

socially most disestablished having the worst outlook. There was a slight tendency for older patients to do better than younger ones, but (surprisingly) there was no difference in outcome that could be correlated with sex or education.

Most doctors treating alcoholics subscribe to the dogma that once "loss of control" (in a technical sense) has set in, moderation in drinking can never be attained thereafter, and the alcoholic must choose between total abstinence or deterioration. Drs. Gerard and Saenger join those who challenge the universal truth of this proposition.

The clinics studied and reported on in this book were among the best-financed of their type in the United States, but the authors tell us that they had grave staffing difficulties, were short of community support, and all "suffered from the burden of their task." Drug treatment was used in most cases, but disulfiram alone appeared to improve the chances of control of drinking. The eight clinics differed considerably in their staffing. Patients treated by internists or social workers did better than those treated by psychiatrists, and the clinic with a psychoanalytic orientation had the worst results of all. Patients who became abstinent showed much evidence of continuing maladjustment and unhappiness. The defaulting rate was high: 52% of patients attended on no more than four occasions, and the median duration of contact with the clinic was one month. Addictive alcoholics of previously stable personality (the group so much favoured by Alcoholics Anonymous and by psychiatrists selecting for treatment patients of good prognosis) were clearly a minority among the clientele of the eight clinics. Any service opening its outpatient doors to problem drinkers of all types might find it hard to better these American results.

The literature on alcoholism is in danger of overgrowth, but studies as painstaking as this one are still more than welcome.

DENIS PARR.

## Sarah Gamp and her Forebears

**English Midwives. Their History and Prospects.** By James Hobson Aveling, M.D. Reprint of the 1872 edition, with an Introduction and Biographical Sketch of the Author by John L. Thornton, F.L.A. (Pp. 185+xxxi; illustrated. £7 10s.) London: Hugh K. Elliott. 1967.

James Hobson Aveling (1828-92) is known to most medical students as the inventor of a "repositor" that proved useful in cases of uterine inversion, but few are acquainted with his writings and other activities. He wrote several valuable medical historical articles, but is best known for his books on *English Midwives* (1872) and *The Chamberlens and the Midwifery Forceps* (1882). In 1873 he founded, and for three years edited, the *Obstetrical Journal of Great Britain and Ireland*, and he was one of the founders of the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

The book before us consists of "an exact reproduction of Aveling's book" on British midwives, to which Mr. Thornton has added an introduction, a short biography of Aveling with a list of his writings, and a select bibliography of more recent writings on the history of midwifery. Aveling traces the history of English midwives from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, gives short lives of some of the better-known midwives, but confesses that on the whole "it was a sad story of indifference and neglect, of petty jealousies and sordid interests." He mentions occasions when a man-midwife (a qualified doctor) had to crawl into the lying-in room on hands and knees so that he should not be seen by the patient, to whose aid he had been summoned by the midwife. The final chapter includes a strong plea for the instruction, licensing, registration, and supervision of midwives. England lagged behind other European countries in this respect and it was not till 1902, when the Midwives Act set up the Central Midwives Board, that a new era opened in British midwifery.

This readable little volume was well worth reprinting both for the story it tells and for the light it throws on the life and work of rather a neglected figure in English obstetric history.

ZACHARY COPE.

## Surgical Technique

**Nouveau Traité de Technique Chirurgicale. Vol. 9. Paroi Abdominale. Sutures Digestives. Laparotomies.** By Philippe Dérivé. (Pp. 473; illustrated. 115 F.) Paris: Masson. 1967.

**Nouveau Traité de Technique Chirurgicale. Vol. 13. Système Porte. Rate.** By Lucien Leger and Jean Patel. (Pp. 332; illustrated. No price given.) Paris: Masson. 1967.

These two volumes are part of a series of 15, each concerned with surgical technique in different regions. The authors are a number of distinguished French surgeons under the editorship of Professor Jean Patel and Professor Lucien Leger. Of the two books under review, volume 9 is concerned with herniae, techniques of intestinal anastomosis, and various indications for laparotomy, while volume 13 describes the operative treatment of portal hypertension by Leger and the surgery of the spleen by Patel.

