

something. It is obvious that selected cases from an experience as vast as the author's prove nothing.

A. W. BEARD.

## ALLERGY

*Allergie und Allergische Erkrankungen.* Volumes I and II. Edited by E. Rajka. (Pp. Vol. I: 638; Vol. II: 1,003; illustrated.) Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. 1959.

This is a voluminous textbook of allergy written by Hungarian authors and translated into German. The first volume deals with the general aspects of allergy—sensitization and desensitization, immunochemistry of antigens and antibodies, serology, histology, and with the general principles of diagnosis and treatment. The second volume deals with the allergic disorders of the various organ systems. No aspect of allergy has been left out. The material the numerous authors have compiled is admirable and the competent international literature is extensively quoted. However, the review of our present knowledge is often not critical, but more in the nature of a neutral abstract so that the reader is left to form his own opinion without the guidance of the author.

Professor Rajka, the editor, has written the lion's share of the first volume and most of the dermatological part of the second. The length of the various contributions in this volume is often out of proportion to their importance: dermatology fills 300 pages, respiratory allergy about 100, and all other allergy 600 pages. Many disorders are listed as allergic without satisfactory evidence: for instance, an attack of angina pectoris after a severe asthmatic attack is described as "allergic angina pectoris." There is also an allergic meningitis, an allergic headache (apart from migraine), allergic neuralgia of the trigeminal nerve, allergic fatigue in childhood [*sic*] and the like. The tendency to draw as many disorders as possible into the allergy fold is obvious, but this is a common failing in other textbooks of allergy. Errors are frequent in the second volume, particularly in the chapter on urogenital allergy, where the intolerance to ephedrine in elderly men with prostatic hypertrophy is explained as an allergic reaction.

In spite of these disadvantages, the work contains so much valuable and up-to-date material that it is a welcome supplement to the available American texts, both of which are much older.

H. HERXHEIMER.

The *Cumulative Supplement, 1959*, to the *British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice* gives details of the points where current practice or knowledge now differs from that given in the main volumes of the *Encyclopaedia*. These points cover knowledge of proved value, and nothing controversial or doubtful is included. Occasionally completely new headings are incorporated: in the 1959 *Supplement*, now available, this has been done in the instance of A.C.T.H., cortisone, and related subjects; haemolytic diseases; and fluid and electrolyte balance. A separate volume, *Medical Progress, 1959*, is published together with this *Supplement*, and differs in that it gives a survey of all forms of medical research whether or not they have been established. According to the preface to the *Progress*, the past year witnessed no spectacular advances in medicine, but steady progress and fruitful research in every branch. (Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd., *Cumulative Supplement, 1959*: 445 pp.; 35s.; *Medical Progress, 1959*: 327+xx pp., index, 37s. 6d. Combined price 67s. 6d.)

## BOOKS RECEIVED

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.*

*Radiologic Records.* By Sister Christina Spirko, C.S.J., R.T., B.S., in R.T., M.A., F.A.S.X.T. (Pp. 304+xxviii; illustrated. 68s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease. Dietotherapy.* Edited by Michael G. Wohl, M.D., and Robert S. Goodhart, M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 1,152; illustrated. £6 18s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1960.

*Pharmacology and Therapeutics. A Textbook for Students and Practitioners of Medicine and its Allied Professions.* By Arthur Grollman, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.P. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. (Pp. 1,079; illustrated. 93s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1960.

*Research Conference on Therapeutic Community held at Manhattan State Hospital, Ward's Island, New York.* Compiled and edited by Herman C. B. Denber, M.D. (Pp. 265+xvi; illustrated. 88s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Some Papers on the Cerebral Cortex.* Translated from French and German by Gerhardt von Bonin. (Pp. 396+xxiv; illustrated. 92s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Interpersonal Relationships in the Hospital.* By Warner F. Bowers, A.B., B.Sc., M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D.(Surg.). (Pp. 125+vii. 40s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Basic Office Dermatology.* By Stuart Maddin, M.D., Julius L. Danto, M.D., and William D. Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C). (Pp. 308+xix; illustrated. 94s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Intussusception in Infants and Children.* By Mark M. Ravitch, M.D. (Pp. 121+xi; illustrated. 76s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*A Stereotaxic Atlas of the Dog's Brain.* By Robert K. S. Lim, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., D.Sc., Chan-Nao Liu, Ph.D., and Robert L. Moffitt, B.S. (Pp. 93+vii. 74s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*A Primer of Medicine. Being an Introduction to Clinical Neurology, Alimentary, Respiratory, and Cardiovascular Diseases.* By M. H. Pappworth, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 241. 32s. 6d.) London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1960.

