jimmy" to lean on; his wisdom, humanity, and abundant common sense made him the ideal medical staff officer. After ten years' service in the Middle East and a course at the R.A.F. Staff College, he was appointed as commandant of the Medical Training Depot in 1935. He proved an ideal commandant—the thousands of medical officers

and orderlies who passed through the depot found in him a wise counsellor and a friend in need. He was a keen shot, and his trim soldierly figure with a gun under his arm and his labrador bitch at his heels were a familiar sight amidst the wooded Chiltern Hills he loved so well. A coronary thrombosis in 1938 curtailed his activities; tournament tennis was, alas, a thing of the past, but he was still able to enjoy a day with the rod or the gun. Death came to him suddenly at his work, and he died as he had lived, unafraid, leaving a devoted wife and two daughters.

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The General Board has made the following recommendations on the annual stipends of the university teachers and research workers: Regius Professor of Physic to receive £2,750; other clinical professors, £2,500; clinical readers, £2,000. These are subject to a deduction of £100 for residence in college, and to certain other deductions. In preclinical subjects the recommendations are as follows: professors, £2,050; readers, £1,800. There will be a deduction of £100 for residence in college. The Department of Pathology is to be dealt with as a special case.

The following medical degrees were conferred on October 15:

M.B., B.Chir.—\*S. T. H. H. Pilbeam, \*H. P. Kilner, \*J. R. Harris, \*P. Bryan-Brown, \*A. Gol, \*J. Lynfield, \*W. G. Dawson, K. N. J. Pocock, Elisabeth Monkhouse.

\*By proxy

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following candidates at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—J. W. McAllan, J. T. Navaratnam, Geraldine O'Callaghan, C. Rajaratnam, B. M. A. Sulaiman.

### UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Mrs. Joan Mary Tattersall, M.B., Ch.B., has been appointed assistant medical officer on the staff of the University.

### UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The following appointments were made at a meeting of the University Council held on October 21: *Lecturer in Bacteriology*, J. K. A. Beverley, M.B., Ch.B. *Research Fellow and Tutor in Therapeutics*, G. M. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. *Full-time Tutor in Child Health*, M. G. Philpott, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. *Demonstrators in Anatomy*, P. A. King, M.B., Ch.B., H. Debovitch, M.B., Ch.B., and A. A. Belton, M.B., Ch.B.

The Council received the following resignations and thanked these members for their services to the University: Dr. B. E. Heard (Assistant Lecturer in Pathology); Messrs. S. M. Patel and J. B. Pyper (Demonstrators in Anatomy); Dr. A. R. Kelsall (Senior Lecturer in Medicine).

The Council received and gratefully accepted an offer by the J. G. Graves Trustees to substantially augment the stipend of the first holder of the J. G. Graves Medical Research Fellowship. It was hoped to invite applications for the Fellowship in the near future.

### ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

A series of lectures has been arranged by the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow to be delivered in the Hall of the Faculty (242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow) on Wednesdays, November 9 and 23 and December 14, 1949, and January 11 and 25 and February 8, 1950, at 5 p.m. All medical practitioners are invited to attend the lectures, details of which will be published under "Societies and Lectures" week by week.

### ROYAL FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

At a meeting of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow held on October 3, with the President, Dr. W. R. Snodgrass, in the chair, L. S. Scott was admitted a fellow of Faculty *qua* Surgeon.

## Thursday

- FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHY.—At Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C., November 3, 5 p.m., "*Homoeopathic Experiences at Home and Abroad*," by Dr. Q. Muriel F. Adams.
- HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE.—At Anatomy Theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, November 3, 5 p.m., "*G.P.I.: Its Juvenile and Senile Types*," by Dr. R. M. Stewart.
- INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, 5, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—November 3, 5 p.m., "*Nutritional Disorders of the Skin*," by Dr. B. Russell.
- INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.—November 3, 2.15 p.m., "*The Surgical Treatment of Otosclerosis*," by Dr. I. Simson Hall.
- LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., November 3, 5 p.m., "*Tonsillar Function: A Review of the Evidence*," Semon Lecture by Mr. A. J. Wright (University of Bristol).
- ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Royal Society of Medicine, Barnes Hall, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., November 3, 2.15 p.m., "*The Function of Electrical Rhythms in the Brain*," 24th Maudsley Lecture by Dr. W. Grey Walter.
- SOCIETY FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.S.R.—At University of London Institute of Education, Malet Street, W.C., November 3, 7.30 p.m., "*Pavlov, Scientist and Man: His Place in the History of Civilization*," by Mr. J. G. Crowther.
- ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—November 3, 4.30 p.m., lecture-demonstration: "*Neurology*," by Dr. A. Feiling.
- WREXHAM AND DISTRICT CLINICAL SOCIETY.—At Wynnstay Hotel, Wrexham, November 3, "*Some Reflections from an Allergy Clinic*," by Dr. Cyril Clarke. Preceded by dinner at 7.30 p.m.

## Friday

- MAIDA VALE HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES MEDICAL SCHOOL, Maida Vale, London, W.—November 4, 5 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. Russell Brain.
- ROYAL INSTITUTION, 21, Albemarle Street, London, W.—November 4, 9 p.m., "*The Dimensions of Animals and their Muscular Dynamics*," by Professor A. V. Hill, F.R.S.
- ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY, 14, Gordon Square, London, W.C.—November 4, 5.15 p.m., "*Neutral Monism and the Philosophy of Nature*," by Professor H. H. Price.
- ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, 7, Melbourn Place, Edinburgh.—November 4, 8 p.m., "*The Aetiology and Treatment of Ulcerative Colitis*," by Mr. C. W. Mercer.
- SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS OF SOUTH WALES.—At Park Hotel, Cardiff, November 4, 7 p.m., dinner-meeting. Address by Dr. John Gillies.
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Gower Street, London, W.C.—November 4, 5.15 p.m., "*Transmission of Excitation in Nerve and Muscle*," by Dr. Bernhard Katz.

