

## A BISHOP'S SENSE AND NONSENSE

*The Surgery of Theodoric, ca. 1267.* Translated from the Latin by Eldridge Campbell, M.D., and James Colton, M.A. Volume 2 (Books III and IV). (Pp. 233+xix. \$5.50.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1960.

Five years ago Eldridge Campbell and James Colton translated the first two books of the *Surgery of Theodoric*, Bishop of Cervia, who flourished about A.D. 1267. That volume contained the remarkable description of aseptic wound-treatment, a vision of the truth which was too far ahead of the time to become generally adopted. The same authors have now translated the rest of Theodoric's work, though, unfortunately, Dr. Campbell did not live to see the publication of this second volume, which deals with fistulae, abscesses, cancer, tumours, herniae, and other general surgical conditions.

The surgery of 700 years ago was a curious mixture of practical common sense and theoretical nonsense. The Bishop was wiser than his writings, for, after a long description in which drugs and mumbo-jumbo were mingled, he adds, "perchance their faith help them." For the modern doctor the old humoral pathology complicates matters. One can understand that "a boil is a kind of hot abscess" and can marvel that "erysipelas is an imposthume from fiery bile," but how difficult it is to follow that "the material causes of an imposthume are six: the four humors and superfluities of fluid and wind."

Theodoric gives excellent descriptions of fistula in general, and fistula-in-ano in particular, and special accounts are given of operations for stone in the bladder and for umbilical and inguinal hernia. He preferred the cautery to the knife in operations for hernia, and recommends, in view of the fact that "death can follow very easily," that the doctor should not undertake this cure with any desire of financial return "except when he has been asked by the patient, and then in his presence and the presence of his friends (or at least in the presence of his friends) he has made clear the eminent danger."

There is much to enjoy, much to puzzle over, and a good deal to be thankful for, in the reading of this book.

ZACHARY COPE.

*Pneumoconiosis Abstracts, Volume III*, contains abstracts reproduced from the *Bulletin of Hygiene* for the years 1951 to 1955. It continues the sequence established by the previous volumes—covering the period from 1926 to 1950—and the set therefore provides in tablet form the important papers published in the field of pneumoconiosis over a period of 30 years. Also included are abstracts of articles on dust. (Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd.; 376+viii pp.; index of authors or sources, and of subjects; 65s.)

The *Handbook of Diet Therapy*, written and compiled by Dorothea Turner for the American Dietetic Association, is now in its third edition. It includes new chapters on diet during pregnancy, adolescence, and old age; energy expenditure; fatty acid modifications; and phenylalanine restrictions; while the chapters on the sodium-restricted diet, the low- and high-calorie diets, and the soft and low-fibre diets have been completely revised. There is a comprehensive chapter on "Interviewing the Patient" by Margaret Read, which recognizes that the dietitian must be able to translate her knowledge of the basic principles of nutrition into the practical terms of each patient's everyday life. (Cambridge University Press, 1959; 222+xv pp.; index; price £1 17s. 6d.)

## BOOKS RECEIVED

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

*Klinik und Therapie der Nebenwirkungen. Sulfonamide-Antibiotica - Tuberculostatica - Cytostatica - Anticoagulantien-Hormone - Vitamine.* Edited by H. P. Kuemmerle, A. Senn, P. Rentchnick, and N. Goossens, with 27 contributors. (Pp. 1,286+xx; illustrated. DM. 148.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1960.

*The Detection of Secret Homicide. A Study of the Medico-legal System of Investigations of Sudden and Unexplained Deaths.* By J. D. J. Havard, M.A., LL.B., M.B., B.Chir. (Pp. 253+xv. 35s.) London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. New York: St. Martin's Press. 1960.

*Surgical Anatomy of the Bronchovascular Segments.* By William E. Bloomer, M.D., Averill A. Liebow, M.D., and Milton R. Hales, M.D. (Pp. 273+xi; illustrated. £6 12s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Recent Progress in Hormone Research. Proceedings of the Laurentian Hormone Conference 1959.* Edited by Gregory Pincus. Volume XVI. (Pp. 608+viii; illustrated. \$14.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1960.