*The Wish to Fall Ill. A Study of Psychoanalysis and Medicine.* By Karin Stephen. (Pp. 238. 10s. 6d.) Cambridge University Press. 1960.

*'Nerves' and Their Cure.* By C. Edward Barker. (Pp. 198. 16s.) London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1960.

*Handicapped Youth. A Report on the Employment Problems of Handicapped Young People in Glasgow.* By Thomas Ferguson and Agnes W. Kerr. (Pp. 141+vi. 15s.) London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press for the Nuffield Foundation. 1960.

*Psychiatry: Descriptive and Dynamic.* By Jackson A. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 342. 56s.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Company. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, Ltd. 1960.

*Handbook of Neurological Diagnostic Methods.* Edited by Fletcher McDowell, M.D., and Harold G. Wolff, M.D. (Pp. 201+ix; illustrated. 36s.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Company. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, Ltd. 1960.

*Principles of General Physiology. Volume II. General Physiology.* By L. E. Bayliss. (Pp. 848+xxiii; illustrated. 85s.) London: Longmans. 1960.

*An Introduction to Embryology.* By B. I. Balinsky, Dr.Biol.Sc. (Pp. 562+xiv; illustrated. 54s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1960.

*The Development of the Infant and Young Child: Normal and Abnormal.* By R. S. Illingworth, M.D., Leeds, F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. (Pp. 318+viii; illustrated. 27s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd. 1960.

Animals which ate the treated food were fatter; if that isn't physical, I don't know what is. So the net product is physical.

### Camera the Legal Touchstone

In conclusion, counsel said that, whatever else had been proved, it had been proved beyond a shadow of doubt, by criminal standards, that the camera and the images it was said to produce were fakes. And if his Lordship so found there could be no doubt that the defendant counselled or procured it, or at the very least aided and abetted it. If that was so, it was impossible to get away from the position that the defendant had no honest belief in the box.

His Lordship.—I agree. If you satisfy me that the camera is a fraud, and that the defendant knew that it was a fraud, then he goes down on the box too. That must be so.

His Lordship reserved his judgment and the hearing was adjourned.

### CORONERS' CASES

#### Accidental Arsenical Poisoning

The death of a young woman occurred recently in very unusual circumstances after treatment at the Chelsea Hospital. Mrs. Dorina Scott, aged 28, had a long history of vaginal discharge. For the past two years she had used "S.V.C." pessaries, which contained acetarsol 4 gr. (0.26 g.), inserting one daily into the vaginal vault in the usual manner. Her treatment had been rather sporadic. She had never experienced any symptoms suggestive of hypersensitivity to acetarsol, and there was no history of allergy. The vaginal discharge persisted despite these measures and it was therefore decided to admit Mrs. Scott for a course of intensive treatment. Under an anaesthetic 18 S.V.C. pessaries (acetarsol gr. 72—4.68 g.) were inserted into the vagina. After this operation there was a good deal of vomiting but gradually she fully recovered; two days later 12 more pessaries (48 gr.—3.2 g.) were inserted, again under general anaesthesia. Following this the patient's condition gave rise to alarm. There was profuse vomiting, convulsions, and anuria. She became semi-comatose and it was obvious that a condition of grave emergency had developed. She was transferred to another hospital, where she received treatment with B.A.L. (dimercaprol). Efforts to resuscitate her were unsuccessful and she died the same day.

At the inquest evidence was given that death was due to acute arsenical poisoning. Dr. D. A. L. Bowen, the pathologist, told the coroner that he had not been able to find any account in the literature of a similar case. Dr. Gavin Thurston, the Hammersmith coroner, remarked that from this single case it was now known that a treatment that was thought safe was potentially dangerous. He recorded a verdict of accidental death (*The Times*, May 5).

