

standard set by the previous two. It consists of six reviews of different groups of drugs and one on the application of statistics to pharmacological and toxicological screening.

The latter review deals with a very topical and important subject and gives valuable information on procedures that can reduce the risk of the eventual clinical trial to a minimum, but the authors rightly conclude: "The decision to test a new drug in man, and the selection of the dose to be employed, must remain with the clinician, who can only be guided by all the evidence available to him. His responsibility for the well-being of the human subject is so great that it must divorce him from any restraint imposed by purely statistical argument."

Professor J. B. Stenlake describes in detail the various types of compounds that produce neuromuscular block by the two methods of prevention of depolarization and causing prolonged depolarization, and gives hope that the search for a safe short-acting muscle relaxant may prove successful. Dr. L. P. Walls reviews the field of anti-trypanosomal drugs, showing that, though great successes have been achieved in the diseases of plants and animals, there is no room for complacency and an urgent need for an entirely new and relatively safe drug. The chapter on

antitussive drugs by Dr. Chappel and Dr. von Seeman makes it clear that, though a surprisingly large range of antitussive drugs with a variety of structures is available, few are more potent than codeine. Dr. R. A. Lucas discusses the chemistry and pharmacology of the rauwolfia alkaloids and draws attention both to the diversity of species of this interesting plant and to the extraordinary number of complex alkaloids they produce. Dr. Spinks and Mr. Waring outline the methods of testing anticonvulsive drugs and discuss their modes of action. They point out that nearly all the active anticonvulsants have a similarity of structure, and they consider that fundamental studies of the mode of action of anaesthetic, sedative, and anticonvulsive drugs are more likely to yield a major advance than further variation of familiar structures or from blind screening of thousands of compounds. Research on local anaesthetics is reviewed by Dr. Wiedling and Dr. Tegner, and they show that nearly 100 years after Niemann's isolation of cocaine new compounds with clinical advantages are being produced.

As in the earlier volumes each chapter is well documented, and the series is proving a valuable work of reference.

T. D. WHITTET.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Documenta Ophthalmologica. Volume XVII. Edited by G. von Bahr, G. B. Bietti, J. ten Doesschate, H. Fischer von Bunau, J. Francis, H. Goldmann, H. K. Müller, Jean Nordmann, A. J. Schaeffer, and Arnold Sorsby. (Pp. 512+viii; illustrated. Dutch guides 75.) The Hague: Uitgeverij Dr. W. Junk. 1963.

Pain. Its Meaning and Significance. By Ferdinand Sauerbruch and Hans Wenke. (Pp. 151. 25s.) London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1963.

The Posttraumatic Syndrome following Head Injury. By Sherwood A. Jacobson, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 92+xii. \$4.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

The Making of Man. By Kenneth Walker. (Pp. 163+vi. 21s.) London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1963.

Convulsive Disorders in Children. By Haddow M. Keith, M.D. (Pp. 311+vi; illustrated. 85s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

Tuberculosis in Children. By F. J. W. Miller, R. M. E. Seal, and Mary D. Taylor. (Pp. 615+xii; illustrated. £6.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1963.

Elements of Medical Statistics. By J. V. Smart. (Pp. 136. 35s.) London: Staples Press. 1963.

The Rorschach in Practice. By Theodora Alcock. (Pp. 252+xii. 63s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1963.

The Hand as a Mirror of Systemic Disease. By Theodore J. Berry, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 215+xix; illustrated. £6.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company. 1963.

Selective Vulnerability of the Brain in Hypoxaemia. A symposium organized by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences established under the joint auspices of Unesco and W.H.O. Edited by J. P. Schade and W. H. McMenemey. (Pp. 395+xii; illustrated. 70s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

Alfred Adler. The Man and his Work. By Hertha Orgler. (Pp. 266+xix. 30s.) London: Sidgwick and Jackson. 1963.

Hey Groves' Synopsis of Surgery. Edited by L. T. Cotton, M.A., M.Ch.(Oxon.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.) Sixteenth edition. (Pp. 778+viii; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1963.

Gestalten und Gedanken. By Ernst Kretschmer. (Pp. 223. DM. 28.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1963.

Histochemistry. Theory, Practice, and Bibliography. By Tibor Barka, M.D., and Paul J. Anderson, M.D. (Pp. 660+x; illustrated. £6 19s.) New York, Evanston, and London: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper and Row. 1963.

Dupuytren's Contracture. By J. T. Hueston. (Pp. 123+viii; illustrated. 32s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

The Medical Treatment of Peptic Ulcer. By George Gordon McHardy, M.D. (Pp. 78+viii. \$4.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

Lectures on Experimental Gerontology. By F. Verzar, M.D. (Pp. 128+xvi; illustrated. \$5.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

Tredgold's Textbook of Mental Deficiency (Subnormality). By R. F. Tredgold and K. Soddy. Tenth edition. (Pp. 530+xii; illustrated. 60s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1963.

A Dictionary of Biological Terms. By I. F. Henderson, M.A., and W. D. Henderson, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E. Eighth edition by J. H. Kenneth, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.G.S. (Pp. 640+xv. 42s.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd. 1963.

The Fallen Sky. Medical Consequence of Thermonuclear War. Edited for Physicians for Social Responsibility by Saul Aronow, Ph.D., Frank R. Ervin, M.D., and Victor W. Sidel, M.D. (Pp. 134+xv; illustrated. \$1.50.) New York: Hill and Wang. 1963.

Clinical Gastroenterology. By Eddy D. Palmer, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.P. Second edition. (Pp. 706+x; illustrated. \$22.50.) New York, Evanston, and London: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper and Row. 1963.

Atlas of Plastic Surgery. By Morton I. Berson, M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 336; illustrated. \$23.) New York and London: Grune and Stratton. 1963.

Review of Medical Physiology. By William F. Ganong, M.D. (Pp. 577; illustrated. \$6.50.) Los Altos, California: Lange Medical Publications. 1963.

Filmdosimetrie. By Klaus Becker. (Pp. 176; illustrated. DM. 24.) Berlin: Göttingen, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag. 1962.

Elsevier's Medical Dictionary in Five Languages. Compiled and arranged by A. Sliosberg. (Pp. 1,588. £12 10s.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1963.

Pathology of Tumours of the Nervous System. By Dorothy S. Russell, Sc.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and L. J. Rubinstein, M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 345; illustrated. 70s.) London: Edward Arnold Ltd. 1963.

Greenfield's Neuropathology. By W. Blackwood, W. H. McMenemey, A. Meyer, R. M. Norman, and Dorothy S. Russell. Second edition. (Pp. 679+vi; illustrated. £5 5s.) London: Edward Arnold Ltd. 1963.