

writing on Indian hemp: there are snippings from sources as diverse as the *Song of Solomon*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Sitting Bull's Vision of Victory*, Nietzsche's letter to Peter Gast, and Goodman and Gilman's *Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*. For anyone who is addicted to *Believe it or Not* or has fallen under the spell of *What's Where in London*, this book will probably prove compulsive. Acapulco gold, Panama or Rangoon red, Yucatan blue, Ketama green, Congo brown, Angola black—the fact that these are names for varieties of marihuana may be useless information, but totally useless information has its very special charm.

GRIFFITH EDWARDS.

Medical Bibliography

Medical Books, Libraries and Collectors. 2nd edition. By John L. Thornton, F.L.A. (Pp. 445 + xvi. 84s.) London: Andre Deutsch. 1966.

This book, compiled by the librarian of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, is a history of medical bibliography in the widest sense, providing a detailed account of the production, distribution, storage, and recording of medical literature from the earliest times to the present day. It describes the development of medical literature before and after the invention of printing, the rise of the medical societies, the growth of medical periodicals, the important medical bibliographies and bibliographers, private collections, publishing and bookselling, and finally an account of present-day medical libraries.

The book is international in outlook, although the English-speaking countries receive the fullest treatment. Among other things an attempt is made to record the chief writings of every prominent author in the field of medical science. Historical notes on the more important medical societies are provided and the principal periodicals are mentioned. There is a good account of some outstanding private medical libraries and a brief chapter on medical publishers and booksellers.

In an introductory note Sir Geoffrey Keynes, himself a distinguished bibliographer, reminds us that medical history may be presented to the reader by means of books readable and books unreadable. He classifies Mr. Thornton's work as a semi-readable book which provides in each chapter a readable survey of some portion of medical history and at the same time conveys much more bibliographical information than is to be found in readable works.

The book first appeared in 1949. This new edition is half as large again and is

embellished with 16 half-tone plates illustrating title-pages of medical classics. Most of the chapters have been rewritten, and the bibliography, a valuable feature of the book, has been enlarged and now runs to over 50 pages. It has been necessary to omit the two appendices listing medical societies and medical libraries that were a useful section of the first edition.

The style is close-knit and the book is heavy going in places, but one is struck by the wealth of detailed information contained in it. There is a first-class index. The author is to be commended on his industry in producing such a useful supplement to the standard works on the history of medicine.

L. T. MORTON.

Medical Problems of Society

An Introduction to Social Medicine. By Thomas McKeown, M.D., Ph.D., D.Phil., F.R.C.P., and C. R. Lowe, M.D., Ph.D., D.P.H. (Pp. 327 + xiii; illustrated. 50s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

The academic discipline of social medicine has been bedevilled by the lack of a clear definition of the term. To a varying extent every clinical teacher must present the social aspects of disease to his students, but unless the student is given a clear picture of how the social problems related to sickness and death can be tackled his medical education will be sadly incomplete. The authors have with effect adopted a novel approach to the presentation of their subject, which is stated "to be concerned broadly with the appraisal of the medical problems of society and the means at our disposal for solving them."

The book is divided into three parts entitled Problems, Methods, and Services, which allows the various themes to be discussed with clarity and careful appraisal. Part I deals with the statistical assessment of health and disease, but the demographic data is enhanced by logical discussion on its significance, which makes the reading and understanding of it easy. Part II provides an appraisal of the methods which can be used to improve health under the two general headings of control of inheritance and environment. There is an outstanding chapter on immunization in this section. Part III is concerned with all the community services for the prevention of disease and medical care, and is the most interesting section of this book. The hospitals, environmental services, personal health services, general-practitioner services, etc., are all set out briefly but clearly and then discussed in relation to current thought. The hospitals

chapter presents the arguments for the balanced hospital community which Professor McKeown has argued so convincingly in recent years. Each chapter in this part of the book is a lucid essay on the particular subject, with an appraisal of the benefits and weaknesses of the various services, of which the following are examples: a comprehensive health service, international health services, and services for handicapped persons.

The authors are to be congratulated on preparing such a readable textbook, which, although mainly directed at the medical student, deserves to be widely read by anyone interested in the development of the health services. The title barely does the contents justice; this book is really a succinct review of the entire field of present-day health and medical services, with indications for possible future developments.

ANDREW B. SEMPLE.

Handbook of Haematology

Clinical Haematology. 2nd edition. By Robert Duncan Eastham, B.A., M.D., F.C.Path., D.C.P., Dipl.Path. (Pp. 158; illustrated. 15s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966.

This second edition of a useful handbook for junior pathologists and pathology laboratory technicians is welcome. The author informs us that the sections dealing with plasma viscosity, vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid, blood coagulation theory, blood platelets (including adhesive platelets), and fibrinolysis have been rewritten. The rest of the text has been brought up to date.

The handbook provides a great amount of factual information in accessible form, but does not go into technical methods. Naturally the range of normal values for many estimations are prominent and the significance of abnormal values is thoroughly and succinctly discussed. Not all laboratories will have available methods and equipment to carry out all the techniques mentioned; for instance it is nice to know that the normal figures for the whole blood viscosity in males is 4.59 centipoises at 37° C., and for females 3.95 centipoises; but few laboratories will possess the cone-in-cone viscosimeter by which these measurements were made. The section on clotting factors is excellent; it includes factor XIII, gives a list of physical characteristics and effects of pathological decrease for each factor, and also gives a short section on management of deficiencies of these factors. Anyone who uses the first edition will wish to replace it with this second edition.

M. C. G. ISRAËLS.

Books Received

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

The Nature of Biochemistry. 2nd edition. By Ernest Baldwin, B.A., Ph.D., F.I.Biol. (Pp. 115 + xi; illustrated. 17s. 6d.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1967.

Chroniques Hématologiques. By Jean Bernard. (Pp. 174. 28 F.) Paris: Masson. 1966.

A Cassandra at Westminster. By Donald McI. Johnson. (Pp. 239 + xii. 27s. 6d.) London: Johnson. 1967.

Ergebnisse der Gesamten Lungen- und Tuberkuloseforschung. Vol. 15. Edited by St. Engel, L. Heilmeyer, J. Hein, and E. Uehlinger. (Pp. 135; illustrated. DM. 49.60.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

Principles of Tetanus. Conference, Bern, 1966. Edited by Leo Eckmann, M.D. (Pp. 577; illustrated. sFr./DM. 172.) Bern and Stuttgart: Hans Huber. 1967.

Cancer Chemotherapy. 15th Hahnemann Symposium. Edited by Isadore Brodsky, M.D., and S. Denham Kahn, M.D. (Pp. 348 + ix; illustrated. \$18.50.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1967.

Lectures in Medicine. By C. W. H. Havard, M.A., D.M.(Oxon), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 381 + xiii; illustrated. 63s. Paper 40s.) London: Staples. 1967.

Radiology in World War 2. Edited by Colonel Arnold Lorentz Ahnfeldt, M.C., U.S.A. (Pp. 1,087 + xliii; illustrated. \$8.25.) Washington: Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army. 1966.

European and Extra-European Seminar for Cancer Prophylaxis and Prevention. Rome, 1965. (Pp. 496; illustrated. No price given.) University of Rome: Centro Sociale Studio Precancerosi. 1967.