## Universities and Colleges

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on June 11 the following degrees were conferred:

M.D.—H. B. Eckstein, R. W. Payne, C. W. M. Adams, P. J. Dawson.  
M.B., B.CHIR.—By proxy: G. Willett.  
M.B.—D. R. F. Clark, R. B. Church.

### UNIVERSITY OF WALES

#### WELSH NATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners at the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—D. J. W. Anderson (with distinction), J. N. Bodger, J. L. Davies, D. C. Dymond, C. E. Edwards, T. L. Jones, P. Lavis, P. C. Moore, I. D. G. Richards, Enid C. Vincent.

The following candidates have satisfied the examiners at the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN TUBERCULOSIS AND CHEST DISEASES.—S. Z. Ahmad, B. N. Bapat, S. B. Barua, T. Chakorn, C. Chin Hin Chew, D. N. Gupta, A. Khalil, P. Macpherson (with distinction), M. H. Maung, G. D. Murphy, H. A. Narain, B. Ponniah, V. C. Ratnesar, J. A. Siddiqui, I. Taha.

### UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examinations indicated:

M.D.—D. H. Bowden, W. K. Metcalf.  
Ph.D.—In the Faculty of Medicine: Dinah C. Payne.

### UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

At a meeting of the University Council held on June 21 the following were appointed senior lecturers in the subjects indicated in parentheses: Dr. I. C. Geddes (Anaesthesia); Dr. T. G. Richards (Physiology); and Dr. J. S. Scott (Obstetrics and Gynaecology).

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

At a meeting of the College held on June 7 the following were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, T. G. Wilson; *vice-president*, N. A. Kinnear; *council*, R. Atkinson Stoney, J. F. Devane, A. A. McConnell, T. O. Graham, A. B. Clery, Ian Fraser, T. Millin, M. P. Burke, R. R. Woods, E. N. MacDermott, J. H. Coolican, D. J. Riordan, J. G. Mathews, J. P. Lanigan, F. A. J. M. Duff, D. Montgomery, S. T. McCollum, J. M. McAuliffe Curtin, E. O'Malley.

The Fellowship of the College was conferred on the following candidates on June 16: M. T. D. Braide, J. F. Doyle, P. B. Kiely, H. Abd-el-Maksoud Mostafa, R. W. Pigott.

## Vital Statistics

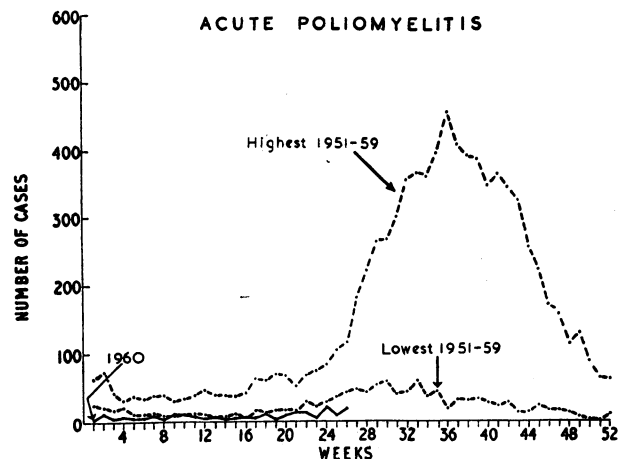
### Scotland in First Quarter

The birth rate in Scotland for the first quarter of 1960 was 19.5 per 1,000 population and was 0.4 lower than the rate for the corresponding quarter of 1959. The infant mortality rate was 29 and the neonatal rate was 19 per 1,000 live births; these rates were 4 and 3, respectively, below the rate for the preceding first quarter. Stillbirths were 24 per 1,000 total births. The death rate was 13.3 per 1,000 population and was 3.2 below the rate for the preceding first quarter.

