

that semen contained a factor which stimulated uterine muscle strips from sterile women, but relaxed similar strips from women who had borne children. Then it was found that the active principle also sensitized the seminal vesicle of the guinea-pig to adrenaline. The name prostaglandin was given to this factor of such intriguing properties because of its occurrence in extracts of prostatic tissue. In the last 30 years it has received close attention from chemists, pharmacologists, and gynaecologists.

This volume describes in considerable technical detail the present state of knowledge of the various forms of prostaglandin, of which there are known to be at least 12. After its crystallization in 1960 the powers of modern analytical chemistry led rapidly to determination of the formula. This and the methods of separation and of biosynthesis are all described here in detail. The mean concentration in human semen is about 226 µg./ml. with fairly wide variations. There may be less in men attending subfertility clinics, but this is not yet certain. But the significance of this, if true, is difficult to assess, for the prostaglandins seem to have no effect on the motility and continued activity of the germ cells. There is no correlation between prostaglandin and the fructose content of the semen, though it is probable that both originate in the seminal vesicles. What role the prostaglandins play in the phenomena and disorders of human reproduction is still unknown. When introduced into the vagina of volunteers prostaglandins had no action on the uterine motility, except at the estimated time of ovulation. But even this effect seems to be irregular. Yet studies with isotope-labelled prostaglandin have shown

that it is absorbed through the vaginal wall, so that some pharmacological effect seems likely.

This compact volume reviews in detail all that is known so far about these peculiar compounds, and will prove an invaluable reference work and guide to the literature.

C. L. COPE.

## What Makes a Psychiatrist?

**The Psychiatrist. Personalities and Patterns.** By Walter Freeman, M.D. (Pp. 293+x; illustrated. \$6.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1968.

For thirty years Dr. Freeman taught neurology in the George Washington School of Medicine, and he was closely associated with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Consequently he had opportunities to meet the leading psychiatrists in the U.S.A. and a few of those in Europe.

What manner of man is the psychiatrist? With this rhetorical question Freeman opens his informative and often entertaining book. He holds that psychiatrists are distinguished from their medical colleagues by certain idiosyncrasies and other qualities. He illustrates this assertion through pen sketches of famous doctors who were oriented towards psychiatric thought. Prominence is given to Dr. Weir Mitchell (1829-1914), the foremost neurologist of his time. He castigated the psychiatrists of his day, very much in the modern style, for their failure to keep in

line with medical advances. A great deal of unusual information is packed into the biographies of 24 eminent psychiatrists. The chapter, where details are given of eight well-known Groddeck, and other "Great Theorists" are on the whole well done. Freeman shows considerable skill in outlining salient points without burdensome biographical details. Unfortunately the notes on Freud are rather scrappy. Freeman never met him, and the extracts he gives from Ernest Jones's *Sigmund Freud* are hardly adequate. An admirable feature is the inclusion of photographs of noted psychiatrists. One group photograph, "The Committee, Berlin, 1922," is particularly interesting. It shows Freud and some of his close associates, including Ernest Jones, Ferenczi, and Abraham among others. In the concluding chapters the range of subjects is widened. A section entitled "Who's Who in Psychiatry" deals mostly with those born in the United States, but the information contained in it is largely irrelevant to the subject.

A morbid interest prevails in the closing chapter, where details are given of eight well-known psychiatrists who committed suicide. It would seem that suicide is a vocational hazard for psychiatrists practising in the U.S.A., for they top the list of suicides among medical men. A major risk for the unfortunate psychiatrist is of being shot by former patients. Freeman recounts that, though other physicians have been killed by being gored by a bull or kicked by a horse, no psychiatrist has suffered such a fate. It is a pity that such details should be included in an otherwise valuable contribution to the literature of psychiatry.

E. A. BENNET.

## Books Received

**Plant Toxicity and Dermatitis. A Manual for Physicians.** By Kenneth F. Lampe, Ph.D., and Rune Fagerström, Pharm. Dr. (Pp. 231+x; illustrated. 85s.) Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1968.

**Human Growth. Body Composition, Cell Growth, Energy, and Intelligence.** By Donald B. Check, M.B., B.S., M.D. (Adelaide), D.Sc. (Cincinnati). (Pp. 781+xxx; illustrated. 225s.) Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger. 1968. London: Henry Kimpton.

