

Medical Care of the Aged

A Student's Guide to Geriatrics. 2nd edn. By Trevor H. Howell, F.R.C.P.Ed. (Pp. 212; 45s.) London: Staples Press. 1970.

The new edition of this standard text concentrates on those aspects of the medical care of the aged which differ in some way from the medical problems of younger adults. It is therefore both supplementary and complementary to the standard textbooks, and since all doctors except paediatricians will find that a major part of their work is with aged people this book is obligatory reading.

The case for regarding geriatric medicine as a specialty is based on a formidable array of pathological processes, clinical syndromes, and therapeutic methods which are special to the aged. The first chapter covers this ground in general terms and makes interesting reading for those who are not already practising the precepts in it, and especially for those who may feel critical of the practices and policies of their local geriatric department. The second chapter covers those physiological and anatomical variations from the young adult which are so generally found in the aged as to be accepted as normal. There is a chapter on pathology, one on psychiatry, and a section on systemic diseases. Finally, there are comments on surgery, rehabilitation, and social medicine. These chapters are severely compressed, presumably in order to keep the whole book small, but it is a pity that they were not expanded in the vigorous style which makes the early part of the book such interesting reading. Perhaps the undergraduate, buried in large tomes, will bless the author for restraining himself, and it must be admitted that the relevant facts are thoroughly presented in condensed form.

In a tribute to Dr. Warren, the pioneer in British geriatric medicine, Dr. Trevor Howell writes "... old folk, admitted as so-called 'chronic sick', often surprised everybody except Dr. Warren by improving and returning to reasonable health and activity." Too many doctors still lack Dr. Warren's confidence, but this book will help some to follow her example.

E. WOODFORD-WILLIAMS.

Diseases of the Arteries

Peripheral Arterial Disease. R. L. Richards. (Pp. 126; 50s.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

This small primer on diseases of the arteries of the extremities has been written by a clinician from the medical, rather than from the usual surgical, approach.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

House Officer Training: A Casual Perspective. Robert H. Moser. (Pp. 108; \$5.75.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Insomnia. Gay Gaer Luce and Julius Segal. (Pp. 370; 50s.) Longman. 1970.

Begin Again. Margaret Torrie. (Pp. 160; 25s.) J. M. Dent. 1970.

The monograph consists of nine chapters. After a short historical introduction, there is a chapter devoted to the physiology of the circulation, one to a simple classification of arterial disorders, and one in which symptoms, signs, and tests are described. The remaining six chapters deal with various clinical aspects of arterial disorders, such as the medical and surgical approach to the control of intermittent claudication, the diagnosis and therapy of acute arterial occlusion, the treatment of the chronic ischaemic limb, and a discussion of Raynaud's disease and syndrome, aneurysms, the cervical rib syndrome, and erythromelalgia. The list of references placed at the end of the book is adequate, as are the figures, six of which are in colour.

As stated in the preface, the volume was not intended to be a comprehensive account of the field of peripheral vascular disorders. It should still prove of value to the general practitioner wanting to acquire an introduction to, and a superficial understanding of, arterial diseases. The contents are presented in a simple, clear, and concise fashion.

DAVID I. ABRAMSON.

Electronic Physiological Instrumentation

Electronic Measurement Techniques in Anaesthesia and Surgery. D. W. Hill. (Pp. 358; 78s.) Butterworths. 1970.

No one concerned with physiological research, particularly in connexion with anaesthesia and surgery, will doubt the great value of this book. It answers innumerable questions which crop up during the handling of electronic equipment, and if consulted properly is bound to increase substantially the understanding and hence the range of usefulness of these instruments. Dr. Hill is clearly not only highly competent in describing electronic physiological instrumentation, although he writes for those already very knowledgeable about electronics, but he is thoroughly familiar with the uses to which they are put in the clinical and physiological field, and with the difficulties with which medical research workers are constantly faced.

The material ranges from a general discussion of recorders and their choice, in which various types of transducers, amplifiers, and recording systems are described, to the details of the measurement of the main physiological functions, especially those of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, and includes blood and gas flows, plethysmography, and cardiac output. In addition, gas and vapour analysis, as well as pH sys-

tems, are fully treated. Finally, an account of defibrillators and pacemakers is included, since their use may influence other measurements made on patients.

In his introduction the author gives the impression that a knowledge of the material in his book is needed in order to pass the new section of the primary F.F.A.R.C.S. dealing with physiological measurement. Doubtless any candidate who knows what is in this book will have no difficulty with that particular section of the examination, but the level aimed at by Dr. Hill is far higher than would, or even should, be expected of such candidates. Indeed, a foreknowledge by the reader of at least "A" level physics and a familiarity with differential calculus is essential. One can only hope that neither examiners nor prospective candidates in the F.F.A.R.C.S. will be misled by Dr. Hill's preface, though their admiration, like the reviewer's, will be unbounded at this major contribution to a better understanding and use of electronic measurement techniques in medicine.

