

in brackets, making reading most unpleasant. Would it not be a good test of the "readability" of a chapter to read it out loud? I feel sure that it would be better to refer to papers by a number rather than to give the authors' names and the dates of their papers. Is it really desirable for a book of 567 pages to have 110 pages of references, like this

one? Anyone who wants to read up a subject properly will not rely on references at the end of a chapter. He will refer to the *Index Medicus* and allied publications and extract the references which he wants. In this *Recent Advances* I noted the absence of important references. One cannot rely on others to review the literature for one.

These comments are intended to be constructive, for the future, rather than mere destructive criticism. The book is excellent and valuable, but I think that future editions could be improved by attention to the above suggestions.

R. S. ILLINGWORTH

Disease caused by *Mycoplasmas*

The Role of Mycoplasmas and L Forms of Bacteria in Disease. Ed. John T. Sharp, M.D. (Pp. 338; \$26.50.) Charles C. Thomas, 1970.

My first reaction to another book on mycoplasmas and L-forms appearing within two years of the comprehensive volume edited by Hayflick (see *B.M.J.*, 10 January 1970, p. 99) was to question its usefulness. However, the emphasis of this book, to which 18 authors have contributed, is on diseases caused by mycoplasmas rather than on the biology of the organisms. On biological aspects it is commendable that both the morphology and ultrastructure of mycoplasmas are comprehensively discussed within one chapter. Apart from this, only serological reactions are discussed at any length, though unfortunately the value of some serological techniques is unfairly assessed and others are completely ignored.

Three chapters are devoted to mycoplasmas from man. Chanock and his collaborators deal effectively with the protean manifestations of infection with *M. pneumoniae*, as does Ford with genital tract infections. However, the chapter cataloguing the mycoplasmas isolated from tissues such as leukaemic bone marrow and lymph nodes or arthritic joints is not sufficiently critical, especially as three of the species normally occur in rats or pigs. It is disquieting that, despite compelling evidence, the author still fails to recognize that "*M. hominis* type 2" and the rat organism *M. arthritidis* are identical. This inevitably influences judgement on reported isolations of this mycoplasma from man. Diseases in laboratory and domestic animals occupy six chapters, illustrating that mycoplasmas are at present more important in veterinary than in human pathology. For the most part these chapters constitute useful reviews, though the one on

swine arthritis is more tenuous, especially in discussing the relationship of chronic swine arthritis and human rheumatoid arthritis.

In neither of the two chapters on bacterial L-forms is that term defined. The first expresses essentially the personal views of the author (a pioneer in this field) on the morphology and reproduction of L-forms and their relationship to mycoplasmas. The last chapter on the role of these variants in disease is commendably cautious. Since the association of mycoplasma-like organisms with certain plant diseases was first reported in 1968, it is regrettable that the topic is not mentioned. This may, however, reflect the time taken for the book to appear.

Despite certain deficiencies and biases in this book, at least some chapters are useful complements to those in earlier publications.

RUTH LEMCKE

Eastern State Hospital, Virginia

Disordered Minds. Norman Dain. (Pp. 207; \$5.95.) University Press of Virginia, 1971.

The contribution of the intellectual leaders of Virginia, the largest and one of the most influential colonies of British Colonial America at the time of the American Revolution, towards the humane care of the mentally sick is virtually unknown. We are indebted to Professor Dain of Rutgers University for drawing our attention to this chapter of great importance in the history not only of American psychiatry but of social history in general.

The Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, Virginia, was founded in 1773 to succour the mentally ill, and was the very first in the colonies to be operated entirely under provincial or state auspices. It was open to all classes, to rich and poor, to white and free black, but not to slaves—the prosperity of the founders' slave-worked plantations drew a sharp line apparently between their altruism and their business needs.

Woven into the pattern of Professor Dain's book are two subsidiary themes. The first is how fragile and vulnerable are the monuments built by men of high ideals when they are exposed to the political manoeuvring, cupidity, speculation, and nepotism of their successors. Thus it is recorded that in the

period 1851-7 these cancers had so eaten into the administration of the hospital that "the hospital's operating funds at one time fell dangerously low; and morale and discipline among the staff deteriorated." So low, in fact, were funds that it was recommended that the patients' diet should be changed from wheat bread to corn bread. During the Civil War the administration collapsed completely and the hospital, buffeted between opposing factions within and without its walls, virtually ceased to function and what patients remained were reduced to near-starvation.

