infringement of these rules can lead to heavy fines for the doctor as well as inconvenience to the pharmacist and patient. The section on the prescribing of substances covered by the Therapeutic Substances Act is also valuable for medical practitioners. There is a section dealing with the control of poisons and Dangerous Drugs in hospitals and another describing the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act, which now makes it an offence to be in unauthorized possession of central nervous system stimulants such as amphetamine and related drugs.

Rather more than half of the book comprises the extended poisons and T.S.A. list. This is a most valuable source of reference, as it lists every controlled preparation under both its non-proprietary and proprietary name. The fact that it contains nearly 5,000 items shows that it is impossible to memorize all or even most controlled substances and stresses the need for such a book of reference.

Although the guide is primarily intended for pharmacists, it will prove very valuable to medical practitioners and should form one of their essential reference books.

T. D. WHITTET.

Errors in Metabolism

The Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease. 2nd edition. Edited by John B. Stanbury, M.D., James B. Wyngaarden, M.D., and Donald S. Fredrickson, M.D. (Pp. 1,434 + xii; illustrated. No price given.) New York, Toronto, Sydney, and London: McGraw-Hill. 1966.

The first edition of this excellent book was published in 1960, and the best tribute I can pay to its usefulness is that it is constantly missing from the departmental library shelf. The second edition has been made necessary, first, because many new inborn errors have been described, secondly, because there is fresh information about the old ones (particularly in the elucidation of normal intermediate metabolism), and, thirdly, because of the increasing appreciation that it is changes in the control of the *rate* at which specific genes operate which can determine a disease process—thalassaemia being the characteristic example of this. The arrangement of the book is, as before, "Diseases Primarily Manifest as Disorders of . . .," and the section which has been most expanded is that dealing with amino-acid metabolism. Here there are new chapters on histidinaemia, cystathionuria, homocystinuria, as well as on disorders of proline and hydroxyproline metabolism, and there is, in addition, a description of the conditions resulting from a block in three of the five enzymes which mediate urea synthesis in the Krebs cycle. All of these amino-acid disorders are associated with mental retardation, and in the urea syndromes there is post-prandial hyperammonaemia as well.

In "Diseases Characterized by Evidence of Abnormal Lipid Metabolism" two points call for comment. The inheritable defects in lipoprotein metabolism, formerly described under the generic term of essential familial hyperlipidaemia, have been subdivided (by electrophoretic fractionation) into four types, each fraction being related to an independent metabolic process, and therefore each with its specific inborn error. There is also a new section on Fabry's disease (angiokeratoma corporis diffusum), a sex-linked recessive trait characterized by the accumulation of normal lipids (probably because of an enzyme defect in intermediate lipid metabolism) in many tissues, particularly the skin, cornea, and kidney.

In "Diseases of Purine and Pyrimidine Metabolism" gout has become more complicated and overproduction of uric acid may be the consequence of a defect of regulation in the rate of purine biosynthesis, and the genetic factors are thought to be heterogeneous, depending on which aspects are being considered. Pseudogout is also discussed, the crystals here being calcium pyrophosphate, and the patients not generally hyperuricaemic. Some cases are familial but the genetics are not known.

In "Diseases Primarily of Connective Tissue, or Bone," there is a new section on central-core disease, where the structural abnormality consists of a densely packed core of altered striated myofibrils near the centre of the muscle fibre. The condition is inherited as an autosomal dominant and has affinities with, but is now split off from, McArdle's syndrome.

By far the most interesting disease in this group is familial Mediterranean fever, which is a familial amyloidosis of the nephropathic type. There are two forms, and the clinical features of the commoner one are pain in the abdomen, chest, or joints, usually occurring in childhood and proceeding to amyloidosis, often as early as in the first decade. The condition is inherited as an autosomal dominant.

As the editors point out, so many diseases are entering the domain of this book that for a third edition what one might consider a "scholarly minimum" will be an awkward burden. Nevertheless, if we are to keep up, we must be prepared to lift it.

