

the total of just under 250 references are derived from this volume. The gas laws are also well known and many of the electrical analogues described elsewhere. The physiologist is not therefore likely to gain much from its perusal. On the other hand, the chest physician, the anaesthetist, and the thoracic surgeon could find it very useful as it brings together in one volume a straightforward integrated mechanical view of the respiratory system considered from both a theoretical and practical standpoint.

DAVID HUGHES.

Forty Years' Surgical Wisdom

The Thoughtful Surgeon. James Rognvald Learmonth 1895-1967. Ed. Donald M. Douglas. (Pp. 106; 15s.) University of Glasgow. 1970.

Almost the whole period during which Sir James Learmonth held both the chair of surgery and the Regius chair of clinical surgery in Edinburgh is covered by the six lectures included in this book. They are not arranged in order of date or, apparently, of importance. The subjects are all surgical or closely related to surgery and are treated philosophically or historically. Five were delivered on great occasions and one in the domestic circumstances of a graduation ceremony in his own school. This last is the shortest and, perhaps not surprisingly, the most revealing of the author.

His friends, and especially those who were members of his department, will recognize with affection recurrent features of his conversation and teaching. Those to whom he is a distant name will find wisdom grown from 40 years' practice of surgery by a humane and cultured man. The short biographical foreword by Professor Douglas and the warm light touch of Professor Francis Moore's account of the relationships established by Sir James's early sojourn in the United States make an admirable background.

ANDREW LOGAN.

New "Nelson"

Textbook of Pediatrics. 9th ed. Ed. Waldo E. Nelson, Victor C. Vaughan, III, and R. James McKay. (Pp. 1590 + xxiv; illustrated. 183s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1969.

The unbounded admiration I expressed when reviewing the eighth edition of this well-established paediatric textbook five

years ago has been, if anything, further enhanced as a result of appraising its 1969 successor. To mention but two of its practical features, the tabulated data on drugs is now expanded to 74 pages, while a new section consists of a tabulated list of "syndromes," eponymous or otherwise, of which no less than 125 are detailed. Nearly every section shows signs of drastic rewriting, so maintaining the remarkable up-to-date quality of successive editions of this book of reference.

I am doubtless only one of many paediatricians who will be eagerly replacing the last edition of "Nelson," now to be retired in honourable tatters after five years' service on the ward bookshelf, by this new edition.

D. M. T. GAIRDNER.

Catalogue of Equipment

Medical Electronic Equipment 1969-1970. Vols. 1 & 2. Ed. G. W. A. Dummer and J. Mackenzie Robertson. (Pp. 1714; 400s.) Pergamon Press. 1970.

Basically these two large volumes are catalogues containing collections of the advertising literature supplied by manufacturers of medical electronic equipment. Because of the large number of products on the market, the editors have been forced to exclude some. Their criteria for selection are not really clearly defined, but they remark that the "parameters of applications potential and techniques interest" were the paramount guides. The items that are included appear to be straight copies of the manufacturer's literature, including pictures. Unfortunately, no attempt has been made to give an independent assessment of the equipment and no prices are listed.

The impression is that these volumes provide an expensive means of acquiring information normally provided free by the manufacturers. At the beginning of volume I, a directory of medical electronic firms is given; this supplemented by a simple listing of each firm's products would provide a booklet of some practical value. The indiscriminate reproduction of sales literature seems wholly unnecessary.

It is intended to up-date the volumes by annual publications of new products (and perhaps details of discontinued lines). Before the venture is under way, however, the manner in which this type of information should be presented needs reconsidering.

J. TINKER.

The "Have-nots"

Health and the Developing World. John Bryant. (Pp. 345; No price given.) Cornell University Press. 1970.

Between late 1964 and early 1966 a study team sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development investigated in varying detail the health situation in 21 developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia.

The team, which comprised three physicians and one senior nursing adviser, had the assistance of a distinguished international advisory committee, and all had had experience of health work in developing countries. One of its members has collated the findings and recommendations of the group which are presented here in narrative form.

By way of preamble, the reader is given a number of "impressions" or case-studies illustrative of the urgent health problems which are met with daily in developing countries. From these somewhat dramatic episodes the team proceeds to review the common health problems of these countries and their causes. These latter include low per capita incomes, excessive epidemic and endemic disease, shortages and maldistribution of health personnel, inadequate education and training facilities, population growth, etc. The steps taken by governments to deal with these problems are discussed frankly, and alternative measures are suggested where appropriate. A major thesis of the study team is that medical care should be available to 100% of the population through basic health services and that at the periphery, where the cover will be most tenuous, reliance must be placed on auxiliary personnel with only limited training. The overall problem, however, is that of providing health care on a shoe-string governmental budget, and the case of countries in which no more than a dollar a head is available annually is analysed at length.

This is an important book, which approaches the problems of the developing countries sympathetically and realistically. At this time when the United Nations has designated the 'seventies as the "Second Development Decade" it is essential reading for all who are interested in health in developing countries. It may also serve as a stimulus to the governments of the developed and donor countries to give more abundantly of their financial and human resources.