The second theme is more interesting to medical readers and concerns the remarkable Galt family who in a dynastic way served the hospital in one capacity or another for 89 years from 1779. Of greatest importance is Dr. John Minson Galt II (1819-1862) who was superintendent from 1841 until his death. He was thus contemporaneous with our own John Conolly (1794-1866), and in the transformation he brought about at the beginning of his reign the imprints are to be seen of the same missionary zeal that transformed Conolly's Hanwell. The Senate Committee visiting the Eastern State Hospital in 1845 reported that the principle had been adopted "that if you wish to benefit the insane you must love him

and devote yourself to him," and that the hospital no longer presented "the gloomy and cheerless aspect of a prison, on the contrary it wears the pleasing and inviting appearance of comfort." Both these quotations might well have been lifted from Conolly's writings. But there the likeness ends. Galt, unlike Conolly, was ineffectual and fumbling as an administrator; as a man he was reserved, introspective, anxious, and bookish; even worse for those days, as a politician he was inept and no match for the wily Court of Directors of the hospital. Nor could he keep the peace with the powerful medical superintendents of the mental hospitals in the North, so alienating the highly respected Thomas Kirkbride, together with Luther V. Bell and Isaac Ray.

Because of the imperfections in his personality, Galt was his own worst enemy, and tragically that also of his hospital. Nevertheless, despite the ignominious fate of the hospital at the time of the Civil War, where the present volume ends, Professor Dain's ultimate sentence could serve as Galt's epitaph, "The administration of John Minson Galt II, however flawed, long remained for the Eastern State Hospital a pinnacle of accomplishment."

HENRY R. ROLLIN

SHORTER NOTICES

An up-to-date list of residential accommodation available in England and Wales and Northern Ireland for mentally handicapped patients of all ages has been compiled by the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. The country is divided into 12 regions and in all 582 homes are listed in this *Directory*. It

emerges that there are about 10,000 places for such patients, and the proportion of private sector to local authority in providing these places is just about equal. Of the local authorities Lancashire provides the greatest number. The full address, controlling authority, special facilities available, and any limitations on length

of stay and type of patient are listed under the name of each home. The *Directory of Residential Accommodation for the Mentally Handicapped in England, Wales and N. Ireland* can be obtained from: National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children Bookshop, 86 New-man Street, London W1P 4AR, price £1.75.

Society for Psychosomatic Research.—15th Annual conference, "Life Events and Psychosomatic Disorder," 1-2 October, Royal College of Physicians of London. Fee £6 (including lunch). Details from Dr. B. Heine, Runwell Hospital, near Wickford, Essex. (Tel. Wickford 3461.)

Royal Northern Hospital Postgraduate Centre.—Details and copies of programmes of M.R.C.P., clinical immunology, Horder Club, lunchtime meetings, courses and extended courses, October-January are obtainable from the postgraduate secretary, Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, London N.7. (Tel. 01-272 7777, ext. 218.)

"Diseases of Colon and Rectum".—Course of lectures, 4-8 October, St. Mark's Hospital. Fee £5.25. Details from the dean of postgraduate studies, St. Mark's Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PS. (Tel. 01-253 8821, extn. 36.)

London Medical Orchestra.—Rehearsals of music by Brahms, Haydn, and Mozart, Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m., beginning 5 October, Christchurch School, Cosway Street, London N.W.1. New members are welcome and details are obtainable from Mrs. I. Weir, Hill House, Mount Park Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middx. (Tel. 01-422 8762.)

International Conference on Alcoholism and Addiction.—5-8 October, Dublin. Registration fee £15. Details from the conference secretary, Irish National Council on Alcoholism, 19/20 Fleet Street, Dublin 2. (Tel. Dublin 771198.)

11th Congr s National des M decins de Centres de Sant .—7-9 October, Paris. Details from Dr. Gatineau-Sailliant, 3 rue de Stockholm, Paris 8e.

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.—Annual congress, 7-9 October, Camden Town Hall, London N.W.1. The programme includes lectures by Dr. D. Stafford-Clark and Professor Ruth E. M. Bowden and a symposium on rheumatoid arthritis. Details from the public relations officer of the society, 14 Bedford Row, London W.C.1. (Tel. 01-242 1941/7.)

"Community Medicine".—Extended in-service course of 14 half-day weekly sessions, Thursday afternoons, 7 October-27 January (except 16, 23 and 30 December, by the Kent Postgraduate Medical Centre at Canterbury and the South-east Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Applications, as soon as possible, to the honorary secretary of the postgraduate centre, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent. (Tel. Canterbury 66877.)

Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Oxford University.—Series of lectures, the second half of a postgraduate course, "Basic Sciences of the Musculoskeletal System," Friday evenings, 6.30 p.m., and Saturday mornings, 8.30 a.m., 8 October-18 December inclusive, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford. Members of the medical and allied professions are invited.

Institute of Diseases of the Chest.—Clinical demonstrations, open to medical practitioners without fee, will be held in the lecture theatre of the institute (in the grounds of the Brompton Hospital), Fulham Road, S.W.3, on Fridays at 5 p.m., from 8 October to 10 December inclusive.

