

American Medical Scene

Community Health. Its Needs and Resources. Edited by John D. Porterfield. (Pp. 250+xii, 35s.) New York and London: Basic, 1966.

This book is based on the radio scripts prepared for the Voice of America, intended to explain public health and medical care as it is practised in the United States to foreign listeners. The purpose of this series of essays is to discuss how the United States have set about solving the health and medical care problems which are common to every country in the world today. Some of the chapters answer a simple question in plain language; the control of communicable disease, clinical care, and its provisions are explained with clear simplicity, but other chapters obscure their message with excessive verbiage (health education) or bludgeon the reader with massive statistics (environment as a health factor).

The opening chapter by the editor is a concise guide to the administrative health services in the United States. For the British reader it is interesting to realize how two nations with completely differing financial and administrative approaches to medical care can ultimately arrive by differing methods at what appear to be equally effective health and medical care services. In the United States voluntary societies play a much more prominent role in the health services than they do in this country without any reduction in the efficiency of these services. But who would expect a U.S. writer to state, "It is generally agreed that medical care should be available to all people, regardless of ability to pay, and that the best quality of care should be provided them when they need it"? (Chapter 18, p. 208.) Throughout the text emphasis is placed on the need for integration of the medical care services, and for good communication, so that all elements in the community can participate in the promotion of health. The need for a continuous review of existing provisions to allow for changing social patterns and technical advances is also stressed.

The value of this book lies in its clear account of the American medical scene to the British reader. It will be of inestimable value to any doctor proposing to visit the United States, as it provides a guide to the

medical services there, and will avoid the necessity of asking elementary questions. There also emerges the need for constant vigilance in any community health service to match needs by thoughtful deployment of resources.

ANDREW B. SEMPLE.

Manson's Tropical Diseases

Manson's Tropical Diseases. A Manual of the Diseases of Warm Climates. 16th edition. By Philip H. Manson-Bahr. (Pp. 1,131+xiii; illustrated. £5 10s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1966.

Substantially revised, with the elimination of much superfluous matter and the addition of relevant information to hand since the last edition, which appeared in 1960, this, the 16th edition of Manson's *Tropical Diseases*, is about the same size as its immediate predecessor. The general form is similar, but some rearrangements have been made—for example, the section on the arbo-virus diseases has been adjusted in accordance with modern practice. A most useful addition is an informative chapter on eye conditions, both general and tropical, by A. McKie Reid. A brief account of snake-bite from the clinical standpoint, by H. A. Reid, does much to clarify a subject on which there have been many misconceptions and much conflicting advice. The numerous illustrations of previous editions are repeated, with but few changes. The volume ends with the useful table of drugs, their doses, and their uses; again, there is the remarkably comprehensive series of appendices on zoology, helminthology, entomology, and laboratory techniques. In the last there is a brief but useful account of fluorescent antibody tracing which, in the present context, is of special value in the rapid diagnosis of a rabies infection.

In a book of this size and content some typographical and similar errors inevitably appear, but their remarkably small number is doubtless due to the patience and skill of Charles Wilcocks, who has assisted in editing and preparing it for the press. The author, his contributors, and Dr. Wilcocks are to be congratulated, with their publishers, on the production. Manson's *Tropical Diseases* still remains an essential part of the equipment of any practitioner going to the tropical or subtropical parts of the globe, and it is an

invaluable source of reference to others who have to deal with patients who have visited or lived in those parts.

A. R. D. ADAMS.

Psychiatry for Students

Psychiatry for Students. 2nd edition. By David Stafford-Clark, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 276, 21s.) London: Allen & Unwin, 1966.

In the second edition of this textbook, which first appeared in 1964, short sections have been added on the management of chronic schizophrenia, the treatment of overdosage, and the psychiatric aspects of epilepsy, and there is now a short reference to behaviour therapy. The passages on child psychiatry by Dr. Gerard Vaughan and on clinical psychology by Lady Williams are unchanged.

The book is one of the most readable, practical, and at the same time sympathetic of the shorter texts. It is particularly suitable for medical students during their clinical clerkship in psychiatry, and for housemen and registrars who have to deal with psychiatric patients in the setting of a general hospital. It would have been desirable to say something about the problems of community care and the services provided by the local authority, since these are often uncharted territories to hospital doctors. Some criticism can also be levelled at the approach to classification, which is oversimplified. Does it make sense to classify alcoholism as an "instinctual anomaly" under the title, "Disorders due to failure of normal development"? And is it helpful to group the bulk of disorders, from the neuroses to the dementias, under the umbrella heading, "Disorders primarily due to abnormal development, or reaction to internal or external stress"?

The author reflects that the most valuable contribution psychiatry may have to make to the modern practice of medicine is that it focuses attention on the patient as a person. In future editions he could with advantage pursue this idea by showing how it can be applied in the management not only of psychiatric but of physically ill patients. Dr. Stafford-Clark's ability as a teacher would fit him exceptionally well for this task, which needs eloquence as well as understanding.

D. W. KAY.

Books Received

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

Women in Medicine. Results of an Inquiry by the Medical Practitioners' Union in 1962-63. By Margot Jefferys, B.Sc.(Econ.), and Patricia M. Elliott, M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H. (Pp. 47, 35s.) London: Office of Health Economics, 1966.

Kompendium der Psychiatrie. By Prof. Th. Spoerri. (Pp. 150+3 illustrated cards. sFr./DM. 15.) New York and Basel: S. Karger, 1966.

The Physiological Basis of Habituation. By E. M. Glaser, M.C., M.D., Ph.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 102+ix; illustrated. 15s.) London, New York and Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1966.

Genetics in Medicine. By James S. Thompson, M.D., and Margaret W. Thompson, Ph.D. (Pp. 300+xii; illustrated. £2 12s. 6d.) London: W. B. Saunders, 1966.

The Medical Department: Medical Service in the Mediterranean and Minor Theaters. The Technical Services. United States Army in World War II. By Charles M. Wiltse. (Pp. 664+xxvi; illustrated. No price given.) Washington: Office of the Chief of Military History, 1965.

Clinical Neurosurgery. Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Vol. 12. Miami, Florida, 1964. (Pp. 419+xvii; illustrated. £5 12s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1966.

Diabetes Mellitus. Edited by L. J. P. Duncan. (Pp. 189; illustrated. 42s.) Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1966.

The British Red Cross in Action. By Beryl Oliver, G.B.E., R.R.C. (Pp. 579; illustrated. 63s.) London: Faber & Faber, 1966.

Advances in Fluorine Research and Dental Caries Prevention. Vol. 4. Proceedings of Congress, Utrecht, 1965. Edited by P. M. C. James, Klaus G. König, and Hans R. Held. (Pp. 246+viii; illustrated. £6.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Paris, and Braunschweig: Pergamon, 1966.

Physician's Handbook. 14th edition. By Marcus A. Krupp, M.D., Norman J. Sweet, M.D., Ernest Jawetz, Ph.D., M.D., and Edward G. Biglieri, M.D. (Pp. 616; illustrated. 37s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1966.

Pathology Annual. Vol. 1. 1966. Edited by Sheldon C. Sommers, M.D. (Pp. 387+x; illustrated. \$12.00.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1966.