

Character and Comportment

Ethological Studies of Child Behaviour. Ed. N. Blurton Jones. (Pp. 400; £7.) Cambridge University Press. 1972.

This is a collection of essays showing how ethological techniques can be applied to the study of child behaviour. Many readers will be familiar with the work of Tinbergen or the writings of Lorenz on animal behaviour. In a preface to the present work Tinbergen refers to the "pioneering studies of Konrad Lorenz" which "stimulated work on what were then called 'ethograms'—monographs on the behaviour of a variety of animal species, at first mainly descriptive, but gradually incorporating a growing body of interpretations and hypotheses." Tinbergen also refers to the effect which has been produced by Lorenz's *On Aggression* and Morris's *Naked Ape*. He regrets this reaction since he feels that both writers have been too bold in extrapolating animal work

to humans and that, on the contrary, workers in human psychology have "thrown away the baby with the bath water" in rejecting the ethological approach.

The main difficulties about using ethology in human studies seem to be that much of animal work is necessarily concerned with the development of innate patterns of behaviour and that in many species there is little social structure, or what there is is very primitive in comparison to human society. The present work expressly rejects these limitations claiming that ethology is also concerned with learned patterns and social behaviour. The view is expressed that any drawing of boundaries between these different approaches to the study of human behaviour is artificial. Tinbergen refers to Bowlby as an example of a child psychiatrist who appreciated the value of the ethological contribution.

In the main the contributions in this volume refer to work by other ethologists,

and the whole effect is that of a separate school of psychology. However, since the method is simply the careful study and analysis of behaviour with interpretation depending in part on cross reference to other species it is hardly new. Tinbergen considers that human psychology is not yet a science. But the days of armchair psychology belong for the most part to the last century. From the time of Pavlov, Watson, and Skinner psychologists have increasingly concentrated on the study of behaviour and experimental observation of the impact of conditions. The only new contribution provided by the ethologists, therefore, would appear to be the stimulating effect of the application of technique and findings derived from work with other species. This should surely be regarded as a bonus rather than an excuse for rejecting established methods of study of human behaviour.

BRIAN KIRMAN

Prostaglandins

The Prostaglandins. Progress in Research. Ed. Professor Sultan M. M. Karim. (Pp. 327; £4.75.) Medical and Technical Publishing. 1972.

Were it not for the phenomenal rate of growth of the literature on prostaglandins another addition to the numerous published symposia and reviews might appear superfluous. Nevertheless Professor Karim's book is a valuable contribution. It is more readable than its predecessors and the data are more up to date than is usual in a book of this type since Karim has obtained contributions from nine authors who are foremost in active research in this field.

Although in his preface Karim apologizes for omissions, his book covers most important areas of prostaglandin research, and he has rightly concentrated on those topics which have recently appeared on the scene. There is a distinct bias towards the roles of prostaglandins in reproductive physiology and in obstetrical management, which is not surprising in view of his own original contributions to this subject. Perhaps for this reason the growing evidence of the importance of prostaglandins in human pathology receives less attention than it should.

All the individual contributions are of a high standard. The introductory chapter on the extremely complex subject of the general pharmacology of prostaglandins is dealt with

in a practical way by Karim and K. Hillier. There is a useful account of different methods for assay of prostaglandins, though the omission of discussion of radioimmunoassay is surprising since the reports of this method have been appearing regularly since 1970. More discussion of the advantages and limitations of different assay methods would also have been helpful since some published data on prostaglandins have been weakened by inadequate identification and quantitation of prostaglandin activity. The chapters on reproductive aspects of prostaglandins are more detailed than most other chapters and probably represent the most authoritative account of this subject currently available. The wide use of photographs of tocographic and kymographic recordings as illustrations might discourage the non-pharmacologist and one wonders if more schematic diagrams might have achieved the same result more painlessly.

