

uniformly presented description of the progress which has been made with the techniques at present available.

ROBERT PORTER.

## The Midwife and the Witch

**The Midwife and the Witch.** By Thomas Rogers Forbes. (Pp. 196+x; illustrated. 48s.) London: Yale University Press. 1966.

Under this attractive title Dr. Thomas Forbes, who is professor of anatomy and associate dean of Yale University School of Medicine, has gathered together the fruits of researches which have spread over a number of years into medical folklore and superstitions, and especially those concerning reproduction and obstetrics. The result is a series of essays, attractively written and packed with informa-

tion, on such topics as hermaphroditism and sex reversal, pregnancy and fertility tests, sex prediction, the folklore of childbirth—with a separate chapter devoted to the caul (“the veil of good fortune”—on the midwife and the witch, and early English midwives.

While the popular journalist seeking out-of-the-way material for his Sunday supplements may welcome this as treasure trove, the scientific doctor of today might think it beneath his notice. He would be wrong to dismiss it, however. As the author writes in his preface, “We are all still believers; the difference lies in what we believe, and why.” In a most valuable list of some 700 references it is salutary to note the number and status of the purely medical references from which Dr. Forbes has quoted the most bizarre ideas. Even this bibliography is not complete, for Dr. Forbes has collected his material mostly from the classics and from the British, French, and German literature.

Although the veils are now all but removed from the mystery of sex, the author empha-

sizes that for countless ages it has remained one of the most powerful and inexhaustible sources of magic and superstition. And when scientific “explanations” came to replace the folklore that was cherished by the credulous much of the explanation still remained speculation. We have had to wait for 1966 to see published an account of an “objective scientific study” of the most intimate personal experience in the life of any human being.<sup>1</sup> It will be interesting to see whether this work, reviewed at length in a monthly magazine for the general reader, gives rise to a new type of folklore, and whether Dr. Forbes will spot it quickly enough to incorporate it in the second edition of a book which will undoubtedly appeal to many kinds of reader.

F. N. L. POYNTER.

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Masters, William H., and Johnson, Virginia E., *Human Sexual Response*, 1966. J. & A. Churchill, London.

## Books Received

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

**Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear.** A Handbook for Students and Practitioners. 8th edition. By I. Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.S.Ed. (Pp. 424+xii; illustrated. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

**Regulation of Nucleic Acid and Protein.** B.B.A. Library, Vol. 10. Edited by V. V. Koningsberger and L. Bosch. (Pp. 412; illustrated. £7.) London: Elsevier. 1967.

**A Handbook of Paediatrics for Nurses in General Training.** 3rd edition. By Q. M. Jackson, Diploma in Nursing (Lond.). (Pp. 108. 15s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1967.

**Differential Diagnosis.** 2nd edition. By William C. Matousek, M.D. (Pp. 351. 64s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1967.

**Clinical Phonocardiography and External Pulse Recording.** By Morton E. Tavel, M.D. (Pp. 230; illustrated. 75s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1967.

**The Year Book of the Ear, Nose and Throat. 1966-1967.** Edited by John R. Lindsay, M.D., Dean M. Lierle, M.D., and William C. Huffman, M.D. (Pp. 336; illustrated. 68s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1967.

**The Year Book of Ophthalmology. 1966-1967.** Edited by William F. Hughes, M.D. (Pp. 365; illustrated. 68s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1967.

**Reflections on Research and the Future of Medicine. A Symposium and Other Addresses.** Edited by Charles E. Lyght, M.D. (Pp. 209+vii; illustrated. 81s.) London: McGraw-Hill. 1967.

**Common Symptoms of Disease in Children.** By R. S. Illingworth, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. (Pp. 270+ix. 40s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

**Bilirubin Metabolism.** Edited by Ian A. D. Bouchier, M.D., M.R.C.P., and Barbara H. Billing, Ph.D. (Pp. 294+xii; illustrated. 63s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

**Racial and Geographical Factors in Tumour Incidence.** Edited by A. A. Shivas. (Pp. 291+viii; illustrated. 63s.) Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 1967.

**Heart Disease in Infancy and Childhood.** 2nd edition. By John D. Keith, M.D., Richard D. Rowe, M.B.(N.Z.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.), and Peter Vlad, M.D. (Pp. 1239+xvii; illustrated. £15.) London: Collier-Macmillan. 1967.