The production is of high quality, with good print, good paper, and many excellent illustrations of the various steps in operative technique, which are described in considerable detail. There are, for example, some good drawings of the various knots tied by surgeons, and probably no method of joining two pieces of bowel together has been omitted. The illustrations of the surgery of portal hypertension and of the spleen are particularly good, and if all the volumes are of the same standard it will certainly form a valuable contribution to the literature of operative surgery, though its size may tend to make it a work of reference in a library rather than one of personal purchase.

EDWARD G. MUIR.

## Books Received

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

**Problems of Psychotherapy.** By Herbert Zucker. (Pp. 194+viii. 48s.) London: Collier-Macmillan. 1967.

**Reproduction and Man.** Contemporary Science Paperback 3. By R. J. Harrison, M.A., M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 134+vii; illustrated. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1967.

**Chemical Exchanges in Man.** A Physiological Essay. Contemporary Science Paperback 10. By B. F. Matthews, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. (Pp. 136+vii; illustrated. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1967.

**Ambroise Paré.** Surgeon of the Renaissance. By Wallace B. Hamby, M.D. (Pp. 251+xxi; illustrated. \$9.50.) St. Louis, Missouri: Warren H. Green. 1967.

**Pathology.** Concise Medical Textbook. 2nd edition. By J. L. Pinniger. Revised by J. R. Tighe, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.E., M.C.Path. (Pp. 279+viii. 21s.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1967.

**Diseases of the Ear.** 2nd edition. By Stuart R. Mawson, M.B., F.R.C.S., D.L.O. (Pp. 554; illustrated. £5.) London: Edward Arnold. 1967.

**Review of Medical Physiology.** 3rd edition. By William F. Ganong, M.D. (Pp. 621; illustrated. 52s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

**Handbook of Bacteriological Technique.** 2nd edition. By F. J. Baker, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.S.T., F.R.M.S. (Pp. 482+ix. 75s.) London: Butterworth. 1967.

**Ekg-Fibel.** 7th edition. By Professor Rolf Heinecker. (Pp. 316+vii; illustrated. DM. 22.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**Diccionario Medicobiologico University.** Director: Dr. Alberto Folch Pi. (Pp. 1501+xxxiv. No price given.) Mexico City: Editorial Interamericana, S.A. 1966.

**Intravenous Anaesthesia—S.A.A.D.** 3rd edition. Based on Postgraduate Course Lectures and Material. Edited by S. L. Drummond-Jackson, T.D., L.D.S. (Pp. 230+ix; illustrated. 40s.) London: Society for the Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry. 1967.

**Control of Cellular Growth in Adult Organisms.** A Sigrid Jusélius Foundation Symposium. Edited by Harald Teir and Tapio Rytömaa. (Pp. 434+xxiii; illustrated. £5.) London: Academic Press. 1967.

**Muscle and Bone.** Anatomy and Physiology. Pre-Medical Primer No. 1. By Harry Asher, M.A. (Pp. 134+viii. 7s. 6d.) London: Arlington. 1967.

**Engineering in the Practice of Medicine.** Edited by Bernard L. Segal, M.D., and David G. Kilpatrick, P.E. (Pp. 482+xvii; illustrated. £8.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

**Intra- und Postoperative Zwischenfälle.** Vol. 1. Allgemeiner Teil, Thorax. Hals. Edited by G. Brandt, H. Kunz, and R. Nissen. (Pp. 427+xxiii; illustrated. DM. 98.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**Secretory Mechanisms of Salivary Glands.** Proceedings of an International Conference held at Birmingham, Alabama, 1966. Edited by Leon H. Schneyer and Charlotte A. Schneyer. (Pp. 389+xvii; illustrated. £5 8s.) New York and London: Academic Press. 1967.