

British Maternity Services

In the Beginning. Studies of Maternity Services. Edited by Gordon McLachlan and Richard Shegog. (Pp. 186+vi; 35s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1970.

If a Biblical title seems irrelevant to a collection of nine essays on the British maternity services, remember that in reproduction too genesis is followed by exodus and later, as in one statistical contribution here, by numbers.

In the analyses of the pattern of the present and recent past in British obstetrics, many of the lessons of the *Perinatal Mortality Survey* of 1958¹ are seen to have been learned only incompletely. Too many pregnant women do not avail themselves of the proffered facilities because of ignorance, prejudice, and fear; and too many doctors and midwives readily accept high risk cases for delivery outside hospital. The need for more basic and clinical research, for better lay education, for improved social conditions, for redefinition of the social classes, and for the collection of comprehensive statistics are variously emphasized.

This is a useful book if only because it is a warning against complacency. However, it is unlikely to reach those who would benefit most from reading it. The Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust which sponsored it, or perhaps the Department of Health, should consider its publication in paperback form for distribution to all who work in the field of midwifery.

S. BENDER.

REFERENCE

- ¹ Butler, N. R., and Bonham, D. G., *Perinatal Mortality: First Report of the 1958 British Perinatal Mortality Survey*, Edinburgh, Livingstone, 1958.

Critical Appraisal of Cytodiagnosis

Monographs in Clinical Cytology: Vol. 3. Diagnostic Cytology of the Uterine Cervix. By Stanley F. Patten, jun. (Pp. 209+vi; illustrated. 110s.) Basle: S. Karger. 1969. U.K.: Academic Press.

Cytodiagnosis has been long enough in the pathological eye for its literature to be large, and textbooks on cervical cytology, its most-publicized application, are particularly numerous.

This author, however, departs from the usual emphasis on diagnostic criteria, and is concerned mainly with a correlation between the features of cells in the smear and histological appearances in the tissue section. This is a valuable and salutary approach, for at times enthusiasm for the techniques of cytology leads to a disregard for its limitations as a mirror of histological change.

Books Received

Acrylic Cement in Orthopaedic Surgery: John Charnley. (Pp. 131; 60s.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

Cardiovascular Pathology: Vol. 3. Reginald E. B. Hudson. (Pp. 1166; 480s.) Edward Arnold. 1970.

Biochemical Disorders in Human Disease. 3rd. edn. Ed. R. H. S. Thompson and I. D. P. Wootton. (Pp. 875; 160s.) J. & A. Churchill. 1970.

Family Planning Today: Ed. Alan Rubin. (Pp. 149; 23s.) Blackwell. 1970.

Even in this book there are times when the potential of cytology is stretched, as in the paragraphs attempting to distinguish the cells of squamous metaplasia from those of ordinary squamous epithelium. There is also a preoccupation with cell size measured by planimetry. Such data might be of use in setting up apparatus for the automatic scanning of smears, but they convey little of value to the reader.

These criticisms apart, the text is informative, and the descriptions of dysplasia and carcinoma in situ, particularly with reference to their biological significance, are very well balanced. There are no illustrations in colour, but the photomicrographs of both smears and sections are carefully chosen and are of excellent quality. This is not an instruction book for the trainee in cytology, but is stimulating reading for the pathologist interested in a critical appraisal of cyto-diagnosis applied to the pathology of the cervix uteri.

A. S. WOODCOCK.

Aspects of Hypertension

Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease. Edited by Albert N. Brest, M.D. (Pp. 332+xi; illustrated. 60s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1969.

This is the first volume of "a new journal, modelled along textbook lines but without the restrictions of textbook styling." It is bound with a hard cover, and apparently three volumes will be issued each year. This one contains 17 papers on various aspects of hypertension written by well-known authorities. The standard of presentation is high and the material is up to date—apart from the surprising omission of bethanidine therapy.

Though this is a useful compilation of knowledge about hypertension it does not in my opinion justify its addition to the already vast periodical literature in cardiovascular disease.

A. HOLLMAN.

"Stimulating the Phagocytes"

Shaw and the Doctors. By Roger Boxill. (Pp. 199+xviii; \$5.95.) New York, London: Basic Books. 1969.

