

Re-emergence of the G.P.

The Practice of Family Medicine. Ed. David F. Coulter, M.D., F.R.C.G.P., and Derek J. Llewellyn, M.R.C.G.P., D.I.H. (Pp. 415; £3.50.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1971.

This is the first book written primarily for vocational trainees in general practice, and trainers, actual and prospective, will find it invaluable in planning teaching programmes. It presents succinctly all administrative information trainees need to know—the section on the Mental Health Act (1959) concentrates on Sections 25, 26, and 29 and wisely leaves out other irrelevant parts, and that on the Abortion Act (1967) is similarly to the point. The clinical chapters are excellent because they are obviously written from experience and not, as so often in textbooks, merely copied from previously authoritative authors. One may disagree with some of the opinions expressed—in “Family Planning”, for example, that a prescription for the contraceptive pill should never be issued to school-children, or in “Ear, Nose and Throat Problems” that tetracycline is the drug of

choice in otitis media which has not responded to penicillin—but there is a refreshing absence of dogmatic assertion. Two chapters in particular stand out: “Communication between Doctor and Patient” by Dewi Rees for its style, and “Infectious Diseases” by S. G. Copp for its lucidity. Because the intended audience is vocational trainees, I have asked one of our own senior trainees to add to this review.

A group of Welsh general practitioners has set out to define family medicine in its broadest sense for the benefit of new entrants. The book succeeds in that it reveals aspects of general practice not obvious to most hospital-orientated graduates or indeed, in many of its more progressive ideas, to less enthusiastic established members of the profession. The re-emergence of family medicine from prolonged depression owing to its neglect by the N.H.S. is clearly shown, and the reader is brought abreast with current thinking about primary care in the framework of a large health centre closely linked with district general hospital. The necessity for

efficient administration by a capable practice manager is underlined. The young doctor is reminded by a series of excellent case histories of the essentially personal and complex nature of the doctor-patient relationship, and shown that a practice nurse and health visitor can increasingly deputize for him as first contact professional worker to deal with minor problems without disturbing this relationship. Time saved by this should be spent by the doctor in health education and preventive medicine, recognized now to be a vital part of family medicine.

The contributors to the book are refreshingly aware of current beneficial changes in family practice and of its almost unlimited scope for research. Only in the perhaps laborious discussion on clinical problems is the reader taken over familiar ground, but the obvious depth of the writers' practical experience should prevent young doctors from having to learn from too many mistakes.

ANDREW SMITH
GRAEME OLIVER

Feto-placental Unit

Foetus and Placenta. Ed. Arnold Klopfer, F.R.C.O.G., and Egon Diczfalusy, M.D. (Pp. 629; £6.50.) Oxford. Blackwell. 1969.

The two distinguished editors are international authorities on endocrine aspects of the feto-placental unit, and it is in keeping with developments over the past few years that they have moved even further and in some respects have included the uterus and the amniotic fluid. Very wisely they have resisted any attempt to be comprehensive and have instead chosen areas of feto-placental physiology

where, in their opinion, knowledge is rapidly advancing—for example, oestrogen metabolism in pregnancy; the isolation, formation, and metabolism of neutral steroids in human pregnancy; placental protein hormones and hormonal peptides; the endocrinology of the fetus; and the assessment of placental function in clinical practice.

Other chapters, complementary to those on endocrinology, deal with the anatomy and enzymology of the placenta, amino-acid transport, oxygen transfer, and placental function during labour. Contributors have

been carefully chosen, and each has a special interest in the subject on which he writes. Every chapter has its comprehensive list of key references to the world literature. The editors know their subject and are well served by their authors.

This is an authoritative, well written, up-to-date account of a subject which is rapidly advancing. It is certain to become a standard reference work of interest to obstetricians, paediatricians, endocrinologists, anatomists, and biochemists.

J. K. RUSSELL

African Traditional Healers

Magical Medicine: A Nigerian Case-Study. Una MacLean. (Pp. 167; £2.50.) Allen Lane. The Penguin Press. 1971.

Dr. Una Maclean has helped us to understand an apparent anomaly: the continued success of traditional methods of healing in Africa. Her inquiries sprang originally out of cancer research at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. Why did so few elderly patients suffering from advanced cancer attend this hospital? Perhaps they were being treated elsewhere, in a place where it was known how to cope with incurable disease. These patients needed hope, they craved for help, even if they had never heard of Dr. Issels.

All this led Dr. Maclean to survey tradi-

tional African methods of treatment. She prosecuted her inquiries in the market place, she visited the clinics of the healers, and she spoke to African patients in their homes. African traditional healers may have had little success with the infective disorders, especially those of young children, but they have helped their own people to cope with their neuroses and the ailments of strain and stress. They spoke a language the patients could understand, for the Africans wanted to know not so much how they got ill, the mechanics of disease, but why they got ill. They craved to find a meaning in sickness and in health.

