

A little time ago I compared the length of stay in the same hospital thirty years ago with that to-day, and was surprised to find that it had not greatly diminished. It is the pace which has changed, and the time formerly spent in quiet observation is now devoted to special investigations and treatment. The range of knowledge which a house-physician must have for these purposes is extensive and requires the medical equivalent of the manual of surgical handicraft. It is this which Dr. Bayliss has provided, and his book can be regarded as a supplement to the still essential manual of physical diagnosis.

In twelve chapters he discusses the methods of laboratory investigation of the various systems and the different special procedures. From artificial pneumothorax to A.C.T.H., these last thirty years have kept the house-physician busy, and this book will save him a good deal of time in discovering how to do it all. A book of this kind is out of date before the manuscript leaves the hands of the author. There is no mention of such fashionable topics as potassium infusions or the eosinophil count, or of the growing volume of criticism of the cricothyroid route for bronchography. New editions will clearly be needed, and in these one would like to see rather more references to the original papers from which methods are taken.

L. J. WITTS.

SIGNIFICANT DOODLES

On Not Being Able to Paint. By Joanna Field. (Pp. 173; 48 figures. 10s. 6d.) London: William Heinemann. 1950.

The sale of the Graham Robertson collection of Blake's drawings last year inevitably raised speculation on how they were received when Blake created them in comparison with how they are assessed now. Surely we can perceive something of their significance better now than could Blake's contemporaries.

With charcoal, ink, and paint Miss Field has set down over the years the apparently aimless movements of her undirected hands. We might call them her doodles. And she has latterly found a significance in them and recalled the delight in their execution far different from the arid response that followed her earlier more normal representational efforts. The reality of these emotions is partly responsible for her efforts to find a significance in these doodles, which she interprets as the expression of her thwarted inner life. Critics may find plenty to carp at in such interpretations. Yet the reviewer notes that psycho-analytic theories are expressed in a much less disturbing way than they often are. Some of Miss Field's conclusions are set out in ways that convince by their simplicity. She claims that her drawings enabled her to solve the problem of falling short of her ideals and yet being calm and not ashamed. And she hints that the task of education is to allow, whether by free-drawing or otherwise, the expression of those sides of our imagination which tend more and more to be denied expression in a sophisticated age.

This book, therefore, should be welcome to many besides amateur artists. It might be said to be an introduction to surrealism, to aesthetics, and for all who genuinely wish to appreciate children's paintings, psychotic drawings, or modern art. Miss Field's work approaches philosophy, and in so far as she quotes Traherne (extensively), Donne, Blake, and Francis Thompson she raises many fascinating and unsolved questions. It is not a primer for holiday sketching.

HENRY WILSON.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received

A History of the Teaching of Anatomy in Oxford. By H. M. Sinclair and A. H. T. Robb-Smith. (Pp. 103. 3s. 6d.) Oxford: University Press. 1950.

Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. Session 1949. Vol. 69. (Pp. 708. 40s.) London: Churchill. 1950.

Essays in the History of Medicine. By G. Gask. (Pp. 209. 30s.) London: Butterworth. 1950.

Analgesia for Normal Childbirth. By E. H. Seward, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.A., D.Obst.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 19. 2s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1950.

The Child's Microbial Heritage. By L. M. J. Kramer, M.A., Ph.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S. (Pp. 17. 1s.) London: British Social Hygiene Council. 1950.

The Task of Rationalism. By A. Gowans Whyte. (Pp. 22. 6d.) London: Watts. 1950.

The Microtome's Vade-Mecum (Bolles Lee). Edited by J. B. Gatenby, M.A., Ph.D., D.Phil., D.Sc., and H. W. Beams, M.A., Ph.D. 11th ed. (Pp. 753. 45s.) London: Churchill. 1950.

Progress in Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry, 1. Edited by J. A. V. Butler and J. T. Randall, F.R.S. (Pp. 279. 50s. Postage 1s. extra.) London: Butterworth-Springer. 1950.

Human Embryology for Medical Students. By S. R. Nair. (Pp. 398. 42s.) Bombay: The Popular Book Depot. 1950.