JOHN CHARLES.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Modern Trends in Biomechanics-I. Ed. David C. Simpson, Ph.D., F.R.S.E. (Pp. 273; 96s.) Butterworths. 1970.

Training Therapists for Tongue Thrust Correction. Ann Beard Ehrlich, B.A. (Pp. 136; \$7.50) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

American Drug Index. Ed. Charles O. Wilson, Ph.D. and Tony Everett Jones, Ph.D. (Pp. 636; 85s.) Blackwell. 1970.

Professional Organisations in the Commonwealth. Ed. Sir James Currie (Pp. 511; 90s.) Hutchinson. 1970.

Research Processes in Physical Education Reaction and Health. David H. Clarke and H. Harrison Clarke. (Pp. 470. 110s.) Prentice-Hall. 1970.

Allergy in Children. Louis Tuft, M.D. and Harry Louis Mueller, M.D. (Pp. 561; 166s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

Infectious Agents and Host Reactions. Ed. Stuart Mudd, M.D. (Pp. 626; 191s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

Medicine in the University and Community of the Future. Proceedings of the Scientific Sessions marking the Centennial of the Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, September 1968. Ed. I. E. Purkis and U. F. Matthews. (Pp. 241; \$8.00) Dalhousie University. 1969.

Guide to House Physicians in the Medical Unit. J. G. Lewis, M.R.C.P. (Pp. 114; 13s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Human Population Cytogenetics. Ed. Patricia A. Jacobs, D.Sc. *et al.* (Pp. 325; 75s.) Edinburgh University Press. 1970.

Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger. David M. Kennedy. (Pp. 320; 79s.) Yale University Press. 1970.

Tumors of the Liver. George T. Pack, F.A.C.S. and A. H. Islami, Ph.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 304; 135s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Athero-Genesis. Ed. T. Shimamoto and F. Numano. (Pp. 325; 132s.) Excerpta Medica. 1970.

Research Campaign, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. This advisory committee will facilitate the scientific co-ordination of work in the cancer field and will strengthen the long-standing links between them. The committee membership is entirely scientific and includes the directors of the four major cancer research institutes in the U.K. and scientific representatives of the three founding bodies. Sir MAX ROSENHEIM, P.R.C.P., is the chairman, and observers have been appointed by the health departments.

Chair of Chemical Pathology, Westminster

Dr. JOHN R. HOBBS, aged 41, senior lecturer in chemical pathology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, has been appointed to the chair of chemical pathology at the Westminster Hospital Medical School. He graduated B.Sc. (with honours) in 1953 at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School where he qualified M.B., B.S. in 1956. After two years of house posts at the Middlesex, the Central Middlesex, and the Brompton he became M.R.C.P. London. He was a registrar at the Westminster, 1959-1962, and lecturer in chemical pathology at the Royal Free until he went to Hammersmith in 1963. That year he gained his M.D. with a thesis on iodine-132 in thyroid function. His current research is mainly in the immunoglobulin field. A founder member of the Antibody Club and of the Royal College of Pathologists, he was European Molecular Biology Organization scholar to Uppsala in 1968, visiting professor to San Francisco in 1969, and Scott Heron medallist at Belfast for 1970.

People in the News

Professor P. C. C. GARNHAM, F.R.S., emeritus professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been nominated by the Pope as an Academician of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Surgeon-captain F. P. ELLIS, R.N. Retired, has been appointed visiting Fellow to the John B. Pierce Foundation Laboratory, Newhaven, Connecticut, from 1 June, and visiting professor of epidemiology in the department of epidemiology and preventive medicine, Yale Medical School, from 1 July.

Mr. R. MYLES GIBSON has been appointed honorary consultant in neurosurgery to the Army at Home.

Coming Events

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.—A series of conferences on "Geriatric Care" will be held between June and December. Details are obtainable from Miss J. G. Bricknell, Hospital Centre, 24 Nutford Place, London W1H 6AN.

"Contribution of Medicine to International Co-operation."—Joint conference by the Medical Association for Prevention of War and the United Nations Association, 3-5 July, Canterbury. Registration fee £1. Details from the conference secretary, Mrs. K. MacSorley, 238 Camden Road, London N.W.1.

6th Congress of the World Federation of Haemophilia—25-27 July, Vienna. Details from the Congress Secretariat, c/o Vienna Academy of Medicine, Stadiongasse 6-8, A-1010 Vienna, Austria.

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.

Sunday, 28 June

TYNE TEES TELEVISION.—10.15 a.m., Postgraduate Medicine: Hypnosis in Medicine and Dentistry (repeat). (Prepared in collaboration with the Regional Postgraduate Institute for Medicine and Dentistry, Newcastle upon Tyne.)

Monday, 29 June

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

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES MEDICAL CENTRE.—12.30 p.m., Mr. P. L. C. Diggory: Epidemiology of Abortion. ●

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

SCOTTISH TELEVISION.—11.20 p.m., postgraduate medicine: Epilepsy. (Sponsored by Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board.)