**Ballistocardiography in Cardiovascular Research.** By Isaac Starr and Abraham Noordergraaf. (Pp. 438+vi; illustrated. £5 10s.) Amsterdam: North-Holland. 1967.

**English Midwives.** Their History and Prospects. By James Hobson Aveling, M.D. Reprint of the 1872 edition with an Introduction and Biographical Sketch of the Author by John L. Thornton, F.L.A. (Pp. 185+xxx; illustrated. £7 10s.) London: Hugh K. Elliott. 1967.

**ANA Clinical Sessions.** American Nurses' Association, 1966, San Francisco. (Pp. 272+xvii. \$8.50.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1967.

**Ward Procedures and Techniques.** By Philip Cooper, M.D. (Pp. 303+xii; illustrated. \$6.75.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts.

**The Doctor, the Hospital, and the Patient in England.** Rights and Responsibilities under National Health Service. By Arthur F. Southwick, jun. (Pp. 376. \$7.50.) Ann Arbor, Michigan: Bureau of Business Research. 1967.

**Biochemical Values in Clinical Medicine.** The Results following Pathological or Physiological Change. 3rd edition. By Robert Duncan Eastham, B.A.(Cantab.), M.D.(Cantab.), F.C. Path., D.C.P., Dipl.Path. (Pp. 162+iv. Paper 15s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1967.

**Mental Illness and Social Processes.** Edited by Thomas J. Scheff. (Pp. 327+vi. 32s.) London: Harper & Row. 1967.

**Doctors and Nurses in Industry.** Social Aspects of In-plant Medical Programs. By Rhoda L. Goldstein, Ph.D., and Bernard Goldstein, Ph.D. (Pp. 96. \$2.00.) New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers. 1967.

**Black's Medical Dictionary.** 27th edition. By William A. R. Thomson, M.D. (Pp. 1013+viii; illustrated. 42s.) London: Adam & Charles Black. 1967.

**Cervical Spondylosis.** And other Disorders of the Cervical Spine. Edited by Lord Brain, D.M., L.L.D., D.C.L., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., F.R.S., F.F.R., and Marcia Wilkinson, D.M., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 232+ix; illustrated. 55s.) London: William Heinemann. 1967.

**Observations on the Pathology of Hydrocephalus.** By Dorothy S. Russell. (Pp. 152+vi; illustrated. 45s.) London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1967.

**A Summary of Gynaecology.** By C. W. F. Burnett, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Illustrations by Susan Robinson, M.M.A.A. (Pp. 150; illustrated. 18s.) London: Faber & Faber. 1967.

**Cardiovascular Surgery 1966.** American Heart Monograph, No. 16. Edited by C. Frederick Kittle, M.D. (Pp. 243; illustrated. \$3.00.) New York: American Heart Association. 1967.

**An Introduction to the Haemoglobinopathies. And the Methods Used for their Recognition.** By H. E. Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Glasg.), F.C.Path. (Pp. 88+vii; illustrated. 30s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1967.

**Recent Advances in Biological Psychiatry.** Edited by Joseph Wortis, M.D. (Pp. 377+xii; illustrated. \$6.50.) New York: Plenum. 1967.

**Histologie und Mikroskopische Anatomie des Menschen.** By Dr. W. Bargmann. 6th edition. (Pp. 784+xii; illustrated. DM. 69.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**Medikamentöse Retinopathie.** Volume 18. By Dr. W. Meier-Ruge. (Pp. 86; illustrated. DM. 48.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**Ergebnisse der Gesamten Lungen- und Tuberkuloseforschung.** Volume 16. Edited by St. Engel, L. Heilmeyer, J. Hein, and E. Uehlinger. (Pp. 143; illustrated. DM. 46.60.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**Diabetes Mellitus und Saluretika.** Eine Zusammenfassende Darstellung. By Dr. R. P. Königstein. (Pp. 70. DM. 9.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**The Biology of Work.** By O. G. Edholm. (Pp. 256; illustrated. 25s. Paper 14s.) London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson (World University Library). 1967.

**Biophysikalisches Praktikum.** By Dr. K. Glass, Dr. F. Pliquet, Dr. M. Rödenbeck, Dr. D. Wiegel, and Dr. S. Wunderlich. (Pp. 184; illustrated. £1 15s. 7d.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1966.

**The New Zealand Doctor and the Welfare State.** By J. B. Lovell-Smith. (Pp. 222; illustrated. 32s. 6d.) Auckland, New Zealand: Blackwood & Janet Paul. 1966.