

Revising Surgery

Lecture Notes on General Surgery. 2nd edition. By Harold Ellis, F.R.C.S., and Roy Yorke Calne, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 395+viii; illustrated, 42s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1968.

This is a second edition of a book that is deservedly popular with undergraduates in Britain and abroad. It is easy to understand, can be read quickly, and has a practical approach. For all these reasons it serves as a useful supplement to standard textbooks both for a preliminary encounter with surgery and for revision for examinations.

Despite the title, most of the surgical specialties are covered well, and it is refreshing to find an eminent authority on transplantation distilling the essence of the subject into two pages. Orthopaedics and fractures, however, are not included. Fluid and electrolyte balance is rarely mentioned, and the principles of chemotherapy for infections and cancer are not discussed. Many details of emphasis could be debated and some matters of fact contradicted, but the book contains a remarkable amount of important information conveniently classified.

R. B. WELBOURN.

Irradiation Effects

Radiation and the Control of Immune Response. Report of a Panel on Radiation and the Control of Immune Response Organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Paris, 22-24 June 1967. (Pp. 126; illustrated, 20s. 10d.) Vienna: International Atomic Energy Agency. 1968.

This paperback contains 16 papers presented at a small panel meeting of 18 experts from many different countries. Such panel meetings are frequently organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and on this occasion they were assisted by the French Atomic Energy Commission. The object of these meetings is to bring together a small group of experts to discuss particular topics connected with atomic energy. From my own experience, these meetings can be very stimulating occasions for the participants, but it is questionable whether publication of the panel papers together with a short synopsis of the discussion is warranted.

The interest in immunology from the point of view of the International Atomic Energy

Agency is in the possible use of bone marrow transplants in the treatment of persons who have been accidentally irradiated. Serious radiation accidents are fortunately infrequent, and there are only two reports of the use of this treatment. At present interest in this subject has been stimulated by the much-publicized organ transplant operations in which radiation is used in an attempt to control immune response in the recipient. The papers in this book show that a lot more in vitro and animal experiments are required to build up our knowledge of the physiology of the immune response system in humans. It is an essential step in the slow progress towards controlling immune response by radiation; a goal which may not be attainable. A proposal mentioned by the panel in the brief general conclusions given at the end of the book was that studies should be made of the impairment of the immune system in normal humans following repeated low doses of diagnostic radiation or in occupationally exposed radiation workers. Presumably the panel suspects that the immune system is in delicate balance with antigens entering the body from the environment, so that the stress of radiation might cause the immune system to be temporarily overwhelmed.

This book would be useful reading material for an experimentalist about to start work on immunological problems. It is of less use to the general reader who wishes to know what the special problems are in this field and what is being done to solve them. It is cheap, reasonably well presented, and deserves a place on the shelves of all radiobiological research centres for reference purposes.

G. W. DOLPHIN.

Decline of Family Influence

Society without the Father. A Contribution to Social Psychology. By Alexander Mitscherlich. (Pp. 329+xi. 60s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1969.

The author, who is one of the leading medical psychotherapists, director of the Freud Institute, and professor at the University of Frankfurt, applies his extensive knowledge of depth psychology to the interpretation of certain social changes of our time. The German social scene receives special

consideration, but the author's observations are of general relevance. The child's relationship to his parents is, in his opinion, the basis of all human relations. Following Freud, he believes that human progress depends on the extension of the area of conscious mental processes with subsequent strengthening of the control over irrational unconscious drives. Present Western civilization, by ignoring the biological phases of development, tends to restrict social adaptation.

The most important change in our time has been the decline in the father's role in the family group and in society at large. Most cultural and practical knowledge throughout the history of civilization used to be transmitted through them. The fragmentation and specialization of labour, combined with mass production and the separation of home from place of work, have deprived the father of his power in the family. He has been made into a bogey man who is outside the child's world, and there are signs that the mother's influence, too, is declining. Ours is a fatherless society, fatherlessness meaning the loss of both a primary relationship and a model that has to be outgrown. Instead, mass society, with its demand for work without responsibility, creates a gigantic army of rival, envious siblings. The lack of a living relationship with a father figure makes the individual an easy victim to father idols of the *führer* type.

Mitscherlich does not believe that the progressive loss of parental influence can be reversed. To him, salvation takes the shape of family life in which room must be found for legitimate and constructive disobedience. The original German version of this book was written before the start of the students' rebellion, which seems to support the author's main thesis. If we accept his theory about the causes of the breakdown of paternal authority in Western civilization, it must be seen as the result of a process which started with the industrial revolution and has been accelerated by the more recent advances of technology.

This book deserves to be taken seriously by social psychologists, anthropologists, and sociologists, because the author has access to roots of human behaviour which cannot be explored with their methods. The description and interpretation of the child-father relationship characteristic of our time is penetrating and convincing. This is an important contribution to social psychology and pathology.

E. STENGEL.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Modern Neurology. Papers in Tribute to Derek Denny-Brown. Edited by Simeon Locke, M.D. (Pp. 626+xxi; illustrated, 135s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1969.

Pulmonary Blood Volume in Health and Disease. By Paul N. Yu, M.D. (Pp. 314+xiv; illustrated, 135s.) London: Henry Kimpton. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger. 1969.

The Biological Basis of Medicine. Edited by E. Edward Bitar. Vol. 3 (Pp. 493+xiii; illustrated, 120s.); Vol. 4 (Pp. 396+xii; illustrated, 90s.) London: Academic Press. 1969.

Annual Review of Pharmacology. Vol. 9. Edited by H. W. Elliott. (Pp. 591+vii. \$9.) Palo Alto, California: Annual Reviews. 1969.

Progress in Clinical Psychology. Vol. 8. **Dreams and Dreaming.** Edited by Lawrence Edwin Abt, Ph.D., and Bernard F. Riess, Ph.D. (Pp. 192+viii; illustrated, \$9.75.) New York: Grune & Stratton. 1968.

Aetiology of Lung Cancer. By Leiv Kreyberg, M.D. (Pp. 90; illustrated, N.Kr. 48.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. 1969.

Annual Review of Medicine. Vol. 20. Edited by Arthur C. DeGraff and William P. Cregger. (Pp. 499+viii; illustrated, \$8.50.) Palo Alto: Annual Reviews. 1969.

Pictorial Manual of Neurologic Tests. By Maurice W. Van Allen, B.A., M.D. (Pp. 200+xiv; illustrated, 75s.) Chichester, Sussex: John Wiley. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1969.

Human Adaptation in Tropical Africa. Edited by R. J. Olembo. (Pp. 153. No price given.) Nairobi: East African Publishing House. 1968.

Guide to the Community Control of Alcoholism. By Jay N. Cross, M.P.H. (Pp. 128; illustrated, \$3.) New York: American Public Health Association. 1968.

The Hostage Seekers. A Study of Childless and Adopting Couples. By Michael Humphrey. (Pp. 162+xii, 25s.) London: Longmans. 1969.