

Reviews

ON TUMOURS OF THE BREAST

Treatment of Breast Tumours. By Robert S. Pollack, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 147; illustrated. 45s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1958.

This American publication is a most expensively produced and beautifully illustrated account of the pathology and treatment of breast tumours by a group of workers in San Francisco, mostly from Stanford University, where the principal author and editor is clinical instructor in surgery.

In the chapter on pathology malignant growths are divided into those of ductal origin and those of glandular origin, a distinction which would not recommend itself to the majority of British pathologists. The technique of removal of a benign tumour is described in detail with copious illustrations. This operation, often neglected in textbooks on operative surgery, is sometimes rather badly done, and it is a pleasure to find that its execution is regarded as a matter of some importance. The medical treatment of "chronic mastitis" which is recommended is somewhat unusual and no evidence is adduced that it has any effect. Other chapters relate to the primary treatment of early breast cancer, surgical techniques for simple and modified mastectomies, and the common problems related thereto. The extended radical mastectomy is described, but praiseworthy caution is enjoined in formulating indications for this operation. Radiotherapy and the various treatments depending upon hormonal dependence receive due attention.

This is a book which might take a modest place in the library of a surgeon especially interested in diseases of the breast.

HEDLEY ATKINS.

ESSAYS BY VIRCHOW

Disease, Life, and Man. Selected Essays by Rudolf Virchow. Translated and with an introduction by Leland J. Rather. (Pp. 273+viii. 32s. 6d.) Stanford: University Press. London: Oxford University Press. 1959.

This book is a translation of ten essays by Rudolph Virchow, the first written when he was a young man of 26, the last at the age of 77. Professor Rather has added an introductory essay contrasting the methods of Virchow with those of Harvey and Claude Bernard. It would have been interesting to have had a little more biographical detail of Virchow himself, for he was a man of many parts; but Professor Rather has provided condensed notes on many of the personalities mentioned in the essays, which add to their interest.

The essays cover a period of the nineteenth century (1847-98) and provide a fascinating and worthwhile survey of the changes in outlook during that period. When Virchow wrote the first essay medicine was at the point of emergence from "natural philosophical" and "natural historical" bounds, and the gap between physiological and practical medicine was wide. Virchow urged the need for careful detailed investigations, the right use of hypothesis, and the study of pathology by a physiological approach and by experiment. These ideas found expression in his teaching and emphasis on cellular pathology, which is the central theme of most of the essays.

Throughout the book there are investigating glimpses of Virchow's contemporaries, on whom his views are sometimes more forcefully than politely expressed. In the essay "One Hundred Years of General Pathology" we have a fascinating pen picture of some of the practitioners of pathology in the nineteenth century, and inevitably something of Virchow's own personality becomes apparent to the reader.

This, unlike many collections of essays, is rather more than light reading for the occasional half hour.

IAN DAWSON.

PHILOBATISM AND OCNOPHILIA

Thrills and Regressions. By Michael Balint, M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc. With a chapter on "Distance in Space and Time," by Enid Balint, B.Sc. (Pp. 147. 18s.) London: Hogarth Press. 1959.

This book is volume No. 54 in the International Psycho-Analytical Library, a series well known for its mumpsimus qualities. The present volume is no exception in this respect. It purports to present a new typology, consisting of philobatism and ocnophilia, two types which have obvious relationships to extraversion and introversion. Balint dismisses Jung's and Kretschmer's typologies as being "descriptive rather than dynamic classifications, useful while discussing people but not really helpful when trying to treat them." There is no evidence in this book that the new concepts are any more useful in treatment, and in any case Jung and Kretschmer would probably consider their own types at least as "dynamic" as Balint's. Indeed, as the term is quite undefined it does not seem to carry very much meaning.