**Grundlagen und Klinik innerer Erkrankungen. Ein Lehrbuch für Studierende und Ärzte.** Edited by Friedrich-Horst Schulz and Horst Stobbe. (Pp. 1,210+xxv; illustrated. £5 12s.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1968.

**Les Maladies Métaboliques des Acides Aminés avec Arrération Mentale.** By P. Mozziconacci, J. Boisse, A. Lemonnier and C. Charpentier. (Pp. 393; illustrated. 55 F.) Paris: L'Expansion Scientifique. 1968.

**Dyslexia. Diagnosis and Treatment of Reading Disorders.** Edited by Arthur H. Keeney, M.D., D.Sc., and Virginia T. Keeney, M.D. (Pp. 182+xii; illustrated. £5 8s.) Saint Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1968. London: Henry Kimpton.

**Computer Produced Physiological Tables for Calculations Involving the Relationships Between Blood Oxygen Tension and Content.** By G. R. Kelman, M.B., Ch.B. (Birmingham), Ph.D., D.I.C., and J. F. Nunn, M.B., Ch.B. (Birmingham), Ph.D., F.F.A.R.C.S. (Pp. 50. 25s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

**Un État Diarrhéique chez l'Enfant.** By C. Paque, M. Huet, and J. Rey. (Pp. 215. 220 Fr. B.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1968.

**Evaluation of Factors Determining the Results of Vocational Rehabilitation.** By Anders Chr. Gogstad. (Pp. 154; illustrated. No price given.) Norway: Universitetsforlaget. 1968.

**Virology Monographs. Echoviruses. Reoviruses.** By H. A. Wenner, A. M. Behbehani and L. Rosen. (Pp. 107; illustrated. \$7.50, DM. 30.) Vienna: New York: Springer-Verlag. 1968.

**Les Malades et les Médicaments.** By André le Gall and René Brun. (Pp. 126. No price given.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1968.

**Anesthésie et Sommeil Électriques.** By André Djourné and Danièle Kayser. (Pp. 95+viii; illustrated. No price given.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1968.

**Clinical Endocrinology. II.** Edited by Edwin B. Astwood, M.D., and Carl E. Cassidy, M.D. (Pp. 844+xvi; illustrated. \$29.75.) New York and London: Grune and Stratton. 1968.

**L'Asthme Bronchique et son Traitement.** By J. Charpin. (Pp. 124; illustrated. 29 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine S.A. 1968.

**Atlas of Radiation Dose Distributions. Vol. III. Moving-Field Isodose Charts.** By T. C. Tsien, J. R. Cunningham, D. J. Wright, D. E. A. Jones, and P. M. Pfalzner. (Pp. 168+xii. No price given.) Vienna: International Atomic Energy Agency. 1967.

**Sudden Death in Infancy.** By Preben Geertinger, M.D. (Pp. 107+xv; illustrated. \$6.75) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1968.

**Applied Pharmacology. Tenth Edition.** By Andrew Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P. (Glas.), M.R.C.P., and H. O. Schild, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. (Pp. 721+xii; illustrated. 80s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1968.

**An Introduction to Histochemical Technique.** By J. D. Bancroft, S.R.M.L.T., F.R.M.S. (Pp. 268+ix; illustrated. 58s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

**Chemotherapy of Cancer. The Antimetabolite Approach.** By G. M. Timmis, B.Sc., M.Sc., D.Sc., F.R.I.C., and D. C. Williams, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 229+xii; illustrated. 85s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

**Symposia Series in Immunobiological Standardization. Volume 5. International Symposium on Laboratory Animals.** Edited by R. H. Regamey, W. Hennessen, D. Ikić, and J. Ungar. (Pp. 207+xii; illustrated. 72s.) Basle/New York: S. Karger. 1967.

**Clinical Physiology. Third Edition.** Edited by E. J. Moran Campbell, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., C. J. Dickinson, B.Sc., M.A., D.M., M.R.C.P., and J. D. H. Slater, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 657+xiv; illustrated. 63s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

**Symposia Series in Immunobiological Standardization. Vol. 6. International Symposium on Adjuvants of Immunity.** Edited by R. H. Regamey, W. Hennessen, D. Ikić, and J. Ungar. (Pp. 375+xiv; illustrated. 96s.) Basle/New York: S. Karger. 1967.