

as here defined comprises a number of skin reactions which differ strikingly in their course and in their histopathology. It is probable that stricter correlation of clinical and histological features supplemented by immunological studies will allow this group of reactions to be more logically differentiated, in much the same way as Dr. Lever himself has clarified the pemphigus-pemphigoid group of eruptions.

This is undoubtedly the most useful practical handbook on the histopathology of the skin available in any language. It can be strongly recommended to dermatologists and to the many pathologists who find skin histopathology a source of despair. The book should reduce the incidence of "non-specific appearances," which is notably higher in some departments than in others.

ARTHUR ROOK.

Medical Services a Hundred Years Ago

The Origins of the National Health Service. The Medical Services of the New Poor Law, 1834-1871. By Ruth G. Hodgkinson, Ph.D. (Pp. 714+xvii. £6 6s.) London: Wellcome Historical Medical Library. 1967.

Of late years considerable interest has been shown in the social history of medicine in England. Reprints of Chadwick's Poor Law and public health reports have been issued and books on the history of the Poor Law and its legislation have been published. Several authors, both men and women, have chosen this subject for a Ph.D. degree. Among these are some talented women who have toiled with commendable industry through State papers, official files, and documents, have read widely, and produced valuable source-books.

To this band of social historians belongs the author of this massive tome, so well presented

by the publishers. Dr. Hodgkinson finds the origin of the National Health Service in the medical services of the New Poor Law, 1834-71. This is partly true, for such a service was the subject of advocacy and discussion a hundred years ago. There were other origins—for instance, the medical service and care provided by the National Health Insurance Act of 1911, and the success of the Emergency Medical Services in the second world war.

Dr. Hodgkinson admires the work of Edwin Chadwick, his zeal and energy. Recognition should also be given to the Earl of Shaftesbury's work for industrial and public health reform. Above all, the work of the Poor Law Commissioners in Poor Law and public health reform was inspired by investigations, advice, and experience of the medical men, Southwood Smith, Arnott, and James Phillips Kay (afterwards Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth). It was Southwood Smith who stimulated, guided, and provided the facts for Chadwick's work. He was the architect and Chadwick the builder. Chadwick eventually had to resign, because he was too drastic in his reforms, and the Englishman "would not be bullied into health." After Chadwick's departure and the abolition of the short-lived General Board of Health there was a period of quiescence in health and Poor Law reform. Fortunately, progress in public health was continued by the appointment in 1858 of John Simon, F.R.C.S., surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and the late medical officer of the General Board of Health, as medical officer of the Privy Council's medical department, to whom the control of public health had been transferred. Poor Law was assigned to the Home Office.

Simon made his own position in his new department, and, beginning with "endeavours of the humblest kind," he went on from strength to strength. His persuasive eloquence, minutes, memoranda, and the researches of his medical inspectors secured

reforms in the national health where the autocratic and unconciliatory attitude of Chadwick had failed. Simon and other medical leaders advocated a national medical service for the sick poor, but the Poor Law Board, a supervisory authority with limited powers which had replaced the Poor Law Commissioners, left control of Poor Law medical services with the Boards of Guardians. At the end of the sixties doctors were appointed as medical inspectors, but medical supervision on a national scale was lacking, although some progress was made.

"Between 1834 and 1870 18 Poor Law Acts were passed, yet only one, the Metropolitan Poor Act (and its successor applying it to the country), was devoted to medical aspects. It provides the landmark in the history of the development of the Poor Law medical services, and in founding the Metropolitan Asylums Board established the first organized hospital system in the country" (p. 682).

As a result of the Royal Commission of 1869-71 the Local Government Board was founded with Simon as its medical officer. A great opportunity was missed of integrating the Poor Law medical service with public health, as he advocated. The Board took over the Poor Law, administered it separately, and also strove to make the medical department entirely subordinate to lay control without any substantial share in the Board's health policy and practice. Simon, after resisting this pressure as long as possible, resigned in 1876 and departed, crowned with honours and distinction, to be elected president of the Royal College of Surgeons. Despite the enlightened reports of the Poor Law Royal Commission issued in 1909 nothing was done to fulfil their recommendations, until a way was made for the break-up of the Poor Law by the Local Government Act of 1929.