*Hemophilia and other Hemorrhagic States. International Symposium, Rome.* Edited by Kenneth M. Brinkhaus, M.D. Assistant editor: Pietro de Nicola, M.D. (Pp. 266+xx; illustrated. 60s.) Chapel Hill, North Carolina University Press. London: Oxford University Press. 1960.

*Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology.* Edited by Professor Dr. L. Rüedi. Volume VI. With 8 contributors. (Pp. 248+viii; illustrated. Sw. fr. 60.) Basle, New York: S. Karger. 1960.

*Search for Security. An Ethno-psychiatric Study of Rural Ghana.* By M. J. Field. (Pp. 478. 42s.) London: Faber and Faber. 1960.

*The Heart in Industry.* By 24 authors. Edited by Leon J. Warshaw, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 677+xix. \$16.) New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1960.

*Blood Flow in Arteries.* By Donald A. McDonald, M.A., D.M.(Oxon.), D.Sc.(London.). (Pp. 328+xi; illustrated. 40s.) London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1960.

*Das Menschliche Knochenmark. Anatomie, Physiologie und Pathologie nach Ergebnissen der Intravitalen Markpunktion.* By Professor Dr. Karl Rohrer. Third edition. (Pp. 593+xvi; illustrated. DM. 98.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1960.

*Proceedings of the Isra Symposium on the Social Aspects of Chronic Rheumatic Joint Affections. Especially Rheumatoid Arthritis. Amsterdam, October 13-14, 1959.* Edited by G. van Dam and W. Hijmans. (Pp. 132; illustrated.) Amsterdam, New York: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1960.

*Intra-osseous Venography.* By Robert A. Schobinger, M.D. (Pp. 243+x; illustrated. \$14.50.) New York and London: Grune and Stratton. 1960.

*The Problem of Acute Hypothermia.* Edited by P. M. Starkov. Translated from the Russian by R. E. Hammond. Editor: Professor E. Neil. (Pp. 319; illustrated. 73s.) London, Oxford, New York, Paris: Pergamon Press. 1960.

*Modern Trends in Occupational Health.* Edited by R. S. F. Schilling, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H. (Pp. 313+ix; illustrated. 67s. 6d.) London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1960.

*Neurology.* By Roy Grinker, M.D., Paul C. Bucy, M.D., and Adolph L. Saks, M.D. Fifth edition. (Pp. 1,386+xi; illustrated. £9 16s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Roentgen Examinations in Acute Abdominal Diseases.* By J. Frimann-Dahl, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 518+xiv; illustrated. £6 4s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1960.

*Stress and Cellular Function.* By H. Laborit, M.D., in collaboration with M. Cara, M.D., D. Jouasset, M.D., C. Duchesne, M.D., and G. Laborit, M.D. (Pp. 255+xi; illustrated. 60s.) Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd. 1960.

*Cosmetic Surgery. Principles and Practice.* By Samuel Fomon, M.D. (Pp. 651+xvii; illustrated. £11.) Philadelphia, Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company. London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co., Ltd. 1960.

**Community.** The members of the committee included Sir ARTHUR PORRITT, President of the British Medical Association. The report is obtainable from the Central Council of Physical Recreation, 6 Bedford Square, London W.C.1, price 3s. 6d., post free.

### COMING EVENTS

**College of General Practitioners.**—Lecture and demonstration: Professor SHEILA SHERLOCK, "The Differential Diagnosis of Jaundice," October 8, 2.15 p.m., Royal Free Hospital, Grays Inn Road, London W.C.1.

**Institute of Urology.**—Weekend course, "Urology for Higher Examinations," October 14–16. Details on advertisement p. 64.

**British Association of Sport and Medicine.**—Lecture programme, October 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Arthur Stanley Institute, Peto Place, Marylebone Road, London N.W.1. Informal dinner: Horse Shoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, London W.1. Tickets from Dr. D. J. CUSSEN, St. Helen's Court, Great St. Helen's, London E.C.3.

**Association of Clinical Biochemists (Southern Region).**—Meeting, at General Hospital, Daly's Road, Rochford, Essex, October 22, 2 p.m. Members wishing to have tea should apply to Dr. P. W. PERRYMAN, at the hospital, by October 17.