In establishing the existence of his types Balint very carefully refrains from making use of any of the advances in psychological methodology achieved in the last fifty years; his discussion bears a distinct similarity to the type of character description so well done by the Ancient Greeks. Reliance is entirely on argument, anecdote, and a rather superficial kind of semantic analysis of the origins of certain words; there is no reference to controlled observations of people, and only very casual references to case studies. The style is turgid and the organization of the material poor; the author seems to have been incapable of following one train of thought through without hunting after every hare stirred up in the process. Altogether this book can hardly be regarded as a serious contribution to either medicine or science.

H. J. EYSENCK.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Air Ministry Handbook of Preventive Medicine. 2nd ed. (Pp. 418+xxix; illustrated. 40s.) London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1959.

Modern Science and the Human Fertility Problem. By Richard L. Meier. (Pp. 263+xiii. 48s.) New York: John Wiley and Sons Inc. London: Chapman and Hall. 1959.

Eighth Congress of the Universities of the Commonwealth 1958. Report of Proceedings, Montreal, September 1-5. (Pp. 99+xxix. 12s. 6d.) London: Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth. 1959.

Sulfur in Proteins. Proceedings of a Symposium held at Falmouth, Massachusetts, May 1958. Organized and edited by Reinhold Benesch, Ruth E. Benesch, Paul D. Boyer, Irving M. Klotz, W. Robert Middlebrook, Andrew G. Szent-Györgyi, and David R. Schwarz. (Pp. 469+xi; illustrated. \$14.) New York and London: Academic Press Inc. 1959.

UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Dr. A. G. M. Weddell has been appointed representative of the University at the seventh International Anatomical Congress to be held in New York in August, 1960.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on October 18, 1958, the following degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.CHIR.—*J. D. J. Parker.
M.B.—*R. D. Cohen, *H. P. R. Bury, *I. R. Carr, J. S. Elkington,
R. K. Jackson, R. J. Read, A. J. Taylor
*By proxy.

In Congregation on February 7 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—*P. H. A. Seath, J. P. Reidy, J. D. S. Knight.
M.B., B.CHIR.—*D. P. S. Heath, *M. I. Lander.
M.B., J. R. Bartlett, R. B. Woodd-Walker, R. P. Wilding, J. D. M. Stewart, D. J. Richards.
*By proxy.

Dr. D. G. Chalmers has been appointed University Haematologist to Addenbrooke's Hospital in the Department of Pathology with tenure from July 1, 1959, for three years.

Drs. P. A. G. Monro and C. C. D. Shute have been reappointed University Lecturers in the Department of Anatomy with tenure from October 1, 1959, to the retiring age.

Dr. J. T. Fitzsimons has been appointed a University Demonstrator in the Department of Physiology with tenure from October 1, 1959, for three years.

Dr. D. H. M. Woollam has been elected into an Official Fellowship of Emmanuel College with effect from August 1, 1959, associated with his office of University Lecturer in Anatomy. In Congregation on February 21 the degree of M.A. was conferred on Dr. J. H. Cullen, senior assistant in research in medical psychology, and the degree of M.B. on W. E. I. Forsythe-Jauch.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following degrees were awarded in January:

M.D.—A. S. V. Burgen, J. A. Dossett, D. L. Walker, J. L. Turk.
M.S.—J. Whitwell.

Dr. H. W. Bunjé has been elected and Dr. N. A. Thorne re-elected to membership of the Standing Committee of Convocation for a period of three years from January, 1959.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Sir Arthur Thomson, Mr. A. L. d'Abreu, Professor W. Melville Arnott, and Dr. A. G. W. Whitfield have been appointed representatives of the University on the Standing Joint Committee of the University, the United Birmingham Hospitals, and the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board for the year April 1, 1959, to March 31, 1960.

