

haemagglutination; antigenic properties; cultivation; pathogenicity; ecology; and control. Unfamiliar viruses of non-human species are also described, and one can rapidly turn up the latest information about such agents as visna-maedi, eggted virus (of trout), and minute mouse virus.

This is an invaluable reference book for the medical or veterinary library, but equally for any biologist, chemist, or physicist seeking quick information about animal viruses with accompanying well-selected references. Virologists, having enjoyed making frequent use of the first edition, will be happy to add the attractively covered second edition to their shelves.

N. R. GRIST.

## Pharmacology for Medical Students

**Pharmacological Principles and Practice.** Edited by W. D. M. Paton, D.M., F.R.S., and J. P. Payne, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. (Pp. 417+ix; illustrated. 75s. Paperback 50s.) London: Churchill. 1968.

Several new and excellent textbooks of pharmacology have recently appeared. All reflect in their size the increasing information available in an expanding subject, and increasingly, therefore, they become unsuitable for most undergraduate students. This is particularly true of the medical undergraduate, whose overcrowded curriculum makes most of the large pharmacology textbooks irrelevant. Changes may follow the report of the Royal Commission on Medical Education, so that some students will have an opportunity to study the subject in greater depth, but for the majority there is little likelihood of this.

The present textbook starts, therefore, with the enormous advantage of brevity. In relatively short space it covers the whole field of pharmacology, including the chemotherapy of infections and of tumours. The approach is

a physiological one. Drugs are grouped in terms of the physiological systems they modify. This approach is more likely to help the student to see new drugs in perspective than is a classification based on drugs of similar action. The references to the literature are discreet, and, in general, research articles have been avoided in favour of review articles, which are more useful for anyone entering the field for the first time. The style is outstanding in its simplicity and clarity, and the two authors have collaborated well, so that there is no awkward change in approach, nor has either given way to the temptation to expand those areas where the siren song of their own expertise must have been strongest. The layout of the book is good and the diagrams and figures clear and apposite. There are few criticisms one could make. Perhaps the illustrations and tables could be tied more closely to the text. A few tables do not appear to be specifically referred to and others are sited several pages from the appropriate part of the text.

This textbook can be most warmly recommended to all undergraduates, particularly medical students, and to all those involved in teaching pharmacology to them.

J. S. GILLESPIE.

## Hospital Care in the U.S.A. and in Britain

**Custom and Practice in Medical Care.** A Comparative Study of Two Hospitals in Arbroath, Scotland, U.K., and Waterville, Maine, U.S.A. By J. Simpson, A. Mair, R. G. Thomas, H. N. Willard, and H. J. Bakst. (Pp. 119. 12s. 6d.) Published for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust by the Oxford University Press, London. 1968.

Hospitals in the United States are used in somewhat different fashion from those in the United Kingdom. "The purpose of this

study was to demonstrate patterns of use in two hospitals of approximately similar size serving two communities with approximately similar demographic and health statistics." Another aim was to find the factors that may influence "the difference in hospital use between a free enterprise system of medicine and a state-aided system." Arbroath Infirmary is in the National Health Service and has 106 general beds, while the Thayer Hospital is a community hospital of 99 general beds to which general practitioners may admit and treat their patients. The statistics are those of the whole year 1964.

This little book should be studied by everyone interested in hospitals and in medical care from a social aspect. The data are well set out in numerous tables and the discussion is valuable. In a brief review it is impossible to do full justice to it, but one example of the information afforded may stimulate interest. In the course of the year the Thayer Hospital admitted and discharged more than twice the number that were similarly dealt with at Arbroath Infirmary. The average duration of the patients' stay in the Thayer was shorter than that at the Arbroath Infirmary. Many possible causes are given to explain these differences but the following are worth noting. The majority of patients entering the Thayer Hospital were insured for hospital treatment though not for treatment outside hospital, but the general practitioners were allowed access to hospital beds where they could treat their patients, often for a short-stay in hospital. At the Arbroath Infirmary there is a well-staffed outpatient department, where large numbers of patients are examined, and, if suffering from minor ailments, treated, thus saving the hospital beds by avoiding admission. The outpatient department at the Thayer is small and chiefly for poor patients.