Those with a healthy disrespect for the orthodoxies of the medical establishment can always find an enthusiastic, if posthumous, ally in George Bernard Shaw. But supplies

of Shavian ammunition have been running low. Many of his critical sallies against the medical absurdities of his day are being incorporated in the new orthodoxy, leaving only a minority still as barbed—and as unpopular with the profession—as ever they were. Either way, it is hard to imagine a higher compliment to Shaw's perspicacity.

It is this that Professor Roger Boxill has called upon to restock the ammunition lockers, which he does in a lucid, entertaining, and thought-provoking new book about Shaw in his little-known role as the scourge of the doctors. At a time when the medical profession boasted no Henry Miller of its own to probe and question from within, Shaw must have provided a much-needed stimulus to look at medicine with a fresh if jaundiced eye. True, as Professor Boxill reminds us, exaggerations abounded—but in a good cause. "It is always necessary," wrote Shaw, "to overstate a case startlingly to make people sit up and listen to it, and to frighten them into acting on it."

Among the targets for his overstatement were the scientists—for their mechanistic approach—and the vivisectionists, because "science must be pursued with the same moral and legal restraints as any other civilised activity." The germ theory, antiseptics, vaccination, and medicine's vested interest in disease were all passed under his critical microscope and found wanting. What was needed, said Shaw, were alternatives to vivisection, a State health service, better antiseptics, more health through social reform and less emphasis on germs, vaccines, and disease. Most of all, medicine needed a change of heart. Shaw wanted doctors to be artists who treated sick people, rather than chemists who adjusted mixtures or mechanics who fixed engines: "To tackle a damaged living organism with the outlook of a repairing plumber and joiner, or to treat an acid stomach by pouring an alkali into it, is to behave like a highly unintelligent artisan."

Shaw's medical polemics, Professor Boxill goes on to remind us, boil down to the proposition that a sane and sanitary nation is the prerequisite of a citizenry with sound minds in sound bodies. In restating such neglected truths, this important book not only does belated justice to medicine's keenest critic. It also deftly sketches in the background (both past and present), takes us on a stimulating excursion through the plays, and finally parcels up a work of remarkable scholarship in highly readable form—all ready for delivery to a profession that still has much to learn.

GEORGE BIRDWOOD.

Electrical Signs of Nervous Activity: Joseph Erlanger and Herbert S. Gasser. (Pp. 242; 72s.) University of Pennsylvania Press. 1970.

Hearing and Noise in Industry: W. Burns and D. W. Robinson. (Pp. 241; 35s.) H.M.S.O. 1970.

The U.S. Health Industry: The Costs of Acceptable Medical Care by 1975. Edward Yost. (Pp. 138; 85s.) Pall Mall Press. 1970.

Sex and the Longer Life: Ivor Felstein. (Pp. 143; 25s.) Allen Lane Penguin Press. 1970.

Who Shall Live?: Medicine, Technology and Ethics. Ed. Kenneth Vaux. (Pp. 199; \$6.50.) Fortress Press. 1970.

The Structure and Function of Nervous Tissue: Vol. 3. Biochemistry and Disease. Ed. Geoffrey H. Bourne. (Pp. 644; \$33.00.) Academic Press. 1969.

Introducing Psychology: An Experimental Approach. D. S. Wright *et al.* (Pp. 736; 20s.) Penguin Books. 1970.

The Dietary Surveys of Dr. Edward Smith 1862-3. A New Assessment. T. C. Barker *et al.* (Pp. 62; 12s. 6d.) Staples Press. 1970.

Behaviour Therapy in Clinical Psychiatry: V. Meyer and Edward S. Chesser. (Pp. 288; 15s.) Penguin Books. 1970.

Societies and Lectures

For attending lectures marked ● a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

Friday, 3 April

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.—At National Institute for Medical Research, London N.W.7, 4.30 p.m., Professor L. Hayflick (Stamford University): Cultured Human Cells and the Biology of Senescence.

