

It is certainly interesting to have three apparently dissimilar conditions, such as ankylosis of the elbow, pyloric stenosis, and the effects of inhalation of irritant fumes quoted together as examples of obstruction. Certainly this is basically correct, but one might ask how this grouping helps the student either to recall this information or to apply correct therapeutic measures more effectively. Furthermore, this construction inevitably raises difficulties with indexing, and quite a few of the index references are to illustrations rather than to text.

The authors have produced a well-illustrated book which presents their views on surgical principles in a clear and straightforward manner. It is, however, difficult to assess what special role this volume plays in competition with the numerous other surgical textbooks.

IAIN E. GILLESPIE.

Health and Disease in the World

World Health. 2nd edition. By Fraser Brockington, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Pp. 373, 48s.) London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1967.

The first edition of this deservedly popular book was published in 1958 as a 5s. volume in the Pelican Medical Series. This edition, brought up to date with additional material, is presented as a "hardback" at a considerably higher price.

The general theme of the book is set forth in a brief and stimulating foreword by Dr. M. G. Candau, Director-General of the World Health Organization. The author thereafter reviews the incidence of health and disease throughout the world. He describes some of the more serious diseases, both communicable and degenerative, which affect mankind, and the aetiological and other factors which influence their prevalence—geography, beliefs and customs, nutrition, industrialization, etc. In his presentation of the vast amount of factual material in this section Professor Brockington has drawn extensively on his knowledge of the historical background, and provided a number of interesting and relevant quotations from earlier writers. This section is followed by a conspectus of the measures for the promotion of health services in developing countries, and the methods of transition from the simplest

types of services to the more elaborate organizations which have emerged in various parts of the world are clearly differentiated. Special attention is given to the basic principles which should govern the organization of health services in developing countries, and the methods of transition from the simplest types of services to the more elaborate. The importance of the auxiliary health worker both as a temporary and later as a permanent member of the health team is emphasized, and a warning is given against the possible domination of the medical scene by the hospital. This section ends with a brief note on "Health Planning," which in view of the importance which is now attached to health planning as part of economic and social planning hardly does justice to this rapidly developing subject.

Under "International Health," the origins of international collaboration in public health are described from the introduction of quarantine in the fifteenth century to the foundation of international health agencies, culminating in the establishment of the World Health Organization in 1948. A very clear outline is given of the administrative structure of W.H.O. and of its methods of work and fields of activity. This description could be elaborated with advantage in any future edition.

The final section of the book extends to some 130 pages, and is in effect a short treatise on vital and health statistics. This is undoubtedly a valuable compendium, and is also illustrated by many interesting and apposite quotations. But its length somewhat disturbs the general balance of the book. There is an excellent list of references, but at least one misprint in the first edition—namely, Meadower, P. B., for Medawar, P. B.—has unfortunately escaped the proof-reader of the second.

JOHN CHARLES.

Life of a Surgeon

Surgeon's Saga. By Sir Francis Gordon Bell, K.B.E., M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.A.C.S. (Pp. 216; illustrated. \$3.50.) New Zealand: A. H. & A. W. Reed. 1968.

The author of this book is a distinguished New Zealand surgeon who for 27 years was professor of surgery at Otago University, Dunedin. He describes in graphic style each

stage of his varied career, often adding to the narrative wise comments and apt anecdotes.

He was born in 1887 and spent his early boyhood at Northbank, an isolated station on the Wairau river, and was educated at Marlborough High School under John Innes. At the age of 17 he came to Britain and studied medicine at Edinburgh, where he managed to live in "digs," with everything found, on £120 a year. He had great ability and worked hard, won a useful scholarship, and gained the respect and friendship of Alexis Thomson. After qualifying in 1910 he started training to become a surgeon. He held several surgical hospital posts, passed the English F.R.C.S. examination, did a year's research in Edinburgh, and managed (by acting as ship's doctor) to get a holiday in New Zealand. When war broke out in 1914 he tried to get into the R.A.M.C., but failed, so he spent several months gaining experience in the great Mayo Clinic in the U.S.A. Early in 1915 he returned to London, and this time entered the R.A.M.C. as captain and was soon sent to France on active service. In 1916 he was attached to an advanced casualty clearing station, where he did valiant work, operating at one time for more than 48 hours without a break. He was mentioned in dispatches and decorated with the Military Cross. After the war he toyed with the idea of settling in London, but finally he went back to Edinburgh, and was elected to the staff of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1924. Then suddenly, on the retirement of Sir Louis Barnett, the post of professor of surgery at Otago University fell vacant and Bell applied for it and was appointed. From 1925 to 1952 he held that post with distinction, and after he had retired he continued to do good work as chairman of what is now called the New Zealand Cancer Society.

This autobiography contains valuable comments on many aspects of life both professional and personal, and I particularly enjoyed the delightful account of his first meeting with his future wife. They were married in 1916 and recently celebrated their golden wedding. There is much in this book that will interest every surgeon, and indeed every medical student. The life of a surgeon is a hard test of a man's character and stamina, but this book shows that it may be a happy life.

ZACHARY COPE.

Books Received

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

Wörterbuch der Psychiatrie und Ihrer Grenzgebiete. By Claus Haring and Karl Heinz Leickert. (Pp. 634. DM. 86.) Stuttgart and New York: F. K. Schattauer-Verlag. 1968.

Health Services Administration. Policy Cases and the Case Method. Edited by Roy Penchansky, D.B.A. (Pp. 460+xv. £5 19s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1968.

New Life Tables for Latin American Populations in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. By Eduardo E. Arriaga. (Pp. 324+vii; illustrated. \$2.75.) Berkeley: University of California Press. 1968.

Logan Turner's Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear. 7th edition. Edited by John P. Stewart. (Pp. 584+xv; illustrated. 70s.) Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1968.

Cell Calcium. By C. Paul Bianchi, Ph.D. (Pp. 131+viii; illustrated. 45s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

Teaching the Physically Handicapped to Swim. By William Anderson. (Pp. 84; illustrated. 15s.) London: Faber & Faber. 1968.

The Dawn of Australian Psychiatry. An Account of Measures Taken for the Care of Mental Invalids from the Time of the First Fleet, 1788, to the Year 1850, Including a Survey of the Overseas Background and the Case Notes of Dr. F. Campbell. By John Bostock. (Pp. 219; illustrated. No price given.) Sydney: Australasian Medical Publishing Co. 1968.

Fundamental Techniques of Plastic Surgery and Their Surgical Applications. 4th edition. By Ian A. McGregor, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.C.S.(Glasg.). (Pp. 298+xi; illustrated. 35s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968.

Atlas of X-ray Diagnosis of Early Gastric Cancer. By Hikoo Shirakabe, M.D., Heizaburo Ichikawa, M.D., Kenji Kumakura, M.D., Mamoru Nishizawa, M.D., Kyo Higurashi, M.D., Hisao Hayakawa, M.D., and Tadashige Murakami, M.D. (Pp. 244; illustrated. £15 15s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1968.

Neurophysiological Basis of Normal and Abnormal Motor Activities. Edited by Melvin D. Yahr, M.D., and Dominick P. Purpura, M.D. (Pp. 500+xi; illustrated. \$25.) New York: Raven Press. 1967.