

starts with statistical method and *notions générales*. Is this not the foundation of sound medicine for law usage? Are not the principles of argument too often forgotten?

Here are simple statistical deductions, the elements of force, the planography of projection—for the doctor/lawyer. How simple and effective that they should be illustrated by wounds, street accidents, and ballistics. And with thermal, electric, and sound injuries we are easily transported into the field of industrial medicine. *La carence en oxygène* is a short step from the mechanics of strangling and drowning. Dosage, diffusions, and intoxications are better understood when placed on a secure physicochemical basis. What the French call so delightfully *dommage corporel* in the field of injury and compensation is also better argued on sound basic principles.

The book is profusely illustrated, and, though some of the plates might appear to derive from the period of Balthazar, the majority are good and the many diagrams and graphs are excellent. This is a new legal medicine that will greatly help both the lawyer and the forensic pathologist in their mutual problems. It breaks splendidly with the older French traditions.

KEITH SIMPSON.

## Inner Ear Structure

*Submicroscopic Structure of the Inner Ear.* By Salvatore Iurato. (Pp. 367+xii; illustrated. £7.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1967.

This beautifully produced work is the fruitful result of international collaboration between a group of anatomists, physicists, pathologists, and otologists from Italy, Sweden, the United States, Switzerland, and England. It is the third work on the same subject to appear within the past year which reflects the interest aroused by the advances in light microscopy and in ultramicroscopy of the intricate and beautiful structure of the inner ear. It will serve as a standard work on the subject, and

is a model of collaboration by different authors each an expert in his field. It includes not only the microscopic structure of the inner ear but also chapters on the ear of insects and fish.

The references are extensive and the illustrations excellent. All who are interested in the ear and in ultramicroscopy should have access to this book, which is a joy to read.

TERENCE CAWTHORNE.

## Conspectus of the Medical Scene

*Medicine on Trial.* By Dannie Abse. (Pp. 352; illustrated. 42s.) London: Aldus Books. 1967.

Everything to do with medicine is news nowadays, especially when it is laced with a good tincture of drugs. The general public can hardly hear too much about it on television and radio and in newspapers, magazines, and books. It is often difficult not to be nostalgic for the days when the social, political, and ethical problems facing our profession were not as formidable as they are now, and, when they did exist, were debated discreetly and endogenously within the profession, and not shared exogenously with a sensation-loving public ("theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die"), and when indeed professional communications to the public were heavily frowned upon by the General Medical Council. Nevertheless, it is impossible to put back the hands of the clock; knowledge about everything has now to be made as widely available as possible, and perhaps it is a good thing that the days of medical obscurantism are over, for fear is greatly increased by ignorance.

In this book an attempt is made to give a balanced assessment of the present medical situation in its historical perspective. Though written primarily for the educated laity, it will no doubt also be read by many doctors. It may indeed be salutary for us to think of

certain problems in a way to which we are unaccustomed. The author is well informed, and writes clearly, interestingly, and controversially on such subjects as antibiotics and infections, endocrinology, psychiatry, contraception, human guinea-pigs (somewhat à la Pappworth), quacks, drugs, rejuvenation, and transplantation. Finally he indulges in some speculative crystal-gazing. Dr. Abse seems to have been assisted by a sort of business team, for in addition to him there is an editor, a designer, an associate designer, an art assistant, three picture researchers, and a text researcher. Perhaps, as the result of all this, he is not only a reporter of the medical scene but a commentator and critic as well. He has put Medicine "on trial," and his judicial summing up of its successes and failures leaves it looking a little shop-soiled. The pharmaceutical industry, however, which is also in the dock, is found definitely guilty as the result of evidence mostly derived from the Kefauver Senate hearings in the United States, which is now a somewhat discredited inquiry. Doubtless there is some fire to the smoke of the author's fulminations, but his chapter on the industry typifies the use of highly selected material to prove a point of view.