**International Federation of Surgical Colleges.**—October 18–20, Royal College of Surgeons of England. Theme: "The Training of Surgeons." Details from Mr. KENNETH CASSELS, I.F.S.C., Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London W.C.2.

**B.M.A. Lecture Discussions.**—An autumn and winter series mainly concerned with the handling of problems commonly encountered in practice (see annotation, p. 1077). October 20, 5.30 p.m.: Dr. PAUL WOOD, "The Selection of Cases for Cardiac Surgery," (Chairman, Sir ARTHUR THOMSON). Tea from 5 p.m. Those wishing to attend should notify Dr. W. HEDGCOCK, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1. Future meetings: December 15: Mr. H. OSMOND-CLARKE, "Fractures Around the Wrist"; January 19: Professor J. H. KELLGREN, "The Diagnosis and Treatment of Osteo-Arthritis"; March 16: Dr. MAURICE PARTRIDGE, "The Anti-Depressant Drugs."

**Queen's Institute of District Nursing.**—Annual meeting October 20, 2.30 p.m., Assembly Hall, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London S.W.1. Address: Sir KENNETH COWAN.

**London Division, Ileostomy Association of Great Britain.**—Meeting, Great Hall, B.M.A. House, October 22: 2.30 p.m., exhibition of ileostomy appliances; 3 p.m., Dr. R. W. BARTER (Princess Mary's Hospital, Margate), "Rehabilitation."

**Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.**—Annual Master's Day Service, Church of St. Mary, Aldermary, October 23, 11.15 a.m.

### 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, October 10

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—4 p.m., Professor A. C. Dornhorst: Asthma in Hospital.

#### Tuesday, October 11

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE: SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY.—8 p.m., Dr. F. J. Fish: Existentialism and Psychiatry.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. I. A. Magnus: Effects of Physical Agents.

LEEDS NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM, 1960.—At Littlewood Hall, General Infirmary at Leeds, 5.15 p.m., Dr. R. W. Gilliatt: New Studies of Peripheral Nerve Conduction.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF SURGERY.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Medical School, Manchester University, 7.30 for 8 p.m., Presidential Address by Mr. H. T. Simmons: On Ulcerative Colitis.

OSLER CLUB OF LONDON.—At British Museum, 8.15 p.m., subject: Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753). Speakers, Sir Frank Francis, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, and Mr. W. T. Stearn.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—5 p.m., Professor Charles Wells: Urethral Injuries and the Treatment of Stricture.

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY: GENERAL APPLICATIONS SECTION.—At Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, 5.45 for 6.15 p.m., Mr. W. F. F. Kemsley: Professional Earnings.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Lecture Theatre, Wright-Fleming Institute, 5 p.m., Mr. Stanley Way: Carcinoma of the Vulva (film).

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. N. G. Hulbert: Neurology.

#### Wednesday, October 12

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Miss Yvonne Clayton: Fungi Causing Human Disease.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Diagnosis of the Pulmonary Mycoses.

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—4.30 for 5 p.m., Mr. Harland Rees: Increased Frequency of Micturition.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Sir Russell Brain, Bt.: Cerebral Basis of Mind.

●LEEDS UNIVERSITY.—At General Infirmary at Leeds, (1) 5 p.m., Mr. J. B. Farquhar: Infertility. (2) 6 p.m., Mr. T. F. Redman: Pre-eclampsia.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY: SECTION OF PATHOLOGY.—At Large Anatomy Theatre, Medical School, Manchester University, 4.30 for 5 p.m., Dr. J. L. Emery: Sudden Death in Infancy.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Professor G. H. Lathe: Biochemical Basis of Liver-function Tests.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS.—At General Infirmary at Leeds, 8.30 p.m., Professor J. W. Dundee: Importance of Analgesia in Anaesthesia.