The number of deaths from the principal epidemic diseases was 42. These included 9 from meningococcal infections, 2 from whooping-cough, and only 31 from influenza (510 in 1959). Deaths from tuberculosis numbered 159 from respiratory and 9 from other forms, and were 62 and 6 fewer than in the first quarter of 1959. Deaths from violence totalled 754; 308 were due to accidents in the home and 175 to transport accidents.

### Graphs of Infectious Diseases

The graphs below show the uncorrected numbers of cases of certain diseases notified weekly in England and Wales. Highest and lowest figures reported in each week during the years 1951-9 are shown thus -----, the figures for 1960 thus ———. Except for the curves showing notifications in 1960, the graphs were prepared at the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



(11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1) would still welcome donations, and the voluntary clerk-of-works, Colonel G. A. SMITH, who lives at Chase Side Cottage near the church, would be pleased to show visitors how the work progresses.

### British Association of Urological Surgeons

At the annual meeting of the British Association of Urological Surgeons held in London on June 23, 24, and 25, under the Presidency of Mr. DAVID BAND, the main discussion of the scientific programme was on "Calculus Disease in the Upper Urinary Tract." The papers will be published in the *British Journal of Urology*. The following were elected officers and members of council for 1960-1:

*President*, Mr. DAVID BAND; *immediate past president*, Mr. ARTHUR JACOBS; *vice-president*, Professor L. N. PYRAH; *honorary treasurer*, Mr. R. A. MOGG; *honorary secretary*, Mr. D. INNES WILLIAMS; *honorary editorial secretary*, Mr. N. M. MATHESON; *members of council*, Mr. G. H. BAINES, Mr. J. P. MITCHELL, Mr. T. MOORE, Mr. B. H. PAGE, Mr. F. P. RAPER, Mr. N. L. SHEPPERD, Mr. W. BARR STIRLING, Mr. D. M. WALLACE, Mr. W. K. YEATES; and, *ex officio*, the president of the section of urology, Royal Society of Medicine, and the chairman of the editorial committee, *British Journal of Urology*.

### Central Midwives Board

Changes in the rules of the Central Midwives Board came into effect on July 1. A new edition of the handbook containing the rules may be obtained from Messrs. Spottiswoode, Ballantyne and Co., Ltd., 1, New Street Square, London, E.C.4.

### Approved Names of Drugs

The General Medical Council has published a pamphlet giving the approved names chosen by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission for recently introduced drugs. The list gives the approved names issued since 1948, together with some issued earlier for substances which have not become the subject of official monographs in the *British Pharmacopoeia*. Copies may be obtained on application to the G.M.C., 44, Hallam Street, London, W.1.

### Leprosy Research Fund

A photographic exhibition demonstrating the clinical and histopathological evolution of leprosy against the background of the world pattern of the disease was held at the Fund's headquarters on July 5.

During the exhibition the Fund's Secretary, Dr. R. G. COCHRANE, said that it was hoped that the exhibition—which includes a very considerable number of colour and black-and-white clinical photographs and a range of coloured photomicrographs of skin sections of the various types of leprosy, as well as nearly 4,000 slides of biopsy specimens—would become the basis of a register of histopathology and an information and teaching centre for leprologists in Great Britain and for post-graduate students from overseas. He concluded by saying that, unless £5,000 a year could be made available or a permanent home for the registry be found, the collection would have to be dispersed after June 30 next year. The address of the Leprosy Research Fund is 11a, Weymouth Street, London, W.1.

### Hospital Service Plan Scheme

A booklet describing the Hospital Service Plan Scheme for B.M.A. members will be sent to every member of the B.M.A. in the United Kingdom during the next three weeks.

### "Thyroidologists" Confer

A dinner in honour of the Fourth International Goitre Conference was held in the Mansion House on July 7. Sir CHARLES HARRINGTON, F.R.S., who presided, proposed the toast, "The Lord Mayor, the Corporation of London, and the Sheriffs," to which Sir EDMUND STOCKDALE, the Lord Mayor of London, replied. The toast of the Conference was proposed by Sir ROBERT PLATT, P.R.C.P., and responded to by Dr. HOWARD MAHORNER, president of the American Goiter Association. Dr. RAYMOND GREENE (introducing the word "thyroidologist") proposed the health of overseas visitors, and Dr. A. W. SPENCE of the guests: Professor JEAN ROCHE and Sir JAMES PATERSON ROSS replied.