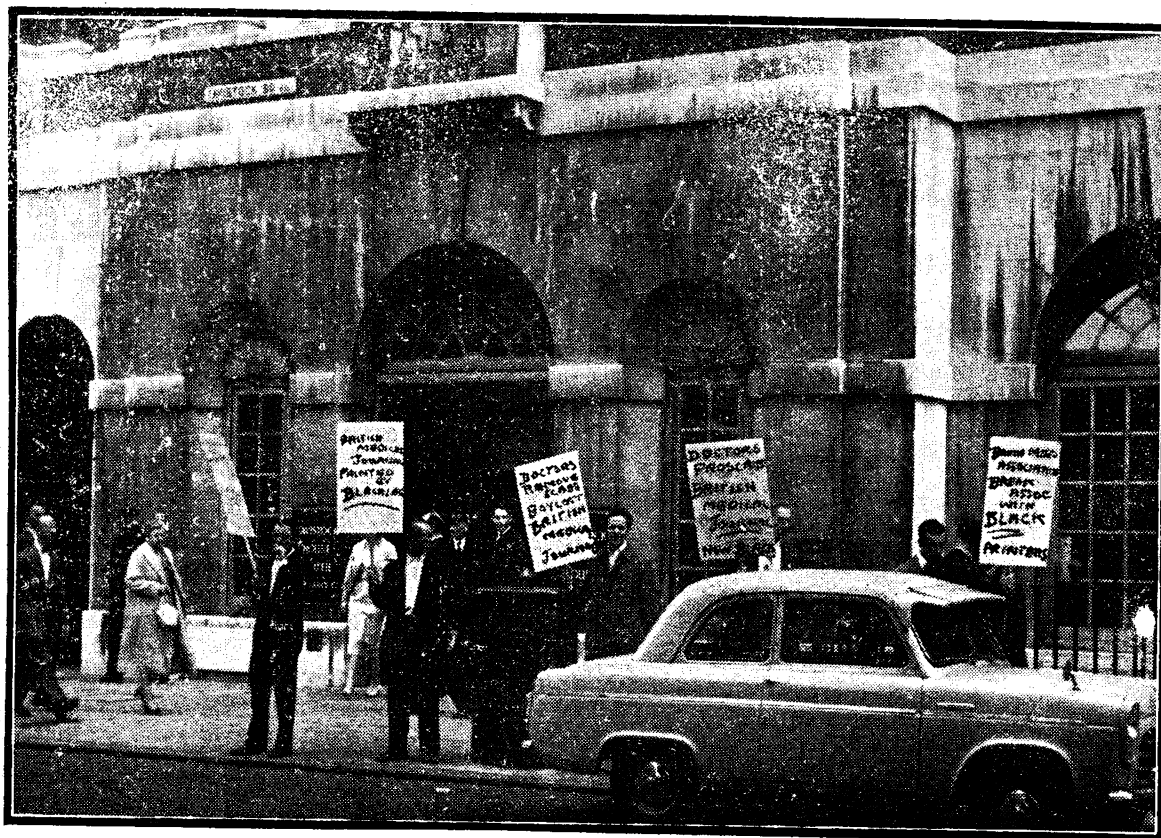
Professor A. B. MacGregor has been appointed a representative of the University on the Central Counties Dental Postgraduate Committee for the triennial period 1959-62.

Professor J. R. Squire has been appointed Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medicine for the period October 1, 1959, to September 30, 1961.

The title of University Research Fellow in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health has been given to Dr. P. M. Jeavons, consultant psychiatrist to All Saints' Hospital, Birmingham, for two years in the first instance from April 1, 1958, and in the Department of Experimental Pathology to Dr. M. E. Abrams, Endowment Fund Research Assistant, United Birmingham Hospitals, during the tenure of his present appointment.

The title of University Clinical Lecturer in the subject indicated in parentheses has been given to the following members of the staff of the United Birmingham Hospitals: Mr. P. Dawson-Edwards (Surgery), Dr. E. T. Mathews (Anaesthetics), Dr. E. A. Fairburn (Dermatology), and Dr. G. A. Newsholme (Radiotherapy).

TODAY'S PROSCRIPTION



The above photograph of pickets outside B.M.A. House was taken on July 15.

- (1) "British Medical Journal Printed by Blacks".
- (2) "Doctors! Remove Scabs, Boycott British Medical Journal".
- (3) "Doctors! Proscribe British Medical Journal Now Black".
- (4) "British Medical Association! Break Assoc. with Black Printers".