Monday, 6 April

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 8.30 p.m., Hunterian oration by Dr. O. Garrod: Hibernation.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m. Clinicopathological conference.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND Gynaecology.—At Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 11.15 a.m., Mr. G. B. Finkler, Mr. R. Lloyd-Jones: Management of Pre-eclampsia and Hypertension. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.) ●

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Mr. J. A. P. Marston: Diagnosis and Management of Intestinal Ischaemia; 6.30 p.m., Mr. D. Innes Williams: Some Aspects of Paediatric Urology. ●

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CARE.—At the Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W.1, 7 p.m., Miss Constance Bamford: Comparison of Nursing Staffing Needs in Eastern Europe, United Kingdom and North America. ●

Tuesday, 7 April

ADLERIAN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—At Alliance Hall, Palmer Street, London S.W.1, 7.30 p.m., Dr. H. Beric Wright: Adapting to Stress in Modern Business.

BOLTON AND DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Bolton Medical Institute, 8.15 p.m., Dr. J. Bath: Prognosis after Myocardial Infarction.

GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 8 p.m., R.C.G.P. meeting, Dr. J. Hughes: Anxiety.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND Gynaecology.—At Chelsea Hospital for Women, 3 p.m., Professor J. M. Tanner: Physiology of Puberty. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.) ●

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Arris and Gale Lecture by Mr. G. A. Kune: Influence of Structure and Function in Surgery of Biliary Tract; 6.15 p.m., Dr. K. V. Sanderson: Pathological Guide-lines in Surgery of Skin Carcinoma. ●

Wednesday, 8 April

GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 2.15 p.m., gynaecology and obstetrics meeting; 2.15 p.m., medical meeting.

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—5.30 p.m., Professor A. J. Moss (California): Natural History of Ventricular Septal Defect.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Lister oration by Sir Michael Woodruff F.R.S.: Biological Aspects of Individuality; 6.15 p.m., Professor G. W. Taylor: Differential Diagnosis and Management of Digital Gangrene. ●

Thursday, 9 April

CHILDREN MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Wycombe General Hospital, High Wycombe, 8.30 p.m., clinical meeting.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Cecil Joll lecture by Professor A. W. Kay: Research in Medicine—the Surgeon's Opportunity, Commitment and Contribution; 6.15 p.m., Professor I. D. A. Johnston: Metabolic Basis of Surgical Care. ●

Friday, 10 April

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5.15 p.m., Dr. J. S. Macdonald: Lymphography and Surgery; 6.30 p.m., Mr. D. M. Wallace: Diagnosis and Management of Tumours of Kidney. ●

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10 a.m., Staff round; 11 a.m., profile on Biological Properties of Foreign Materials; 2 p.m., meeting with Section of Surgery, Royal Society of Medicine: short papers.

Appointments

MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—D. C. Beton, M.B., D.M.R.D. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant radiologist, Wythenshawe and North Cheshire group); L. P. Connolly, M.B., F.R.C.S. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant traumatic and orthopaedic surgeon, Ashton, Hyde and Glossop group); R. J. Farrand, M.B.,

M.R.C.P. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant pathologist, Salford group); M. I. Hashmi, M.B., D.M.R.E., D.M.R.D. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant radiologist, Oldham and District group); J. P. O'Loughlin, M.B., M.R.C.P. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant physician, Bolton and District group); D. M. Somerville, M.B., D.O. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant ophthalmologist, Blackburn and District group); P. G. Wells, M.B., D.P.M., D.C.H. (whole-time or maximum part-time consultant psychiatrist, Parkside group).

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES.—E. M. P. Brett, D.M., M.R.C.P. (consultant paediatric neurologist, Hospital for Sick Children, National Hospitals for Nervous Diseases and Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton).

SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Pamela E. Daly, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S. (consultant in anaesthetics, Woolwich group); S. G. Elkington, M.D., M.R.C.P. (consultant in general medicine, Woolwich group); E. R. Herst, M.D., D.P.M. (consultant in psychiatry, Bexley and Woolwich groups); V. J. E. D. Lobo, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed. (consultant in E.N.T. surgery, Central Kent, Medway and Gravesend groups); J. G. Scott, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S. (consultant in anaesthetics, Bromley group); P. C. Shaw, M.B., F.R.C.S. (consultant in orthopaedic surgery, Bromley group); C. W. E. Smith, M.B., M.R.C.P. (consultant in geriatrics, Isle of Thanet and Canterbury groups); P. J. Stevens, M.D., M.R.C.Path. (consultant in pathology, Tunbridge Wells group); R. M. S. Terry, M.B., D.M.R.D. (consultant in radiology, Medway and Gravesend group); P. Wright, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.O. (consultant in ophthalmology, Bromley group).