Adrenal Cortex. Edited by E. P. Ralli and others. (Pp. 189. \$2.) New York: Josiah Macy, jun., Foundation. 1950.

Public Health and Demography in the Far East: Report of a Survey Trip September 13—December 13, 1948. By M. C. Balfour and others. New York: Rockefeller Foundation. 1950.

Human Sterilization: Techniques of Permanent Conception Control. By R. L. Dickinson, M.D., and C. J. Gamble, M.D. (Pp. 40. No price.) Princeton, N.J., and New York: Birthright, Inc., Sterilization for Human Betterment. 1950.

La Dissociation Auriculo-ventriculaire dans l'Infarctus du Myocarde. By R. Vialard. (Pp. 200. No price.) Paris: Librairie Arnette. 1950.

L'Arachnoidite Optique Canaliculaire et Orbitaire. By R. Cazaban. (Pp. 102. No price.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique Française. 1950.

La Luxation Congénitale de la Hanche. By P. Le Damany. (Pp. 123. 600 francs.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1950.

Atti del XVI Congresso Nazionale di Radiologia Medica. Vol. 1. Part 1: *La Radiodiagnostica dei Tumori Cerebrali.* By F. Mascherpa. (Pp. 125. No price.) Messina: Tipografia Ditta D'Amico. 1950. Part 2: *La Radioterapia dei Tumori Maligni del Sistema Reticoloendoteliale.* By G. F. Gardini. (Pp. 78. No price.) Messina: Tipografia Ditta D'Amico. 1950. Part 3: *Radioterapia E Radiobiologia dei Tumori delle Ossa.* By A. Grilli. (Pp. 201. No price.) Rome: Abruzzini. 1950.

Klinische Hämatologie. By H. Fleischhacker. 2nd ed. (Pp. 627. 50 Swiss francs.) Vienna: Wilhelm Maudrich. 1950.

Stufen der Malignität. By R. Rössle. (Pp. 35. M. 2.25.) Berlin: Akademie. 1950.

Klinische Psychopathologie. By K. Schneider. (Pp. 179. M. 11.40.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1950.

Gastritis Ulcus und Karzinom. By J. Bücker. (Pp. 89. M. 11.50.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1950.

Kinesiterapia Tecnica. Vol. 3 of *Tratado Argentino de Kinesioterapia.* Part 1. (Pp. 144. No price.) Buenos Aires. 1950.

Medical News

A Ross Commemoration

To commemorate the discovery by Sir Ronald Ross on August 20, 1897, that malaria is transmitted by *Anopheles* mosquitoes, members of the Ross Institute in London laid a wreath on his grave in Putney Vale cemetery on August 21. Sir Eric Macfadyen, chairman of the standing committee of the Ross Institute, said that they did well on an anniversary such as this to recall the great benefits to mankind which had followed from Ross's discovery. Sir Malcolm Watson, who also participated in the ceremony, said that the Poet Laureate had described Ross as the most gifted, most beneficent, and most forceful man it had ever been his privilege to know. His work had been neglected for many years, and people were inclined to say that while it was interesting scientifically it was of no practical value. But it was now being applied, said Sir Malcolm, in every part of the tropical world in increasing volume. The Ross Institute, which was founded at Putney in 1926, and of which Sir Ronald Ross was the first director-in-chief, now has branches in India, Ceylon, and Africa. In 1933 it amalgamated with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, whose origin is linked with Ross's great collaborator, Sir Patrick Manson.

Colyer Prize

The Colyer Prize was founded in June, 1926, to commemorate the twenty-five years' service of Sir Frank Colyer as Honorary Curator of the Odontological Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The accumulated income of this fund is used every third year for the purpose of awarding a prize for the best original work in dental science completed during the previous five years by a dental surgeon educated at any duly recognized dental school in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, and who has not been qualified to practise for more than five years at the date of the award. The prize committee has power to withhold the prize if they consider there has been no work submitted of sufficient merit to justify the award. Applications from candidates, together with a general account of their researches, should be submitted to the prize committee at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, London, W.1, not later than December 1.