C. A. CLARKE.

Books Received

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

Prisoner on the Kwai. By Basil Peacock. (Pp. 291 + ii. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood. 1966.

The Pathology of Parasitic Diseases. Symposium, London, 1965. Edited by Angela E. R. Taylor. (Pp. 53 + vii; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

Current Problems in History of Medicine. Proceedings of Conference, Basel, 1964. Edited by R. Blaser and H. Buess. (Pp. 687 + xvii; illustrated. sFr. 150.) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1966.

Probleme der Pharmakopsychiatrie. Edited by Theo Scholibo. (Pp. 119 + viii; illustrated. DM. 22.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1966.

Malariology. With Special Reference to Malaya. By A. A. Sandosham, L.M.S., Ph.D., M.D.(Hon. Causa), F.R.E.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., F.R.M.S. (Pp. 349 + xix; illustrated. 30s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

Contraceptives. *Which?* Supplement. (Pp. 96; illustrated. 10s.) London: Consumers' Association. 1966.

An Introductory Handbook for Laboratory Assistants in Tropical Hospitals. By A. M. Willings, F.I.M.L.T. (Pp. 91; illustrated. 15s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966.

A Handbook of Surgical Diathermy. By J. P. Mitchell, T.D., M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), and G. N. Lumb, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.). (Pp. 86 + xiii; illustrated. 37s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966.

Institutional Neurosis. 2nd edition. By Russell Barton, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 65; illustrated. 9s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966.

A Synopsis of Rheumatic Diseases. By Douglas N. Golding, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.I., D.Phys. Med. (Pp. 192 + viii. 30s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966.

An Atlas of Histology. By W. H. Freeman, B.Sc., M.I.Biol., and Brian Bracegirdle, B.Sc., A.R.P.S., M.I.Biol. (Pp. 140 + xi; illustrated. 30s.) London: Heinemann. 1966.

Anatomie Descriptive du Pied Humain. By Jean-Philippe Dubois and Jean-Hubert Levame. (Pp. 419; illustrated. 88 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1966.

Inborn Errors of Metabolism. Part 2. Laboratory Methods. By David Yi-Yung Hsia, M.D., and Tohru Inouye, Ph.D. (Pp. 244 + xvii. 53s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

New Drugs. Evaluated by the A.M.A. Council on Drugs. 1966 edition. (Pp. 590 + xii. $4.00.) Chicago: American Medical Association. 1966.

Social and Economic Factors Affecting Mortality. By B. Benjamin. (Pp. 88 + ix. No price given.) Paris and The Hague: Mouton. 1965.

Hyaluronidase and Cancer. By Ewan Cameron. (Pp. 245 + xiii. 50s.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Paris, and Frankfurt: Pergamon. 1966.

Alcoholic Beverages in Clinical Medicine. By Chauncey D. Leake, Ph.D., and Milton Silverman, Ph.D. (Pp. 160. 37s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

Pneumoencephalography and Cerebral Angiography. By Bernard S. Epstein, M.D. (Pp. 349 + xiii; illustrated. £7 10s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

The Year Book of Dentistry. 1965–1966 Series. Edited by Stanley D. Tylman, A.B., M.S., D.D.S., *et al.* (Pp. 464; illustrated. 60s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

The Biology of Human Adaptability. Edited by Paul T. Taker and J. S. Weiner. (Pp. 541 + viii. £5 5s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

A History of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Vol. 2. By Sir George Clark, F.B.A. (Pp. 427–800 + xviii; illustrated. 63s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

Atlas of Orthopaedic Exposures. By Toufick Nicola, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 135; illustrated. 80s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Bilharzial Hepatic Fibrosis in Iraq. By Ahmed H. Shamma, M.B., Ch.B., M.A., M.D.Path. (Pp. 103 + vii; illustrated. £2.) Bagdad: Bagdad University. 1965.