We hope that this impressive study may be the precursor of a future research that will investigate similar problems on a larger scale.

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## Books Received

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.*

**Photonuclear Reactions.** Vol. II. No editors or authors given. (Pp. 302. \$6.50.) Vienna: International Atomic Energy Agency. 1967. U.K. supplier: H.M.S.O.

**Norwegian Concentration Camp Survivors.** Edited by Axel Strøm, M.D. (Pp. 186. N.kr. 58.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. New York: Humanities Press. 1968.

**Neuropsychological Symptoms and Syndromes in Lesions of the Occipital Lobe and the Adjacent Areas.** By Ilse Gloning, Karl Gloning, and Hans Hoff. (Pp. 98; illustrated. No price quoted.) Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 1968.

**Crime and Insanity in England.** Vol. 1. By Nigel Walker. (Pp. 302+xi. 50s.) Edinburgh: University Press. 1968.

**Screening for Health. Theory and Practice.** By H. P. Ferrer, M.B., Ch.B.(Ed.), D.P.H. (Distinc.). (Pp. 212+xi; illustrated. £2 15s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

**Cours Supérieur d'Anesthésie.** Edited by J. Baumann and G. Vourc'h. (Pp. 232; illustrated. 44 F.) Paris: Librairie Arnette. 1968.

**The Peripheral Blood Film.** By Trevor A. Harper, M.B., B.S.(Madras), M.C.Path. (Pp. 134+ix; illustrated. £1 8s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

**Urinary Diversion in Children.** Edited by J. K. Latimer, P. F. Bischoff, and W. Grégoir. (Pp. 198; illustrated. £2 18s.) Basel and New York: S. Karger. 1968.

**Klinische Psychopathologie.** By Kurt Schneider. (Pp. 174+xii. DM. 19.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1967.

**Physics Applied to Anaesthesia.** By D. W. Hill, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.Inst.P., F.I.E.E. (Pp. 228+xii; illustrated. £3 10s.) London: Butterworths. 1967.

**Vitiligo and Psoralens.** By Abdel Nomen El Mofty, M.B., Ch.B., D.V.D.(Hons.), M.D. (Pp. 221+vii; illustrated. £3 15s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1968.

**Vascular Diseases in Ophthalmology.** Edited by R. Dufour, J. Rumpf, J. F. Cuendet, E. Rosselet, and M. Deller. (Pp. 241+xiv; illustrated. £6 16s.) Basle: S. Karger. 1968.

**Annual Review of Pharmacology.** Volume 8. Edited by Henry W. Elliott, Windsor C. Cutting, and Robert H. Dreisbach. (Pp. 594+vii. \$8.50 in U.S.A., \$9.00 rest.) Palo Alto: Annual Reviews Inc. 1968.

**Potassium and the Quality of Agricultural Products. Proceedings of the 8th Congress of the International Potash Institute, Brussels, 1966.** Editors, International Potash Institute. (Pp. 597; illustrated. No price given.) Berne: International Potash Institute. Undated.

**Red Mites and Typhus.** By J. R. Audy. (Pp. 191+x; illustrated. £2 5s.) London: The Athlone Press. 1968.

**Comptes Rendus du 1<sup>er</sup> Congrès International de Neuro-Génétique et Neuro-Ophthalmologie.** Edited by D. Klein and P. Amalric. (Pp. 396+xiv; illustrated. No price given.) Basle: S. Karger. 1968.

**Public Health Reform in Britain.** By M. W. Flinn. (Pp. 72; illustrated. 7s.) London: Macmillan. 1968.

**"Hostels" in Hospitals? The Analysis of Beds in Hospitals by Patient Dependency.** By J. S. Meredith, O.B.E., F.R.C.P.Ed., M. A. Anderson, R.G.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., S.T.D., A. C. Price, and J. Leithead. (Pp. 175; illustrated. £1 1s.) London: Published for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust by the Oxford University Press. 1968.

**Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive Vehicles.** Report by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention. (Pp. 52. 5s.)