

these auspicious signs the book is a disappointment. A comprehensive exhaustive review of any subject matter considered by a working group rarely conveys the process of evolution of concepts from the diverse and often discordant reports considered. It is sometimes possible to publish a consensus, an expert statement on a particular topic after the style of some W.H.O. Expert Committee Reports, and sometimes the processes within the group itself are of intrinsic interest. However, a volume such as this, setting out to be scrupulously fair to all points of view, is too wide in its range and fails to communicate effectively. The group might well have exerted a powerful influence in generating multidisciplinary research had funds been available, but the chairman's view that "the work method evolved [by the committee] represents a significant advance in interdisciplinary communication" is not justified by this publication.

No one reading this volume can doubt that the committee achieved a significant distillation of wisdom, but they have not resolved the problem of communicating this to a wide audience. The diligent research worker will find the book a mine of information, but few general readers will have the strength of purpose to hew this particular seam.

S. BRANDON.

Synopsis of all Aspects of Public Health

A Synopsis of Public Health and Social Medicine. 2nd edition. By A. J. Essex-Cater, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H., D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.A.I. (Pp. 739+ix. 75s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1967.

Since the publication of the first edition in 1960 this book has become popular with students of public health, especially those studying for the D.P.H. The reason is that it contains in easily accessible form accurate and readily understandable information on almost every aspect of the subject. In this second edition it has been found necessary to increase the text by over 150 pages, which the author considers inevitable. But sooner or later he will have to consider the omission of some material if this useful publication is to be kept to a reasonable size. For example, are four pages of classification of pathogenic agents really necessary in a synopsis

of this type? Also, the summaries of the reports of Government committees could be reduced considerably.

Nevertheless, the addition of the new material has undoubtedly enhanced the value of the book to the student, and has brought it up to date. In the statistics section there is mention of the use of computers in medicine. The epidemiology of non-communicable disease is included, and the extended communicable diseases chapters are especially informative. Environmental and occupational health are dealt with adequately, as is food hygiene and the other conventional aspects of public health. There is a good chapter on the major causes of mortality and morbidity. Throughout the text emphasis has been placed on the social factors involved in community health problems, and the chapter on welfare services gives a clear account of the existing provisions for dealing with socio-medical problems. In a book of this kind the writer is obviously compelled to limit himself to brief factual statements, which present the social welfare services in rather a rigid fashion. However, with the essentials so clearly set out, it must be left to the reader to clothe them with examples from his own experience.

The comprehensive index makes the book valuable for quick reference, and there can be no doubt that its popularity will continue. The author is once again to be congratulated on his thoroughness, and for producing an up-to-date comprehensive edition of this widely recommended textbook.

ANDREW B. SEMPLE.

Hippocrates' Disciples

The Healers. The Doctor, Then and Now. By Kurt Pollak, M.D., in collaboration with E. Ashworth Underwood, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 246; illustrated. 50s.) London: Thomas Nelson. 1968.

Dr. Kurt Pollak's book entitled *Die Jünger des Hippokrates* has been translated (with a new title) into elegant English by Dr. Ashworth Underwood, who has also adapted it for British readers by making certain additions. The main theme of the book is "the way in which doctors lived and worked during successive eras of civilization."

The first four chapters give a good account of the beliefs, training, status, functions, and methods of treatment adopted by the

"healers" in primitive times and early civilizations—Assyrian, Indian, Chinese, Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman. The statement remains true that "Hippocrates is even today the model for doctors all over the world." The Romans considered the physician's art beneath them, and employed Greek slaves who had been medically trained. The military surgeon ranked with the private or non-commissioned officer of the legion, but he had certain privileges, including exemption from taxation. Two chapters deal chiefly with the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. With the fall of the Roman Empire "the Church remained the sole bulwark behind which science and culture could still find a refuge." During the "monastic" period of the Middle Ages the "healers" in Western Europe were mainly found in the monasteries or among the clergy, including some high dignitaries; a physician, John XXI, was elected Pope in 1276. In the Middle East and in Spain traditional medicine was maintained by the Arabs, but with the foundation of the schools of Salerno and Montpellier and the Universities of Bologna, Paris, Padua, and others in Western Europe the "scholastic" period led to a medical renaissance in the 16th century. Four prominent men who awakened men's minds were Paracelsus, Vesalius, Ambroise Paré, and Fracastoro. The last four chapters deal with many aspects of the evolution of medicine in Germany and Britain, and to a lesser degree in France, North America, and Russia. The story is well told of the rise of Vienna as a medical centre under van Swieten and later Johannes Peter Frank; and its revival under Rokitansky, Skoda, and Hebra; and here also one can read how State medical insurance was introduced into Germany. Dr. Underwood has inserted an excellent account of the progress of medical education and practice in Britain, and has skilfully outlined the steps toward and the controversies incidental to the introduction of the National Health Service.

Interesting sections are devoted to doctors who have become famous in literary or political fields, while the fight for women to enter the medical profession is related. No explanation is given why there are so few women doctors in the country in which the first woman graduated in medicine. There is much in this book not easily found elsewhere, and the illustrative plates are numerous, well chosen, and beautifully reproduced.

ZACHARY COPE.

Books Received

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

The Principles and Practice of Health Visiting. Vol. 8. By Rosemary Hale, Marion K. Loveland, and Grace M. Owen. (Pp. 99+xi. 30s.) London: Pergamon Press. 1968.

Protides of the Biological Fluids. Proceedings of the 15th Colloquium, Bruges, 1967. Edited by H. Peeters. (Pp. 626+xii; illustrated. £12.) London: Elsevier Publishing Co. 1967.

Growth of the Nervous System. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maevae O'Connor. (Pp. 295+xi; illustrated. 65s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

Experimental Psychology: Its Scope and Method. Vol. 5. Motivation, Emotion, and Personality. Edited by Joseph Nuttin, Paul Fraisse, and Richard Meili. (Pp. 289+v. 35s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd. 1968.

Textbook of Surgical Pathology. 10th edition. Edited by Sir Charles Illingworth, C.B.E., M.D., Ch.M., Hon.L.L.D.(Glasgow, Leeds), Hon.D.Sc.(Sheffield, Belfast), F.R.C.S.(Edin., Glasgow), Hon.F.R.C.S.(Eng., Ireland), Hon.F.A.C.S. Hon.F.R.C.P.S.(Can.), Hon.F.C.S.G.(S. Africa), and the late Bruce M. Dick, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Ed.), F.R.C.S.(Glasg.). (Pp. 701+vii; illustrated. 120s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

Systemic Mycoses. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Ruth Porter. (Pp. 287+xiii; illustrated. 65s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd.

Recent Advances in Medicine. 15th edition. Edited by D. N. Baron, M.D., D.Sc., M.R.C.P., F.C.Path., Nigel Compton, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. M. Dawson, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 423+x; illustrated. 65s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

Spark of Life. Edited by J. A. Leo Magee, M.B. With illustrations by Michel Desrochers. (Pp. 222. 25s.) N. Devon: A. H. Stockwell Ltd.

Febrile Convulsions. Edited by J. Gordon Millichap, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 222+xii. 75s.) London: Collier-Macmillan Ltd. 1968.

Insulin, Membranes and Metabolism. Edited by Peter Rieser, Ph.D. (Pp. 156+xii. 77s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.