The chapters dealing with the effects of prostaglandins on the lung by A. P. Smith and on prostaglandin antagonists by Eakin and Sanner are especially welcome. It is only recently that the importance of prostaglandins in relation to lung physiology and pathology has been recognized. Smith discusses the role of the lung in inactivation of prostaglandins, which leads to the important conclusion that prostaglandins behave as local tissue "hormones." He also reviews the evidence that prostaglandins E

and F, which have opposing effects on bronchial smooth muscle, influence the ventilation of the lungs in physiological and pathological situations. Apart from possible important therapeutic applications of specific prostaglandin antagonists, such agents are invaluable as tools for analysing the mode of action of prostaglandins in different biological systems. World-wide attempts are being made to develop antagonists and Eakin has made a concise and objective appraisal of the compounds currently available. Without work on the structure and chemical synthesis of prostaglandins most research currently in progress would never have begun. W. P. Schneider provides the most concise and readable account of this difficult subject that I have seen. The inhibition of biosynthesis of prostaglandins by anti-inflammatory drugs is one of the more exciting new developments in the prostaglandin field, and a discussion of the mode of action of these drugs in this context should have been included in his chapter.

It is easy to find one's way around this book since the headings and subheadings are clear and there is a good index. The lists of references at the end of each chapter are comprehensive and are cited by title. The price of the book is reasonable, and it should be read by all who have clinical or research interests in the prostaglandins.

MALCOLM W. GREAVES

SELECTED NEW TITLES

Cellular Pharmacology. The Effects of Drugs on Living Vertebrate Cells *in Vitro*. Mary Dawson, Ph.D. (Pp. 317; \$18.) Charles C. Thomas. 1972.

An Atlas of the Ultrastructure of Diseased Human Muscle. W. G. P. Mair, F.R.C.Path., and F. M. S. Tomé. (Pp. 249; £4.50.) Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

Sectional Anatomy and Tomography of the Head. Guy D. Potter, M.D. (Pp. 334; £13.50.) Heinemann. 1972.

Encyclopedia of Psychology. Vol. 1. A to F. Ed. H. J. Eysenck, W. Arnold, and R. Meili. (Pp. 396; £8.) Search Press. 1972.

Modern Trends in Endocrinology—4. Ed. F. T. G. Prunty, F.R.C.P., and H. Gardiner-Hill, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 411; £9.75.) Butterworths. 1972.

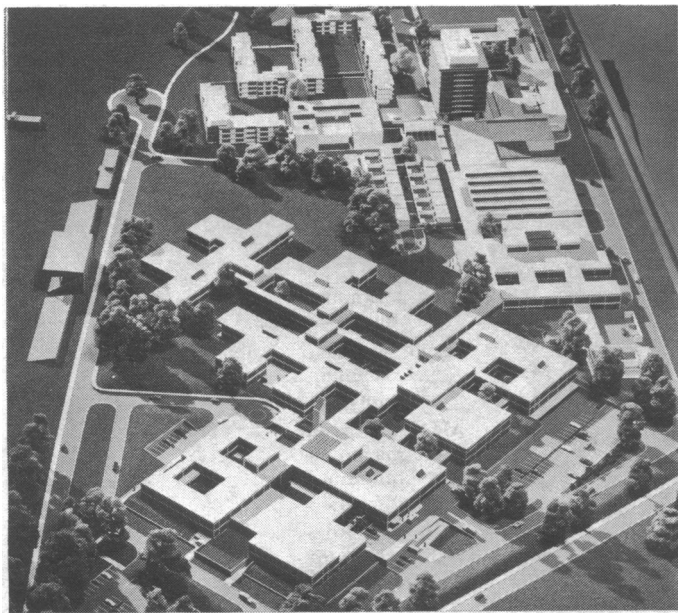
Rabies. B. Bisseru. D.T.M.&H. (Pp. 480; £5.) Heinemann. 1972.

The Trypanosomes of Mammals. A Zoological Monograph. Cecil A. Hoare, F.R.S. (Pp. 749; £9.) Blackwell. 1972.

Diseases of the Oral Cavity and Salivary Glands. A Guide to the Clinical and Radiographic Diagnosis with Suggestions for Therapy. Professor Dr. G. Boering. (Pp. 264; £3.75.) John Wright. 1972.

MEDICAL NEWS

New Woolwich Hospital



Model of the new military hospital to be built at Woolwich.

Work is to begin next month on the new 500-bed military hospital at Woolwich. When the new hospital is ready for use in 1975 it will allow the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital at Millbank to be given up and the land made available for an extension to the Tate Gallery.

The new hospital will be built within the area of the Woolwich Garrison on the site of the Shrapnel Barracks. The main hospital buildings will be two storey, built on a system with prefabricated components.

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, 19 June

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. J. Higgs: Mucocutaneous Candidiasis.