W. W. MUSHIN.

Honest Autobiography

Surgical Cosmopolis. Geoffrey Parker. (Pp. 176; 42s.) William Kimber. 1970.

How honest autobiographers would we make? Would we say what we thought at the time, or what we think we should have thought, or what we think people today think we should have thought?

"Of these ideologies I preferred Fascism, as the lesser of two evils." (The other one was Communism.) "It was more colourful for one thing and there was less talk of 'equality for all' . . ." writes Mr. Parker of dining with Mosley's Blackshirts in the 1930s, when "there was mounting unemployment—if I remember rightly reaching the three million mark. . ." No fashionable sucking-up to the masses here. It could pass for arrogance only in a writer less engaging or more intellectual.

In an age when surgeons like presenting themselves to the public as painfully blinkered professionals, Mr. Parker writes with the same chatty gusto about his work, his luncheons, the international surgical cocktail-circuit, riding as fireman on the "Golden Arrow", boxing, and General de Gaulle. His appointments at the French and Italian hospitals naturally took him into the flesh-pots of Soho. But instead of lecturing us on the social and clinical evils of prostitution, he gives a lively account of what must have been a rather cosy prewar London brothel. What a nice change it makes from Professor Barnard.

RICHARD GORDON.

The Psychological Assessment of Mental and Physical Handicaps. Ed. P. Mittler. (Pp. 857; 160s.) Methuen. 1970.

The Doctors' Case Against the Pill. Barbara Seaman. (Pp. 279; 40s.) Michael Joseph. 1970.

General Pathology. 3rd edn. J. B. Walter and M. S. Israel. (Pp. 1116; 150s.) J. & A. Churchill. 1970.

Television and Delinquency. J. D. Halloran et al. (Pp. 221; 30s.) Leicester University Press. 1970.

A Gift of Life: Observations on Organ Transplantation. Roy Calne. (Pp. 117; 35s.) Medical & Technical Publishing. 1970.

Current Diagnosis and Treatment. Henry Brainerd et al. (Pp. 884; 108s.) Blackwell, 1970.

Principles of Clinical Electrocardiography: 7th edn. Mervin J. Goldman (Pp. 400; 67s.) Blackwell. 1970.

X-Ray Physics and Equipment. 2nd edn. F. Jaundrell-Thompson and W. J. Ashworth. (Pp. 807; 110s.) Blackwell. 1970.

180 Years Service

The Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, founded in 1788, distributed £6,045 to the widows and orphans of subscribers in 1969. Membership of the Society, a registered charity, is open to male registered medical practitioners who, at the time of election, are resident within 60 miles of Charing Cross. Experience shows, states the annual report, that in spite of superannuation schemes there is still a pressing need for insurance of the kind the Society provides. When a doctor dies young, his wife and family can be left in a tragically precarious position. The assets of the Society were over £140,000 at the end of 1969.

Details from the secretary, Dr. J. A. Struthers, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London W.1.

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons

On 29 May the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Bill received the Royal Assent. Among other provisions for the welfare of chronically sick and disabled persons it requires local authorities to give such persons information about aids and appliances, domestic help, financial benefits, and any other form of assistance, and to provide practical assistance and facilities.

British Aid for Fiji

The British Government is providing more than £80,000 as a major contribution to Fiji for the reconstruction and improvement of rural medical stations. This money will enable four rural medical stations and twelve nursing stations to be built, in addition to the building of six quarters at other medical stations.

Chair in Medical Physics

Dr. P. R. J. BURCH, a physicist and Deputy Director of the Medical Research Council Environmental Radiation Unit at Leeds University, has been awarded a personal professorship in the Department of Medical Physics there. Dr. Burch has carried out research on the intensity of cosmic radiation, the biological hazards of ionizing radiations, cancer, schizophrenia, and the processes of ageing.

Examining Board Secretary to Retire

Mr. F. MORGAN STENT, secretary to the Examining Board in England and examinations secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, is to retire on 30 June, after 37 years at Examination Hall. He will be succeeded by his assistant, Mr. J. LAMBERT, who was formerly assistant secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Coming Events

"Automation in Medical and other Higher Education."—Symposium, 23-26 June, Middlesex Hospital Medical School. Details from Mr. F. T. C. Harris, Department of Biology as Applied to Medicine, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, W1P 7PN.

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.—Two lectures by Dr. Javier Lentini (Barcelona), (1) "Medicine and the Fine Arts," 24 June, 8.15 p.m.; (2) "Proctology and the Fine Arts," 25 June, 8.15 p.m.

Royal Medico-Psychological Association.—Annual meeting, 7-10 July, Royal Society of Medicine. Details from the Secretary, R.M.P.A., Chandos House, Queen Anne Street, London W.1.

