

touches on every aspect of managing homes—their organization, administration, catering problems, equipment, and furniture—as well as the all-important questions of ageing, frailty, and illness. The style is simple and direct without being too didactic. A great deal of vital information and sound advice tinged with real humanity is included in a book that is only large enough to be an introduction to the subject. It is encouraging to see among the chapters on medical topics one on the infirm resident, and to note that some common disabilities like blindness, chronic bronchitis, and colostomy are included here on the assumption that these conditions are perfectly manageable in ordinary residential homes, as indeed they are. In the section on mental disturbances such problems as alcoholism, the wandering tendency, and dirty habits are appropriately and frankly discussed, but more might perhaps have been made of the value of a sudden confusional episode as an early sign of a physical disorder.

The author succeeds admirably in her purpose. No doubt matrons of hostels will wish the book to be read by their entire staffs. It should be put into the hands of all who have any dealings with hostels and homes, whether as committee members, local authority officers, or visitors. It should also hold particular interest for doctors who have patients among the residents, or who have to advise on the conduct of old persons' homes.

J. N. AGATE.

USES OF DRUGS

Actions and Uses of Drugs. By Norman Sapeika, B.A., M.B., Ph.D.(Capetown), F.R.S.S.Af. (Pp. 424. 63s.) Amsterdam and Capetown: A. A. Balkema. 1963.

This is the sixth edition of a textbook first published 20 years ago. It exemplifies the difficulties that face an author who has to revise a book which deals with a rapidly growing subject—especially if he sets out “to prevent the volume from expanding much beyond its previous size.” Few writers are ruthless enough to eliminate out-of-date material, particularly when they remember the labour involved in collecting it in the first instance. The end result is usually a mixture of the up to date, the obsolescent, and the frankly obsolete. This book is no exception. Thus 14 pages are devoted to a discussion of the metals and metalloids, remedies that are relatively unimportant in modern therapeutics. On the other hand, histamine, the antihistamines, and 5-hydroxytryptamine, all of which have important theoretical as well as practical significance in modern pharmacology, are dealt with in six pages. The student who was dependent solely on the information in this book would know what drugs were available, but would not be aware of the principles on which a choice should be made. Moreover, the more recent the drug the less he would be helped.

The earlier editions of this book were no doubt excellent, but there comes a time when medical textbooks, like motor-cars, are beyond repair.

E. J. WAYNE.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Clinical Metabolism of Body Water and Electrolytes. By John H. Bland, M.D. (Pp. 623+xxvi; illustrated. £5 15s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

A Clinical Manual of Orthopedic Traction Techniques. By Gerhard Schmeisser, Jr., M.D. (Pp. 60+ix; illustrated. 31s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

Endocrine and Metabolic Aspects of Gynecology. By Joseph Rogers, M.D. (Pp. 189+x; illustrated. 56s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

Teach Yourself Physical Fitness. By Lindsey W. Batten, M.B., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 118; illustrated. 6s.) London: English Universities Press Ltd. 1963.

Counseling in Medical Genetics. By Sheldon C. Reed, Ph.D. Second edition. (Pp. 278+x. 38s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

Alcohol and Road Traffic. Proceedings of Third International Conference on Alcohol and Road Traffic, September 3-7, 1962. (Pp. 362+xxii; illustrated. 63s.) London: British Medical Association. 1963.

Das Gesicht des Kranken Kindes. By Dr. Michael Hertl. (Pp. 266+xii; illustrated. DM. 38.) Munich and Berlin: Urban & Schwarzenberg. 1962.

Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde. Edited by Prof. Dr. med. J. Berendes, Prof. Dr. med. R. Link, and Prof. Dr. med. F. Zollner. Volume II, Part I. (Pp. 691+xii; illustrated. DM. 98.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1963.

A Pharmacopoeia for Chiropractors. By J. N. Le Rossignol, F.Ch.S., and C. B. Holliday, M.P.S. (Pp. 207+xv. 30s.) London: Faber & Faber Ltd. 1963.

The Healing Christ. Four Bible Studies. By Douglas Webster. (Pp. 50. 3s.) London: The Highway Press. 1963.

The Development of the Infant and Young Child. By R. S. Illingworth, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. Second edition. (Pp. 363+vi; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

Magen-Darm-Erkrankungen bei Kindern. Edited by E. Rossi. (Pp. 150; illustrated. DM. 24.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

Cardiomechanics. By Spyridon D. Mouloupoulos, M.D. (Pp. 193+xiii; illustrated. \$7.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

A Classified Bibliograph of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Supplement Two, 1956-1961. By Nathan W. Shock. (Pp. 624+xxviii; \$10.00.) California: Stanford University Press. 1963.

Emotions and Emotional Disorders. By Ernst Gellhorn, M.D., and G. N. Loofbourrow, Ph.D. (Pp. 496+xii; illustrated. 90s.) New York, Evanston, and London: Harper & Row. 1963.

The Psychological Basis of Medical Practice. Edited by Harold I. Lief, Victor F. Lief, and Nina R. Lief. (Pp. 572+xvi; illustrated. 94s.) New York, Evanston, and London: Harper & Row. 1963.

Medical Books. 1863-1963. (Pp. 160.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

Footprints on the Sands of Time. 1863-1963. (Pp. 71. Illustrated.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1963.

Annual Review of Pharmacology. Edited by Windsor C. Cutting. Volume 3. (Pp. 486+vi; illustrated. \$8.50.) California: Annual Reviews, Inc. 1963.

St. Thomas' Hospital. By E. M. McInnes. (Pp. 230; illustrated. 30s.) London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1963.

Family and Mental Health Problems in a Deaf Population. Edited by John D. Rainer, M.D., Kenneth Z. Altschuler, M.D., and Franz J. Kallmann, M.D. (Pp. 260+xxvi; illustrated. \$1.) New York: New York State Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University. 1963.

Medical Laboratory Technology. By N. J. Lynch, S. S. Raphael, L. D. Mellor, P. D. Spare, P. Hills, and M. J. H. Inwood. (Pp. 735+xv; illustrated. £4 4s. or \$12.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1963.

The Year Book of Dermatology. 1962-1963 Series. Edited by Rudolf L. Baer, M.D., and Alfred W. Kopf, M.D. (Pp. 484; illustrated. 72s.) London: Lloyd-Luke Medical Books Ltd. 1963.

The Treatment of Malignant Disease by Radiotherapy. By Ralston Paterson, C.B.E., M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S., D.M.R.E., F.F.R. (Pp. 556+vii; illustrated. 90s.) London: Edward Arnold Ltd. 1963.

Disorders of Blood and Blood-Forming Organs in Childhood. By H. S. Baar, Stella Baar, K. B. Rogers, and E. Stransky. (Pp. 902; illustrated. DM. 230.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1963.

The Occupation, Training and Employment of Mentally Sub-normal Adults in the Community. A Study, 1959-60. By Marjorie A. Straton, B.A., LL.M.(London). (Pp. 149. 7s. 6d.) Manchester: University of Manchester. 1963.