"Haemoglobin—Structure and Pathophysiology".—All day symposium organized by the Northwick Park Hospital and Clinical Research Centre, 9 October. Fee £1 (including refreshments). Application forms and details from Dr. L. E. Hill, Clinical Research Centre, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3UJ. (Tel. 01-864 5311.)

History of Medicine Diploma Course.—The Society of Apothecaries announce that the next course will commence on 9 October. Details from Dr. J. K. Crellin, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

"The Care of the Injured and Suddenly Ill."—International symposium, 9-10 October, Manchester University, organized by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention and the university department of postgraduate medical studies. Application forms and details are obtainable from the dean of postgraduate medical studies, Williamson Building, the University, Brunswick Street, Manchester M13 9PL. (Tel. 061-273 3333.)

Institute of Urology.—Weekend course, "Urology for Higher Examinations," 15-17 October. For details see advertisement on page xix.

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, 20 September

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

Tuesday, 21 September

B.B.C. TELEVISION.—1.15 p.m. on channel 2, 11.20 p.m. on channel 1, Medicine Today: Nutritional Anaemias in the Elderly.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—5.30 p.m., rheumatology meeting by Professor E. G. L. Bywaters.

Friday, 24 September

CHARLES BURNS CLINIC, BIRMINGHAM.—At Queensbridge Road, Moseley, 4 p.m., Dr. D. R. Benady: Consciously Rejected Children.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Hammersmith Hospital, 2 p.m., Dr. G. Joplin: Endocrine Disorders and Pregnancy. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London S.W.6.)

Saturday, 25 September

LONDON ASSOCIATION OF THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION.—At St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping, 3 p.m., discussion on career problems of women doctors: Are You Happy in Your Work?

B.M.A.: ASSOCIATION NOTICES

Diary of Central Meetings

Wednesday, 22 September

Scottish General Medical Services Committee (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.15 a.m.

Physical Medicine Group Committee, 3 p.m.

Thursday, 23 September

Practice Premises Organization Subcommittee (G.M.S.), 10 a.m.

Friday, 24 September

Public Health Committee, 9.30 a.m.

Staff Side. Committee C, Medical Whitley Council, 2.30 p.m.

Monday, 27 September

Hospital Junior Staffs Group Council (Scotland) (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 2 p.m.

Tuesday, 28 September

Armed Forces Committee, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, 29 September

Occupational Health Committee, 10.30 a.m.

Panel on Professional Standards (Board of Science and Education), 11 a.m.

Thursday, 30 September

Executive Subcommittee (Hospital Junior Staffs Group Council) (at Birmingham Regional Office), 12 noon.

Panel on Pharmaceutical Products (Board of Science and Education), 2 p.m.

Working Party on the "Drinking Driver," (Board of Science and Education), 2.30 p.m.

South-East Metropolitan Regional Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 2.30 p.m.

Monday, 4 October

Scottish Committee for Hospital Medical Services (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.30 a.m.

Thursday, 7 October

Public Health Committee (Scotland) (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.45 a.m.

Thursday, 14 October

Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services, 10 a.m.

Friday, 15 October

Overseas Affairs Committee, 1.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 20 October

Working Party on Married Women Doctors (Board of Science and Education), 11 a.m.

Journal Committee, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, 27 October

Council, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, 3 November

Panel on Medical Education (Board of Science and Education), 11 a.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

*Members proposing to attend meetings marked * are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.*

Buckinghamshire Division.—At Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Saturday, 25 September, 8 p.m., sparkling-wine party. Guests are invited.*

Coventry Division.—At Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital postgraduate centre, Tuesday, 21 September, 8.15 p.m., Mr. R. Aitken: "Sociology of Education." (Preceded by dinner, 6.45 for 7.15 p.m.) Ladies are invited.*

Holland Division.—At Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, Saturday, 25 September, 2 p.m., Mr. J. P. Green: "Hand Surgery."

Mid-Herts Division.—At St. Albans City Hospital Medical Centre, Friday, 24 September, 8.45 p.m., lecture by Dr. Cicely Saunders: "Terminal Care." Guests are invited.

North-east Ulster Division.—At New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Sunday, 26 September, 3 p.m., a.g.m. and chairman's address by Dr. C. Burns: "The Birth of a University."

Plymouth Division.—Sunday, 26 September, annual outing, visit to Dartington Hall and concert by string quartet. Preceded by dinner at Shimmers Bridge Restaurant. (Transport will leave Plymouth at 6 p.m.) Guests are invited.*

CORRECTIONS

Professor S. J. Cowell

Referring to the obituary of Professor S. J. Cowell (14 August, p. 436), Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke writes: "My cousin Lady Mellanby's investigations were not related to the effect of sugar on dental caries but rather to the effect of vitamins A and D on the structure of dental tissues and so on their liability to disease, including, of course, dental caries."

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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