This important and interesting book should be appreciated and consulted frequently by many readers.

ARTHUR S. MACNALT.

Books Received

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

Recent Advances in Respiratory Tuberculosis. 6th edition. Edited by Frederick Heaf, C.M.G., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and N. Lloyd Rusby, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 234+viii. 55s.) London: Churchill. 1968.

Arterial Chemoreceptors. Edited by R. W. Torrance. (Pp. 402+xiv; illustrated. £6.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

Selected Problems of Adolescence. With special emphasis on Group Formation. Edited by Helene Deutsch, M.D. (Pp. 134. 30s.) London: Hogarth Press. 1968.

Someone Else's Child. A Book for Foster Parents of Young Children. Edited by Olive Stevenson. (Pp. 122+vi. 7s. 6d.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd. 1968.

Miniaturized Microbiological Methods. Advances in Applied Microbiology, Supplement 1. Edited by Paul A. Hartman. (Pp. 227+xiii. 98s.) New York: Academic Press. 1968.

Diseases of Children. 2nd edition. Edited by Hugh Jolly, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. (Pp. 752+xii; illustrated. 63s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

The Molecular Biology of Viruses. The Eighteenth Symposium of the Society for General Microbiology. Edited by L. V. Crawford and M. G. P. Stoker. (Pp. 372+viii. 80s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1968.

Autonomic Nervous System. 3rd edition. Edited by J. Harold Burn, M.D., F.R.S. (Pp. 149+vii; illustrated. 22s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

Transference and Counter-Transference. Edited by John D. Sutherland, Ph.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. (Pp. 203+xi. 42s.) London: The Hogarth Press Ltd. 1968.

Abnormal Hypnotic Phenomena. Volume 3. A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Cases. Edited by Eric J. Dingwall, D.Sc. (Pp. 216+vii. 50s.) London: Churchill. 1968.

Medical Treatment. A Textbook of Therapy in 4 volumes. Volume 1, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Diseases, including Tuberculosis. Edited by Kenneth Maclean, M.D., F.R.C.P., and George Scott, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 280+viii. 40s.) London: Churchill. 1968.

Pharmacological Principles and Practice. Edited by W. N. D. Paton, D.M., F.R.S., and J. P. Payne, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. (Pp. 417+ix; illustrated. 75s.; paperback 50s.) London: Churchill. 1968.

Cancer of the Head and Neck. Edited by William S. Maccomb, M.D., and Gilbert M. Fletcher, M.D. (Pp. 598+xviii; illustrated. £13 2s. 6d.) Edinburgh: Livingstone. 1967.

Sexual Discord in Marriage. By Michael Courtenay. (Pp. 137+xiv. 35s.) London: Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1968.

Surgery of the Small Intestine in the Adult. Volume 7, Major Problems in Clinical Surgery. By Bentley P. Colcock and John W. Braasch. (Pp. 220+xii; illustrated. £4 9s.) London: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. 1968.

Alchemical Studies. Volume 13 of the Collected Works of C. G. Jung. Translated by R. F. C. Hull. (Pp. 453+xiv; illustrated. 63s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1968.

The Electrical Activity of Nervous System. 3rd edition. Edited by Mary A. B. Brazier, B.Sc., D.Sc. (London). (Pp. 317+ix; illustrated. 45s.) London: Pitman Medical. 1968.

Adolescence. Care and Counselling. Edited by Gene L. Usdin, M.D. (Pp. 238. 75s.) London: Pitman Medical. For J. P. Lippincott Co. (Philadelphia). 1968.

Crosscurrents in Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. Edited by Robert W. Gibson, M.D. (Pp. 259. 80s.) London: Pitman Medical. For J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. 1968.