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

Tuesday, 20 June

ST. CHARLES'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.—8.45 p.m., Dr. G. R. Thompson: Lipids and Atheroma.

Wednesday, 21 June

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNABCOLOGISTS.—At 5.30 p.m., Postgraduate Museum Demonstration by Miss I. P. Beswick: Dysgerminomas and Teratomas.

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—2 p.m., Dr. B. Heard: Emphysema.

WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL, LONDON, N.—At Archway wing, 11.30 a.m., Dr. J. K. Lloyd: Lipoprotein Abnormalities.

Thursday, 22 June

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At 5.15 p.m., Surgical conference, Mr. J. Forrester: The Healing of Wounds.

Friday, 23 June

NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH DISCUSSION GROUP.—At Newcastle General Hospital, 5.30 p.m., Dr. H. E. Webb: Mechanism of Pathogenesis of Virus Diseases of the Central Nervous System.

Chair at Nottingham

Dr. David Hull, consultant physician at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, has been appointed to the foundation chair of child health at Nottingham University.



Dr. Hull graduated from Liverpool in 1956. After national service in the R.A.M.C. he held further house appointments at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith, and the

Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. In 1962 he obtained a Nuffield Foundation Fellowship to work under the direction of Dr. G. S. Dawes at the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research, Oxford, and then for three years was lecturer in paediatrics at the University of Oxford. Since 1966 he has been consultant paediatrician at the Hospital for Sick Children and senior lecturer in the Institute of Child Health, University of London. His research interests include various aspects of developmental physiology and respiratory disorders in childhood. Dr. Hull is co-editor with Dr. D. Gairdner of "Recent Advances in Paediatrics" and is secretary of the Neonatal Society.

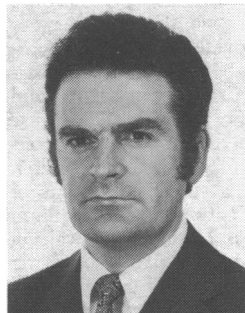
Tunbridge Report

Rehabilitation, the report of a subcommittee of the Standing Medical Advisory Committee, with Sir Ronald Tunbridge in the chair, was published on 13 June price £1. The report proposes that a comprehensive rehabilitation service should be established with specialist advisers for each regional board. Each district hospital should have

a rehabilitation department with 100 places. The consultant in charge should devote "a substantial part of his time to the work." A training structure will need to be devised, the report suggests.

Chair at London

Mr. Kenneth Edward Frederick Hobbs, senior lecturer at the University of Bristol, has been appointed to the chair of surgery at the Royal Free Hospital of Medicine.



Mr. Hobbs graduated from Guy's Hospital in 1960. He held house appointments at Guy's Hospital and was an anatomy demonstrator at the university of Newcastle upon Tyne, registrar at the Sheffield

Royal Infirmary, and since 1970 lecturer and currently senior lecturer in surgery at Bristol University. In 1968 he was awarded a Fulbright Travelling Fellowship to visit the U.S.A. and worked as a research fellow in surgery, Harvard Medical School, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, where research was carried out into organ preservation at subzero temperatures. His research interests include liver transplantation and organ preservation and new medical undergraduate curricula.

COMING EVENTS

3rd South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Conference. — 19-22 July, Witwatersrand University. Details from the secretary of the conference, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical School, Hospital Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Corrections

Steroid Drugs in Chest Disease

In the article in the "Today's Drugs" series (*B.M.J.* 20 May, p. 459) the second sentence of the second paragraph under the heading "Intravenous Steroids" should have read "... this means giving about 2,800 mg in the first 24 hours." and not "2,8000"; the second sentence of the paragraph on "Maintenance Therapy" should have read "In general terms, if the maintenance dose be kept at or below 10 mg a day of prednisone . . ." and not "19 mg." In the second paragraph of the same section the second sentence should have read "As long ago as 1963 an alternate-day regimen was tried." and not "alternative-day" as stated, and the penultimate sentence should have read "This method still does seem to have an advantage as regards preventing stunting of growth in children." and not "disadvantages" as stated.

Medical Birthday Honours

We regret the omission (10 June p. 664) of the name of Air Commodore Roger Mortimer, consultant adviser in pathology and tropical medicine to the Royal Air Force, who has been appointed C.B.E. (Military Division).

Notice to Authors

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