Dr. Una Maclean has whetted our appetite. Now that she is back in Scotland as a lecturer in social medicine can she survey the total

medical scene in Edinburgh as she did in Ibadan? A vast number of persons continue to take health salts, and extra vitamins, for example, and a variety of healers still abound. Cures are reported. We would look forward to her work in this field, for she is fundamentally right in her central point. There must be something to be learned from any healer who helps diseases to get cured and helps patients to cope with incurable complaints. In my time in Africa we treated the traditional healers with deep disdain, and perhaps we still do so in Britain. But they persist, because they meet a need.

HUGH TROWELL

SHORTER NOTICE

Five primers teaching anatomy and physiology in the “programmed” manner are published by Butterworth in paper back at 60p each. Each book is just over one hundred pages long, and the titles are: *Formation and Function of Basic Body Tissues*; *Cardiovascular System*; *Nervous System and Endocrine Glands*; *Loco-*

motor System; and *Respiratory, Alimentary, Genitourinary, and Lymphatic Systems*. The information is given in two ways. There are short descriptive paragraphs going into sufficient detail to serve as a revision course for medical students or doctors “rubbing up” 2nd M.B. subjects for higher diplomas, and summary

paragraphs in which the key words are missing, but can be found at the end of the chapter for the reader who failed to supply them himself. Dr. A. E. Hugh, F.R.C.P., is the author, and in the first volume Dr. J. N. Granville, D.M.R.D. collaborates with him.

MEDICAL NEWS

Abortion Inquiry

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales have now appointed members to the committee on the working of the Abortion Act under the chairmanship of Mrs. Justice Lane (27 February, p. 512). They are Dr. Josephine Barnes (consultant gynaecologist, Charing Cross group of hospitals), Mrs. K. M. Barratt (headmistress, Netherhall Secondary School for Girls, Cambridge), Professor I. R. C. Batchelor (professor of psychiatry, University of Dundee), Mrs. J. Cheetham (lecturer, department of social and administrative studies, Oxford University), Dr. D. J. Pereira Gray (general practitioner, Exeter), Miss J. Gutteridge (staff manageress, Marks & Spencer Ltd.), Mr. A. M. Johnston (member of Scottish law commission), Mrs. E. Learner (social worker, University College Hospital), Miss M. E. Munro (nursing sister, St. Thomas's Hospital), Miss D. Rasbach (information officer for Confederation of British Industries), Dr. Rosemary Rue (S.A.M.O., Oxford Regional Hospital Board), Professor A. T. Turnbull (professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, Welsh National School of Medicine), Dr. D. G. Wilson (general practitioner, Bushey), and Miss R. B. Worsley (chief nursing officer, Portsmouth Hospital Management Committee).

Chair of Occupational Health, Manchester

Dr. W. R. Lee, reader in occupational health at Manchester University since 1968, has been appointed its professor of occupational health in succession to Professor T. S. Scott, who retires at the end of September. Dr. Lee was educated at Alleyn's School, Dulwich, and Guy's Hospital Medical School. He graduated in 1945. After various house posts he served with the R.A.F. in Britain and Egypt, 1946-53. Following this with experience in general practice and in industrial health he became lecturer in occupational health at Manchester in 1958 and was promoted senior lecturer in 1965. He has been editor of the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* since 1966. Dr. Lee holds a number of medical advisory appointments in British and European industry and is a member of several international organizations in the field of occupational health.

Drug Licensing

After 1 July 1971 all new drugs will need to be licensed by the Committee on Safety of Medicines, part of the Medicines Commission. Regulations announced last week cover licensing of new products and licensing of manufacturers and wholesalers. The licensing authority will take into account the "safety, efficacy, and quality of any new products" before granting a licence.

Regional Hospitals' Consultants and Specialists Association

The following officers have been elected: *president*, Mr. S. C. Simmons; *joint honorary secretaries*, Dr. H. Vickers and Dr. N. A. Simmons; *treasurer*, Mr. K. P. Abel (continuing his term of office).

COMING EVENTS

National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare.—Annual conference, "Children of Today—the Hazards of Environment," 30 June-2 July, Westminster. Details from N.A.M.C.W., Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JG. (Tel. 01-387 1874.)

British Thoracic and Tuberculosis Association.—Annual conference, jointly with Scottish Thoracic Society, 4-8 July, Edinburgh. Details from the secretary, B.T.T.A., 59 Portland Place, London W1N 3AJ (Tel. 01-636 3810.)

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, 28 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. R. H. Meera: Cutaneous Sarcoid.
INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., combined consultation clinical meeting.

Tuesday, 29 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. H. Baker: Percutaneous Absorption.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.—5 p.m., Dr. A. Thomas (Arsenal F.C.): The Hazards of Sport.
WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. F. Dudley Hart: clinicopathological conference.