Alvarenga Prize

On July 14 the College of Physicians of Philadelphia awarded the Alvarenga Prize for 1950 to Ephraim Shorr, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College, for his outstanding work in shock which has provided a clearer understanding of the mechanism of this condition. The prize was established by the will of Pedro Francisco DaCosta Alvarenga, of Lisbon, Portugal, an Associate Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, to be awarded annually by the college on the anniversary of the death of the testator, July 14, 1883.

Medical Women's Federation

Dr. Doris M. Odlum has been elected president of the Medical Women's Federation for 1951, and will take office at the annual general meeting of the Federation in October. Among the many posts held by Dr. Odlum is that of senior psychiatrist at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, and she is chairman of the B.M.A. Committee on Psychiatry and the Law.

Report on Midwives

The report of the Central Midwives Board for the year ended March 31, 1950, shows that in 1949 there were 18,053 midwives practising. The number of midwives and pupil midwives trained in the administration of nitrous-oxide-air analgesia was 19,447 at March 31; of these 11,118 were in practice in 1949. The most pressing administrative problem under the National Health Service was found to have arisen from the division of the maternity services under separate types of authority each entrusted with powers and duties to operate a

particular section of the Service. A marked decline in domiciliary midwifery is recorded, particularly in cases available for the training of pupil midwives. The report comments that if the present standard is at least to be maintained the co-operation of the separate authorities responsible for domiciliary and hospital midwifery in each area must be assured. The board has decided to conduct experiments on training at some six or seven centres, chosen so far as possible with differing local conditions. It will take at least another year for the first of the experiments to be completed.

COMING EVENTS

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

The annual dinner of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists will be held at Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, W., on Friday, September 29, at 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Middlesex Hospital Medical School

The annual dinner of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School will be held at the Savoy Hotel (Victoria Embankment entrance), London, W.C., on Thursday, September 28, at 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Law of Abortion

After the annual meeting of the Abortion Law Reform Association a public meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on September 27 at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1.

British Medical Students' Association

The Liverpool National Clinical and Preclinical Conference will be held at Liverpool on September 12-15. Full details may be obtained from the Liverpool University Medical Students Society, Medical School, Liverpool University, Liverpool.

Refresher Courses for General Practitioners

The British Postgraduate Medical Federation (University of London) has arranged a programme of refresher courses for general practitioners to be held at certain non-teaching hospitals of the four metropolitan hospital regions during the months September to December. The programme includes several week-end courses and extended courses spread over two months as well as concentrated courses of one or two weeks' duration. Further information will be found in the advertisement columns of this week's *Journal*.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Thursday

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE BOARD FOR MEDICINE.—At University New Buildings (Anatomy Lecture Theatre), Edinburgh, August 31, 4.30 p.m., "*Muscles in Action*," by Professor R. D. Lockhart.

Correction.—In the *Journal* of August 12 (p. 402) we listed under "Books Received" *Illustrations of Anatomy for Nurses*, by Dr. E. B. Jamieson. The price of this should have been given as 12s.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Marshall.—On August 13, 1950, at The Croft, Buxton, to Dorothy (formerly Ead) and Dr. W. E. S. Marshall, Chapel-en-le-Frith, a second child—Desmond John.

Roads.—On August 11, 1950, at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, W., to Evelyn (formerly Daniel), wife of Dr. Peter Roads, a son.

Snaith.—On August 13, 1950, at Newcastle General Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Linton Snaith, a daughter.

Varian.—On August 8, 1950, at the Forbes Fraser Hospital, Bath, to Katha (formerly Greene), wife of S. N. Varian, M.B.E., F.R.C.S.I., a daughter.

Zaki.—On August 14, 1950, at Beach Lawn Nursing Home, to Irene (formerly Hope), wife of Dr. Y. E. Zaki, Wintonlea, Dowhills Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool, a brother for Stuart—Michael Simpson.

DEATHS

Ball.—On August 13, 1950, Ralph William Codrington Ball, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 40, Keswick Road, Putney, London, S.W.

Barton.—On August 16, 1950, at his home, 61, Wellington Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex, Bertram Henry Barton, M.C., M.D., aged 67.