When one thinks of the price charged nowadays for slim volumes on abstruse subjects written on cheap paper with no illustrations, it is surprising that the publishers can produce for such a modest sum this luxurious "glossy," copiously illustrated by the researchers with such a wealth of singular, interesting, and often horrifying photographs, pictures—plain and coloured—diagrams, and cartoons derived from every imaginable source. Perhaps they are ready to accept very small profit margins for very large sales. On the dust cover it says that the author "eschews sensationalism." I cannot agree. Just as the public eagerly goggles at surgical operations on television—not so much for their educational value as for their sensational appeal—so it will no doubt flock to buy this book.

DERRICK DUNLOP.

## Books Received

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

*Current Paediatric Therapy.* 3rd edition. Edited by Sydney S. Gellis, M.D., and Benjamin M. Kagan, M.D. (Pp. 1029+xlvi. £9 11s.) London: Saunders. 1968.

*Orthopaedics: Principles and Their Application.* 2nd edition. By Samuel L. Turek, M.D. (Pp. 996+xx; illustrated. £12 10s.) London: Pitman Medical. 1967.

*The Doctor, His Patient, and the Illness.* 2nd paperback edition. By Michael Balint, M.D. (Pp. 395+xii. 30s.) London: Pitman Medical. 1968.

*Fertility and Contraception in the Human Female.* By John A. Lorraine and E. Trevor Bell. (Pp. 384+viii; illustrated. 55s.) Edinburgh: Livingstone. 1968.

*Medical and Applied Virology. Proceedings of the Second International Symposium.* Edited by Murray Sanders, M.D., and Edwin H. Lennette, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 405+xxi; illustrated. \$18.) St. Louis: Green. 1968.

*Progress in Medical Chemistry—5.* Edited by G. P. Ellis, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., and G. B. West, B. Pharm., D.Sc., Ph.D. (Pp. 370+xxi. £6 10s.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

*Physician Service Patterns and Illness Rates.* A Research Report on Medical Data Retrieved from Insurance Records. Edited by Helen Hershfield Avnet. (Pp. 452+xxvi; illustrated. Price not quoted.) New York: Group Health Insurance. 1967.

*Growth Regulating Substances for Animal Cells in Culture.* A Symposium held at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, 16 March 1967. The Wistar Institute Symposium Monograph Number 7. Edited by Vittorio Defendi and Michael Stoker. (Pp. 125; illustrated. \$5.) Philadelphia: Wistar Institute Press. 1967.

*Monoclonal and Polyclonal Hypergamma-globulinemia.* Clinical and Biological Significance. By Jan Gosta Waldenström. (Pp. 223+viii; illustrated. 55s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1968.

*The Psychiatrist. Personalities and Patterns.* By Walter Freeman, M.D. (Pp. 293+x; illustrated. \$6.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1968.

*The Work of W.H.O. Virus Reference Centre and the Services they Provide.* (Pp. 120. £1.) Geneva: W.H.O. 1968.

*Thanks, Doctor, I've Stopped Smoking.* A Modern Doctor-Patient Approach to Smoking Control. By William S. Kroger, M.D., and Robert Yale Libott. Special Appendix by T. E. A. Von Dedenroth, M.D. (Pp. 101+vii. \$4.75.) Springfield: Thomas. 1967.

*Psychiatric Signs and Symptoms due to Medical Problems.* By Sydney Walker III, M.D. With Forewords by Sir Francis Walshe, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., and Peter H. Knapp, M.D. (Pp. 299+xxi. \$11.50.) Springfield: Thomas. 1967.

*Medical Reference Works, 1679-1966.* A Selected Bibliography. Edited by John B. Blake and Charles Roos. (Pp. 343+viii. \$10.) Chicago: Medical Library Association. 1967.

*Physiology of Connective Tissue.* By Milos Chvapil, M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 417+xiii; illustrated. £5 10s.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

*Précis d'Obstétrique.* 3rd edition. By Robert Merger, Jean Lévy, and Jean Melchior. (Pp. 1030+viii; illustrated. 93 F.) Paris: Masson. 1967.