## Saturday

- INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY, 330, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.—November 5, 11.15 a.m., "*Examination and Treatment of Children, particularly those of School Age*," by Mr. Henry Forsster.
- INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Postgraduate Medical School of London, Ducane Road, W., November 5, 11 a.m., "*Puerperal Infection*," by Dr. A. M. Ramsay.
- YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 17, Stonegate, York, November 5, 8.30 p.m., "*Some Diseases of the Skin of Interest to General Practitioners*," by Dr. H. W. Barber.

## APPOINTMENTS

Lord Nathan of Churt has been appointed a Crown Representative on the General Medical Council.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

## BIRTHS

- Anderson.—On October 13, 1949, to Doris (née Twiddy, S.R.N., S.C.M.), wife of Dr. G. Anderson, 192, Hawthorn Road, Birmingham, 22C., a son.
- Blench.—On October 8, 1949, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, to Dr. Pearl Blench (née Evans) and Dr. Athelstan Blench, a daughter.
- Burchill.—On October 19, 1949, to Mrs. K. Burchill (née Birkhead), wife of Dr. K. Burchill, 132, Moorside Road, Davyhulme, Manchester, a daughter.
- Clements.—On October 14, 1949, to Megan, wife of Dr. M. W. L. Clements, 149, Warwick Road, Kenilworth, a son.
- Geddie.—On October 9, 1949, at Babislaw Nursing Home, Aberdeen, to Margaret (née Cook), wife of Dr. John M. Geddie, a daughter.
- Markowe.—On October 15, 1949, at Garrett Anderson Maternity Home, to Helen (née Teff), wife of Morris Markowe, M.D., a daughter—Lesley.

## MARRIAGE

- Scott—Wilson.—On October 1, 1949, at All Saints Church, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Cedric Mathieson Scott, M.B., B.S., of Hartlepool, to Gwendoline Duxford Wilson, of Fawdon Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## DEATHS

- Cassidy.—On October 22, 1949, at 42, Montagu Square, London, W., Sir Maurice Alan Cassidy, G.C.V.O., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P.
- Hawthorne.—On October 24, 1949, at 113, New Church Road, Hove, Charles Oliver Hawthorne, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.P., late of 63, Harley Street, London, W.
- Woods.—On October 23, 1949, at 5, Albert Terrace, Douglas, Isle of Man, Lionel Dudley Woods, O.B.E., L.R.C.P.&S.I., aged 63.

## 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.

## Amphetamine Sulphate

Q.—(a) What are the toxic effects of amphetamine sulphate? Can these arise with normal dosage? Are any risks associated with long-continued use of moderate doses? (b) Is amphetamine sulphate desirable as a slimming agent? Is it better or safer than thyroid? Should not all slimming be done by the control of intake of food alone?

A.—(a) The common toxic effects of amphetamine sulphate are: restlessness, insomnia, and irritability; palpitation, extrasystoles, and rarely a persistent rise in blood pressure; dryness of the mouth, anorexia, and flatulence. These symptoms may be experienced to a mild extent, even with moderate dosage, by some individuals who are peculiarly sensitive to the drug, but subside as soon as it is withdrawn. There is little risk associated with long-continued administration of moderate doses. The danger of inducing or aggravating hypertension by its use is very slight, though the drug should probably be avoided by hypertensive subjects and by those suffering from coronary disease and cardiac arrhythmias. A very few unstable individuals who have experienced the euphoria which amphetamine induces may be tempted to increase the dose and thus develop an addiction with chronic hyperexcitability alternating with melancholia. As tolerance and severe craving are not features of the addiction, withdrawal is easy. The usual dose in the treatment of obesity is 5 mg. three times a day before meals, but if the last dose is taken later than 4 p.m. sleeplessness may result.

(b) Amphetamine and thyroid act quite differently in assisting weight-reduction: the former diminishes the desire for food and so helps a patient to avoid eating more than has been prescribed; the latter stimulates metabolism and thus increases the rate of combustion of food. Neither is dangerous if it is properly prescribed and the patient is supervised while taking it. The evil effects of overdosage with thyroid are more serious than those produced by overdosage with amphetamine, and last longer after withdrawal of the drug. The majority of people lose weight satisfactorily on a sub-caloric diet alone without the need to prescribe either drug, which should never be used as a substitute but only as an adjuvant to dieting. Properly employed, however, both drugs may be valuable in certain cases. Amphetamine may be useful, particularly in the early stages of treatment, for patients who complain of extreme hunger and depression as the result of a low-calorie diet; whereas thyroid is more valuable in the later stages of treatment, when the weight loss due to careful dieting may become unduly slow owing to the reduction in metabolic rate which invariably occurs on low-calorie intakes, and which is shown in its greatest degree in the completely fasting individual.

## Chemical Sympathectomy

Q.—What exactly is "chemical sympathectomy"? To what extent and in what kind of cases can it replace surgical sympathectomy? Does it ever provide a form of therapeutic test which would indicate the need for sympathectomy?

A.—Sympathetic nerve impulses may be temporarily interrupted, either locally by procaine injection of the ganglia and nerve trunks or, generally, by systemic administration of autonomic ganglion blocking agents such as tetraethylammonium bromide. In peripheral vascular thrombosis or embolus, sympathetic nerve block, by releasing vascular tone in the collateral circulation, may prove a valuable adjunct in conservative treatment. By similar vasodilator action, procaine block gives an indication of the benefit to be expected from surgical sympathectomy in such diseases as thrombo-angiitis obliterans, the