

With this in mind the present volume has been prepared by the Committee on Pre- and Postoperative Care of the American College of Surgeons. It is designed to provide a quick and concise account of recent advances in surgical metabolism and nutrition.

It therefore covers first the topics of fluid and electrolyte balance, the physiological changes of surgical stress, clotting disorders, infection, and shock. In the later chapters of the book methods of handling the pre- and post-operative care of patients undergoing surgery of the major body systems are considered, and these include the management of their common complications and of surgical emergencies. As well as general surgical considerations, cardiac, gynaecological, urological, and orthopaedic problems are considered together with a chapter on the management of burns. Useful appendices include data on laboratory tests and diets. The individual chapters have been prepared by a total of 29 surgeons, many of whom are well-known names on this side of the Atlantic. Particular mention must be made of Dr. Francis Moore, who is not only one of the editors but who also contributes an important chapter on metabolic response to injury and another on surgical nutrition.

This book will certainly prove of value to the hospital resident junior staff. The text reads easily and combines practical advice with adequate and up-to-date theoretical background. Most chapters have useful bibliographies. Here and there one detects difference in practice between the two sides of the Atlantic in, for example, the advice to discuss the cost of treatment with the patient. In most respects, however, this book covers the needs of the British house-surgeon equally as much as his American intern counterpart.

HAROLD ELLIS.

Looking after Students' Health

Student Health Services in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. By Professor Alex Mair. (Pp. 236 + xii. 42s.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1967.

This is a disappointing book. Despite the fact that student health services have existed for several decades in the U.K. and overseas, there is considerable confusion and lack of knowledge about them. The administrative, medical, and psychiatric problems and the complexities of this kind of work are ill-understood among both university personnel and doctors generally. There is thus a real need for comprehensive, accurate, up-to-date, and detailed information, and for discussion of some of the critical issues.

Professor Mair has attempted to tackle the problem on the basis of replies to questionnaires circulated in 1960. The result cannot fairly be described as "a comprehensive account of what the student health service is in Britain today." It is a piecemeal assortment of data, much of which is manifestly obsolescent, and in respect of services introduced since that time non-existent. The services of, for example, London (City University), London (Central Institution), Sussex University, and Birmingham (Aston) are not mentioned.

The contents of the book naturally reflect the kind of questions asked in the questionnaire. Readers expecting to find discussion of topical issues of major importance in student health work, such as late adolescent development, learning problems, unwanted pregnancy and contraception, and drug-taking, will search in vain.

Professor Mair is an advocate of a preventive approach on the lines of school or industrial services, rather than the compre-

hensive service which attempts to accept full treatment responsibility for individual students. In this he differs from the 1966 report of the Royal College of Physicians (the earlier reports only are referred to in the book) and with the consensus view in the British Student Health Association. The particular difficulties of adopting a preventive approach in relation to mental health—in which prevention in this setting mainly means early identification followed by skilled management—are not fully discussed. Indeed, little impression of this type of activity can be gathered from the book; counselling is equated with guidance and reassurance, though we are told that it is "time-consuming if done thoroughly."

Other aspects of preventive work receive more thorough consideration, although there is little about environmental safety, accident prevention, and laboratory safety, and the possible role of a safety officer in the university.

Some points, well and strongly made, certainly deserve the emphasis the author gives them. For example, his point that no student should leave for reasons of academic failure without the fullest investigation of his mental and social well-being is extremely important. How often is this attempted in British universities today? He also argues that services should be university services covering all members of the community, rather than student health services—a view which most of those working in the services would endorse, given that sufficient support could be obtained.

In conclusion, this is a book with many shortcomings, but nevertheless it does contain a great deal of information and raises many points. It will certainly prove a controversial work which will be widely read and discussed.

CHRISTOPHER J. LUCAS.

Books Received

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

In Vivo. The Case for Supramolecular Biology. By Hans Selye, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.(C.), F.I.C.S.(Hon.). (Pp. 168. \$5.95.) New York: Liverlight. 1967.

Cortical Evoked Potentials in Man. By Ludovico Bergamini, M.D., and Bruno Bergamasco, M.D. (Pp. 116 + xi; illustrated. \$11.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

Claude Bernard and Experimental Medicine. Collected Papers from a Symposium commemorating the centenary of the Publication of *An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine* and the first English translation of Claude Bernard's *Cahier Rouge*. Edited by Francisco Grande and Maurice B. Visscher. (Pp. 210 + 120; illustrated. \$8.95. Paper \$4.95.) Cambridge, Mass.: Schenkman. 1967.

The Venereal Diseases. A Book about Sexually Transmitted Infections. By R. D. Catterall, M.R.C.P.Ed. (Pp. 160; illustrated. 15s. Paper 7s. 6d.) London: Evans Brothers. 1967.

Arthritis and Rheumatism. By W. S. C. Cope- man, C.B.E., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 128; illustrated. 12s. 6d. Paper 6s.) London: Evans Brothers. 1967.

The Effects of Abnormal Physical Conditions at Work. Edited by C. N. Davies, D.Sc., F.Inst.P., P. R. Davis, Ph.D., M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., F.Inst.Biol., and F. H. Tyrer, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.I.H. (Pp. 185 + viii. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Accidents to Children. What to do in an Emergency. By Maurice Ellis, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 96; illustrated. 12s. 6d. Paper 5s.) London: Evans Brothers. 1967.

The Cell Periphery, Metastasis and other Contact Phenomena. By Leonard Weiss. (Pp. 388; illustrated. £5 8s.) Amsterdam: North-Holland. 1967.

Alcoholism Explained. By Dr. Lincoln Williams. (Pp. 127. Paper 6s.) London: Evans Brothers. 1967.

Communication in Science. Documentation and Automation. Ciba Foundation Volume. Edited by Anthony de Reuck and Julie Knight. (Pp. 274 + xi; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Statistics for Biologists. By R. C. Campbell. (Pp. 242 + xi. 40s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1967.

Review of Physiological Chemistry. 11th edition. By Harold A. Harper, Ph.D. (Pp. 522; illustrated. 50s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

Dynamic Aspects of Biochemistry. 5th edition. By Ernest Baldwin, Sc.D., F.I.Biol. (Pp. 465 + xiv. 55s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1967.

Introduction to the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System. By David Bowsher, M.A., M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 180 + viii; illustrated. 15s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

Fundamentals of Acid-Base Regulation. 3rd edition. By James R. Robinson, M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D.(Cantab.), F.R.S.N.Z., F.R.A.C.P. (Pp. 109 + xiv. 12s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

Chemotherapy of Psychiatric Disorders. By Peter Dally, M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. Introduction by William Sargent, M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 156 + viii. 42s.) London: Elek. 1967.

Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery. By R. G. B. Gilbert, M.B., G. Fred Brindle, M.D., and Anibal Galindo, M.D. (Pp. 213 + xv; illustrated. 85s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

Marital Tensions. Clinical Studies towards a Psychological Theory of Interaction. By Henry V. Dicks, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.B.Ps.S. (Pp. 354 + xiv. 42s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1967.

Preventive Medicine. Edited by Duncan W. Clark, M.D., and Brian MacMahon, M.D. (Pp. 897 + xix; illustrated. 70s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.