British Association of Sport and Medicine.—Annual general meeting, 19 July, 5 p.m., Edinburgh. The programme includes the Adolphe Abrahams memorial address by Professor G. M. Carstairs, "Psychological Factors in Competitive Athletics." Followed by dinner. Tickets (£2) and details are obtainable from Dr. J. A. Moncur, Scottish School of P.E., Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow W.3.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.—Conference, "Problems of the Incontinent Older Child in the Community," 21 July, the Hospital Centre. Fee £1 (including lunch). Applications, before 7 July, to the Hospital Centre, 24 Nutford Place, London W1H 6AN.

Cambridge University Medical School.—Weekend course for general practitioners, "The Critical Years," 24-26 July, St. John's College. The programme will consist of lecture discussions relating to psychological and psychiatric crises arising during a patient's life. Details from the Secretary, Medical Schools, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1QT.

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.

Monday, 22 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Professor C. D. Calnan: Autoimmunity and the Skin.

INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLGY.—5.30 p.m., Combined staff consultation clinical meeting.

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL POSTGRADUATE CENTRE, LONDON.—5.30 p.m., Clinical conference.

SCOTTISH TELEVISION.—11.20 p.m., postgraduate medicine: Hypnosis in Medicine and Dentistry. (Sponsored by Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board.)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON.—5 p.m., Professor D. E. Green (Wisconsin): Conformational Basis of Active Transport in the Mitochondrion.

Tuesday, 23 June

B.B.C. 2 TELEVISION.—1.15 p.m., Medicine Today: Febrile Children. (repeat). (Prepared in collaboration with A.S.M.E.)

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. G. M. Leyene: In Vitro Studies with Lymphocytes.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.30 p.m., Professor G. Amoroso: Pregnancy as an Endocrine Syndrome.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Page Street lecture theatre, 5.15 p.m., Dr. G. S. C. Sowry: clinicopathological conference.

Wednesday, 24 June

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF RADIOLOGY.—At 32 Welbeck Street, London W.1, 2 p.m., meeting: Progress in Application of Data Processing Techniques. ●

GWENT POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE.—At Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., 2.15 p.m., gynaecology and obstetrics meeting, Mr. C. E. Horsfall: My Experiences in the Tropics.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Use and Methods of Photography in Dermatology.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Arnott demonstration by Mr. T. G. I. James: Spinal Cord Tumours and John Hunter's Spinal Cords.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. N. Dubin (Berne): Cirrhotic Diseases of the Liver.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10.15 a.m., Medicine staff round: 2 p.m., Dr. G. Rollinson: Protein Binding of Antibiotics; 2 p.m., lecture by Dr. J. M. Dietschy (department of internal medicine, Texas University).

SCOTTISH TELEVISION.—1.15 p.m., postgraduate medicine: Hypnosis in Medicine and Dentistry (repeat). (Sponsored by Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board.)

WEST MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—1.30 p.m., Dr. N. J. O'Doherty: Neurology of Later Infancy; 5 p.m., Dr. D. K. Peters: Renal Failure.

Thursday, 25 June

FACULTY OF HOMEOPATHY.—5 p.m., Discussion on Research.

INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY.—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5.30 p.m., Haile Selassie lecture by Dr. E. Sowton: Electrical Control of the Human Heart.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES MEDICAL CENTRE.—12.30 p.m., Colour videotapes; (1) Early diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis; (2) Place of Surgery in Rheumatoid Arthritis. ●

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL POSTGRADUATE CENTRE, LONDON.—8.30 p.m., Horder Club meeting: short papers by members of hospital staff.

ST. CHARLES'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTRE, LONDON.—7.30 p.m., Mr. J. I. Burn: Cancer of the Breast in Perspective.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Professor J. A. Stallworthy: Hysterectomy Reviewed.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Room 6, House of Commons, 7.30 p.m., Dr. I. C. Gilliland, Dr. G. Signy: Postgraduate Medical Education.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Page Street lecture theatre, 5.15 p.m., Dr. B. E. Gilliver: Automation in Haematology.

Friday, 26 June

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE REGIONAL NEUROLOGICAL CENTRE.—At Newcastle General Hospital, 5.30 p.m., Dr. D. H. Adams: Biochemical Aspects of Scrapie.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10 a.m., Research in progress: Surgery. ●

Corrections

Case for Certification

In the letter by Dr. M. D. Ripka (6 June, p. 607) the fourth line from the end of the second paragraph should read "untold numbers of healthy malingerers" and not "untold members" as was erroneously printed.

Appointments. The appointment of Dr. A. A. G. Lewis, M.D., F.R.C.P., to the Tunbridge Wells Group (6 June, p. 614) should have read: "consultant in charge of diabetic clinics and regional adviser in postgraduate education."

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