WESSEX REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—R. M. Barnes, M.B., M.R.C.P.Ed., M.R.C.Path., D.T.M. and H. (deputy director, Regional Blood Transfusion Service); N. Conway, M.B., M.R.C.P. (consultant cardiologist, Southampton, and University of Southampton); J. T. Furnival, M.R.C.S., D.M.R.D. (consultant in radiology, West Dorset); J. M. Shepherd, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.F.R. (consultant in radiotherapy, Southampton).

NORTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—M. A. E. Symonds, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. Consultant Venereologist to Hackney Group of Hospitals).

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—J. D. George, M.B., M.Ch., F.R.C.S.Ed. (consultant surgeon, Norfolk and Norwich clinical area).

Universities and Colleges

OXFORD

The Brian Johnson prize in pathology for 1969 has been awarded to D. C. Mears (St. John's College).

LONDON

M.D.—A. R. Tanser.
PH.D.—In the Faculty of Medicine: Narayana K. Achari, S. A. Ahmed, D. Dwuma-Badu, Joan R. Parker, R. A. M. Williams, S. K. Bosher, J. P. M. Finberg, Ma Hui Kyu, A. Liakos.
M.Phil.—In the Faculty of Medicine: M. G. T. Webb.

BIRMINGHAM

Dr. Walter T. Smith, reader in neuropathology, has been appointed to a chair of neuropathology established for one tenure, from 1 April.

Dr. P. B. Bradley, who holds the personal title of professor of experimental neuropharmacology, has been appointed to the newly-established chair of preclinical pharmacology in the new division of pharmacological studies, from 4 March.

The title of reader in pathology has been conferred on Dr. D. H. Wright, senior lecturer in the department of pathology.

The title of university clinical lecturer has been conferred on Mr. A. D. Barnes for the duration of his appointment as consultant surgeon (transplant) to the United Birmingham Hospitals.

The title of honorary lecturer in the department of pathology has been conferred on Dr. R. G. F. Parker for the duration of his appointment as consultant pathologist to the East Birmingham Hospital.

The title of honorary research fellow has been

conferred on Dr. C. G. Theodoridis for the period of his work in the Institute of Child Health.

Appointments.—Dr. A. Buhagiar-Duke (lecturer, department of obstetrics and gynaecology); Dr. D. N. Challacombe (lecturer, department of paediatrics and child health); Dr. Olga Hudlicka (senior research fellow, department of physiology); Dr. D. I. Rushton (senior lecturer, department of pathology).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a meeting of the College held on 23 March Sir Max Rosenheim was re-elected president for the ensuing year.

Corrections

Unheard Voices

In a letter by Dr. R. C. King (28 March, p. 882) the third sentence of the first paragraph should have read: "A recent survey by the Regional Hospitals Consultants' and Specialists' Association revealed that of those contacted 92.4% were dissatisfied with their representation. . . ."

Approach to Clinical Endocrinology

In the book review by Dr. R. I. S. Bayliss (21 March, p. 740) there was a printer's error in the last sentence of the first paragraph. This should have read "It may not appeal to the run-of-the-mill medical student, but will find enthusiastic support from the able student, from the postgraduate, from the general physician, and not least from the endocrinologist."

Notice to Authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated.

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Authors wanting reprints of their articles should notify the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

Subscriptions

Members' subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary of the British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, London, or to the Scottish Secretary, B.M.A. Scottish Office, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

Doctors who are not members of the B.M.A. can subscribe to the *B.M.J.* The rates for doctors resident in the United Kingdom and abroad are given on the first page of the classified advertisements. These include the rate for the North American "Air Express," which is available to both members and non-members of the B.M.A.

Classified Advertisements

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