Wednesday, 30 June

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—5.30 p.m., Professor J. O. Forfar: Neonatal Convulsions.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—6.30 p.m., Croonian lecture by Professor J. F. Brock: Nature, Nurture and Disease.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Professor H. Smith: Mechanisms of Microbial Pathogenicity.
WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL, LONDON.—11.30 a.m., Professor T. R. E. Pilkington: Classification of Hyperhidroses.

Thursday, 1 July

INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY.—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5 p.m., Haile Selassie lecture by Professor A. Rudolf (California): Postnatal Distress and the Ductus Arteriosus.
INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—1.15 p.m., Professor D. Denny-Brown (Harvard): Function of Descending Root of Fifth Nerve.
WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.15 p.m., Mr. J. Trapnell: Pancreatitis.

Friday, 2 July

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—11 a.m., Mr. T. J. S. Patterson: Blood Supply of Skin Grafts.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Professor R. de Vernejoul, of Marseilles, has been admitted to the Honorary Fellowship and Professor Mahmoud Badr, of Cairo, has been admitted to the Fellowship by election.

Diplomas of Fellowship have been granted to R. Nambiar and J. P. Lynch, and a diploma of Fellowship in the Faculty of Anaesthetists has been granted to T. N. Appleyard.

ABERDEEN

Appointments.—Dr. Lilian E. Murchison (lecturer, therapeutics and pharmacology); Dr. J. G. Simpson (lecturer, pathology); Dr. C. P. Warlow (lecturer, medicine).

CAMBRIDGE

M.D.—A. F. Smith.

MANCHESTER

Appointments.—Dr. C. M. Harris (senior lecturer, general practice, and senior principal in the Darbshire House Health Centre); Mr. J. B. Elder (senior lecturer, surgery); Mr. R. Y. Wilson (lecturer, surgery).

NOTTINGHAM

Appointments.—Dr. A. T. Birmingham (reader in physiology); Dr. P. F. Harris (reader in human morphology).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

F.R.C.S.Ed.—W. V. Benz, B. B. Devroy, Gita Dey, T. P. E. Nener, S. Nirmalananda.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

M.R.C.PATH.—W. C. Alston, D. C. J. Bassett, D. L. Brown, Patricia A. Burton, I. Chorlton, J. V. Clark, T. A. Cook, J. A. De Freitas, R. I. A. Fenwick, R. D. Finney, D. A. Gardner, D. I. Graham, J. S. Greenspan, A. M. Holburn, Joan M. Horder, A. K. M. S. Islam, Jean W. Keeling, R. W. Lacey, Elizabeth J. Lord, A. G. MacIver, A. Omer, F. J. Paradinas, J. E. Pettit, Mapatunage N. Prematilake, F. B. Presswalla, C. G. L. Raper, J. L. Richards, G. J. Roberts, P. J. Sanderson, R. Sinniah, J. C. Southam, A. Stevens, I. C. Talbot, A. W. Walker, R. N. Walmsley, S. W. Williams.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND

F.R.C.P.I.—Bridget V. Foley, R. A. L. Agnew, M. W. P. Carney, Deborah M. Keelan, E. Tempny, J. B. Hourihane, K. Jones, C. F. Bartholomew, J. H. Thompson, C. M. Hyland, F. E. A. Lesi, F. J. Timoney, P. J. Bofin, N. G. O'Brien, A. O. Williams, D. R. O'Holohan, A. M. M. Nhonoli.
M.R.C.P.I.—M. S. Ali, M. Carmody, T. Dewreca-woo, K. D. Donovan, P. W. Doherty, E. L. Egan, R. C. Kakaty, J. R. Lennon, Aug Myint, T. A. O'Gorman, T. H. Pierce, A. O. Somorin.

CORRECTIONS

Levodopa in Parkinsonism

In the article on "Levodopa in Parkinsonism: The Effects of Withdrawal of Anticholinergic Drugs" (29 May, p. 487) the word "Levodopa" at the top of the fourth column in Table I should have appeared at the top of the sixth column.

London M.D.

We regret that the name of Dr. P. R. Grob was misspelt Gerob in the announcement of his London M.D. award (5 June, p. 600).

Medical Birthday Honours

We regret the omission (19 June, p. 720) of the names of Dr. Satya Saran Chatterjee, deputy chairman, North-west Conciliation Committee, Race Relations Board, Dr. James Romanes Davidson, general director, Quarrier's Homes, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, and Dr. Morrell Henry Draper, deputy director, Poultry Research Centre, Edinburgh, who have all been appointed O.B.E. (Civil Division).

Economy Drive on Drug Prescriptions

In a letter on this subject by Dr. J. G. L. Cole (5 June, p. 593) we regret that we erroneously inserted a reference to the *Birmingham Post*. The letter referred to misleading statements in the national and local press in connexion with a press release from the Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham. We are informed that the *Birmingham Post* was probably the only newspaper in Britain to carry an accurate account, as the press release was corrected before the *Post* went to press.—ED., *B.M.J.*

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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