Tuesday, 30 June

B.B.C. 1 TELEVISION.—11.20 p.m. (approx.), Medicine Today: Febrile Children. (Repeat) (Prepared in collaboration with A.S.M.E.)

Wednesday, 1 July

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5.30 p.m., lecture and discussion by Dr. M. R. Dix: Neuro-otological Diagnosis of Acoustic Neuromata.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10.15 a.m., Medicine staff round; 2 p.m., Dr. G. Asherson: Mechanism of Delayed Hypersensitivity.

SCOTTISH TELEVISION.—1.15 p.m., postgraduate medicine: Epilepsy (repeat) (Sponsored by Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board.)

TYNE TEES TELEVISION.—10.15 a.m., Postgraduate medicine: Epilepsy. (Prepared in collaboration with the Regional Postgraduate Institute for Medicine and Dentistry, Newcastle upon Tyne.)

Thursday, 2 July

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5 p.m., Mr. B. V. Lewis: Studies in Fetal Development.

Friday, 3 July

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE REGIONAL NEUROLOGICAL CENTRE.—At Newcastle General Hospital, 5.30 p.m., Mr. J. Brice: Cerebral Vasospasm.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—10 a.m., Surgery staff round; 11 a.m., Surgical Research Society meeting.

Sunday, 5 July

TYNE TEES TELEVISION.—12.55 p.m. Postgraduate medicine: Epilepsy (repeat). (Prepared in collaboration with the Regional Postgraduate Institute for Medicine and Dentistry, Newcastle upon Tyne.)

Universities and Colleges

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the council held on 11 June, with Sir Thomas Holmes Sellors, president, in the chair, the following were co-opted to the council for the year 1970-1, representing various branches of practice: general practice, Dr. A. J. Whitaker; obstetrics and gynaecology, Mr. John S. Tomkinson; ophthalmology, Mr. J. R. Hudson; otolaryngology, Mr. D. Ranger; radiology, Dr. J. W. D. Bull.

Group Captain J. E. Malcolm was appointed first Cade professor of surgery in the Royal Air Force for three years from July 1970.

Begley prizes were awarded to Kay Thompson (St. Mary's Hospital Medical School) and to Claire M. B. Cuncliffe (King's College Hospital Medical School).

A diploma of fellowship was granted to I. H. Johnston.

Diplomas of membership were granted to J. M. E. Anderson, D. A. Floate, and C. de B. White.

After the meeting a Hunterian lecture was delivered by Professor J. W. Jackson on "The Surgical Approach to the Anterior Spinal Column."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

At an admission ceremony held on 12 June Sir Arthur Porritt, Bt., and Mrs. Margaret Black were admitted to the Honorary Fellowship.

The following were admitted to the Fellowship *ad eundem*:

C. Astley Clarke, F. E. Hytten, Margaret Jackson, Axel Ingelman-Sundberg.

The following were elected to the Membership and immediately to the Fellowship:

E. De Valera, A. Kamel Naim, L. L. Williams.

The following were admitted to the Fellowship: F. Akasheh, S. L. Barron, Catherine I. Blyth, Florence J. G. Chouler, P. Curzen, A. M. Dawson, A. A. Earn, A. D. El-Tannir, Margaret E. M. Foley, J. W. S. Harris, D. F. Hawkins, A. G. Jones, J. Joseph, W. Lees, J. D. Llywelyn-Jones, Sarah Macaskill, R. R. MacDonald, M. C. Michelow, B. J. Murphy, A. K. Mitra, Upendra N. Pathak, B. G. Pickles, D. Puffett, J. G. Robertson, J. St. George, T. S. R. Train, F. L. A. Vernon, J. N. Ward, D. W. Warrell.

Correction

Diazepam and Neuromuscular Transmission

In the letter by Drs. G. Moudgil and Barbara J. Pleuvry (20 June, p. 734) we regret that two lines of text were inadvertently transposed and appeared at the head of the second column instead of running on as part of the second paragraph. The second paragraph should have read: "In order to determine whether diazepam affects transmission at the neuromuscular junction we have investigated its activity upon the rat phrenic nerve-diaphragm preparation in vitro. Diazepam in concentrations between 2 and $16 \times 10^{-5}M$ potentiated contractions elicited by supramaximal stimulation of the phrenic nerve. This effect was dependent upon concentration and, at the highest concentration examined, a 50% increase in contraction height was seen."

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Doctors Abroad.—Copies of the appointment vacancies advertised in the *B.M.J.* can be sent by airmail on request. Members' rate: the minimum cost is 40s. for six weeks' supply, for which copies of vacancies in up to five sections of the classified advertisements will be sent. Non-members' rate 60s. minimum for six weeks' supply of five headings or less. Additional headings (for members and non-members) 10s. each for six weeks' supply. Orders for specific grades in any section cannot be accepted. Payment must be prepaid and enclosed with the application.

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