### In Brief . . .

WILLIAM WITHERING'S Edinburgh graduation diploma and a letter written by him in 1799 have been given to the University of Edinburgh.

"The average child leaving school in British Columbia," says the *Public Health Services of British Columbia Annual Report for 1959*, "has, of his or her 28 permanent teeth, already 12 teeth which are decayed, missing or filled."

### People in the News

Dr. HERBERT KRAUS, the Yugoslav Minister of Health, and Professor GRUJICA ZARKOVIC, director of the Institute of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, University of Sarajevo, are spending a fortnight in Britain as official guests of the British Government to gain an insight into the working of the National Health Service.

## COMING EVENTS

**British Academy of Forensic Sciences.**—First scientific and general meeting: the New Hall, the London Hospital Medical College, July 22-3. President: Professor LEON RADZINOWICZ; subjects for discussion: "Education and Training," "Research and Investigation," and "Evidence and Witnesses." The meeting is open to interested persons on application to the Secretary, 37, Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

**Society for Endocrinology.**—Annual lecture: Professor BERNARDO A. HOUSAY (Buenos Aires), "An Argentine Trail in Hypophyseal Research," July 27, 5.15 p.m., Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Manson House, 26, Portland Place, London, W.1. Admission free.

**Institute of Diseases of Chest.**—Clinical demonstrations, open to medical practitioners without fee, will be continued in lecture room of Institute (Brompton Hospital grounds, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3) on Fridays at 5 p.m. during August and September.

**4th International Congress on Clinical Chemistry.**—Edinburgh, August 14-19. Symposia will include "Plasma Protein Turnover in Disease," "The Mechanisms of Urine Production," "Congenital Abnormalities of Metabolism," and "Enzymes in Clinical Chemistry." Details from Dr. S. C. FRAZER, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, 3, Scotland.

## 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.

### Monday, July 18

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.—5.15 p.m., Sir Macfarlane Burnet, O.M., F.R.S. (Melbourne): Auto-immune Disease.

### Tuesday, July 19

METROPOLITAN EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT HOSPITAL.—At Nurses' Lecture-room, Training School, St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Marlborough Road, Kensington, W., 5.30 p.m., Dr. James Arnhoff (Mount Sinai Hospital, New York): Psychosomatic Ear, Nose, and Throat Problems.

### Friday, July 22

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.—3.30 p.m., Mr. R. S. Handley: Observations and Reflections on Breast Cancer.

### Saturday, July 23

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Lecture Room "B," Addenbrooke's Hospital, Psychiatric Symposium on the Family. *Morning*: 10.30 a.m., Dr. B. B. Zeitlyn: The Family as a Unit; 11.30 a.m., Dr. R. E. Glennie: The Child in the Family; 12.15 p.m., Dr. Brian Davy: The Adolescent in the Family. *Afternoon*: 2.30 p.m., Dr. O. E. F. Hodgson and Miss J. Ferguson, M.A.: The Problem Family; 3.45 p.m., Dr. E. Beresford Davies: Decline and Bereavement in the Family; 4.30 p.m., Questions and discussion.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

### BIRTHS

Alexander.—On June 25, 1960, at Sheffield, Yorks, to Lillias (Dr. Susan Munro), wife of Dr. Conel Alexander, a son.  
Cantor.—On July 6, 1960, at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, to Kathleen (formerly Wallach), wife of Dr. J. Cantor, a sister for Timothy and Christopher.  
McCallum.—On July 8, 1960, at Nottingham, to Dr. and Mrs. D. I. McCallum (formerly Dr. Isabel S. Smellie), a daughter.  
Trumper.—On July 3, 1960, at Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada, to Gillian, wife of Dr. M. B. Trumper, a son.  
Warwick-Brown.—On July 4, 1960, at Sandford Hospital, Newbury, Berks, to Jean (formerly FitzHerbert-Auckland), wife of Dr. R. Warwick-Brown, a sister for Nigel and Janet—Caroline Sarah.