#### Thursday, October 13

ALFRED ADLER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At 11 Chandos Street, London W., 8 p.m., subject: Modern Trends in Individual Psychology—Reports on the recent International Congress.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. S. Pegum: Pilo-sebaceous Units. The Hair Cycle. Some Anomalies of Hair Growth.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—Presidential address.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.—At Physiology Lecture Theatre, Queen's College, Dundee, 5 p.m., Professor P. A. Owren (Oslo): Haemostasis and Thrombosis.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Dr. Hamilton Paterson: postgraduate demonstration in neurology.

#### Friday, October 14

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. P. D. Samman: clinical demonstration.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Mr. D. Barlow: clinical demonstration.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Medical School Lecture Theatre, 4.30 p.m., 13th Thomas Percy Legg Memorial Lecture by Sir James Paterson Ross: Principles of Surgery.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY: FACULTY OF MEDICINE.—At Riley Smith Hall, University Union, 3 p.m., Inaugural Lecture by Sir Robert S. Aitken: Medicine To-day and To-morrow.

PLYMOUTH MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At North Friary House, 8.30 p.m., Dr. J. W. Landells: Dangers of Medical Treatment.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—(1) 10 a.m., Mr. Charles Drew: Some Aspects of Profound Hypothermia in Cardiac Surgery. (2) 4 p.m., Professor R. Lovell: Coronary and Hypertension Problems.

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH: HOME COUNTIES BRANCH.—In Room 105, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 3 p.m., Dr. G. R. S. Little: College of General Practitioners and General Practice.

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH: METROPOLITAN BRANCH.—5.30 p.m., annual meeting. Dr. C. O. S. Blyth Brooke: Epidemiology of Lung Cancer.

YORKSHIRE THORACIC SOCIETY.—At General Infirmary at Leeds, 5.30 p.m., Sir Russell Brock: Present Position of Cardiac Surgery.

#### Saturday, October 15

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, 10.30 a.m., symposium: Haemorrhage and Shock.

●COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS: NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES FACULTY.—At Barnet General Hospital, 10 a.m., Pfizer Symposium: Vomiting in Infancy and Childhood, under direction of Dr. George News.

#### Sunday, October 16

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY: FACULTY OF MEDICINE.—At Theatre 1, Clinical Sciences Building, York Place, Manchester, 11 a.m., in conjunction with North-west England Faculty, College of General Practitioners. Dr. H. T. Howatt and Dr. Simon Freeman: Antibiotics.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**Back.**—On September 17, 1960, in hospital, Harry Back, M.D., of 22 Sneath Avenue, Golders Green, London N.W.

**Beit.**—On September 13, 1960, at his home, Littledown, Streatham, Berks. Francis Victor Owen Beit, M.D., D.T.M.&H., Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., retired, aged 86.

**Bolus.**—On September 17, 1960, at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Percy Reginald Bolus, O.B.E., M.B.

**Gardner.**—On September 17, 1960, in hospital, William Ross Gardner, D.S.O. (Bar), M.B., Ch.B., of Lindley House, Brierley, near Barnsley, Yorks, aged 71.

**Gavin.**—On September 19, 1960, Frederick William Gavin, M.D., D.P.H., of The Hawthorns, Hurgill Road, Richmond, Yorks, late of Ardnay, Trinity, Edinburgh.

**Graham.**—On September 18, 1960, at his home, 1 North Villas, The Spa, Gloucester, Edward O'Driscoll Graham, M.B., Ch.B.

**Gregory.**—On September 18, 1960, William Herbert Gregory, M.D., of Beverley, Yorks, aged 92.

**Jones.**—On September 8, 1960, at Llandough Hospital, Evan Gordon Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Pontyclun, Glam.

**Rourke.**—On September 9, 1960, Joseph Michael Rourke, M.B., B.Ch., of Kensington, London W.

**Shacklock.**—On September 12, 1960, at his home, Yattendon, Berks, George Augustus Shelmardine Shacklock, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

**Walmisley.**—On September 12, 1960, in hospital, Nicholas Walmisley, L.M.S.S.A., of Clapham Park, and St. James's, London S.W., aged 91.

**Watt.**—On September 12, 1960, at the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley, Renfrewshire, William James Cunningham Watt, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.L., of 1 Riccarton Avenue, Paisley.