

interpretation of the scans. Since this book deals with interpretation, and not with the technique of producing a scan, it is unlikely soon to become out of date. The clinical usefulness of radioactive scanning is such that there can be little doubt that all hospitals should have access to this diagnostic technique, and the need for reference atlases like this one is likely to increase greatly.

E. S. WILLIAMS.

Early Days in Anaesthesia

The Battle for Oblivion : The Discovery of Anaesthesia. By Betty MacQuitty. (Pp. 200; illustrated. 40s.) London : George G. Harrap. 1969.

"We are going to try a Yankee dodge today, gentlemen," said Robert Liston at University College Hospital in 1846. So anaesthesia came to Britain, like instant coffee and credit cards.

William Morton was a bit of a crook. His scheme was selling doctors and dentists licences for using ether: fifty dollars for five years in small towns, two thousand dollars for three in big ones. Surgeons would get special rates, a straight twenty-five per cent. of the operating fee. C. T. Jackson, the chemist who claimed to have put up the idea of etherization in the first place, naturally

wanted a slice of the cake. When he didn't get it, he tried blackmail. They were still wrangling before a Congressional Committee when Morton died in Central Park, New York, at the age of 48.

On the periphery was poor, psychotic Horace Wells with his laughing gas. At his big moment in Massachusetts General Hospital it didn't work. The students, ever touchy on such matters, imagined he was making fools of them and booed. He came to a premature bad end by severing his femoral artery with a razor while in jail.

Mrs. MacQuitty has done a readable and conscientious book about all this. There are lots of attractive pictures, and a trendy foreword from Professor C. N. Barnard.

RICHARD GORDON.

"Lumbosacral Syringomyelia"

Acrodystrophic Neuropathy. By John D. Spillane, F.R.C.P., and Charles E. C. Wells, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 109 + vii; illustrated. 50s.) London : Oxford University Press. 1969.

Under the title *Acrodystrophic Neuropathy*, the authors describe a syndrome comprising a triad of clinical features—namely, indolent perforating ulcers on the soles of the feet, sensory loss beginning distally in the legs and at first selectively affecting pain and

temperature appreciation, and, thirdly, destruction of the bones of the feet. The early part of the book is historical, discussing the concept of "lumbosacral syringomyelia," which was initially considered to be the explanation, and the later realization that the syndrome is a manifestation of peripheral neuropathy, usually genetically determined. A review of the literature on this and related conditions indicates that the clinical picture is non-specific, as it is observed in several different disorders. This is borne out by the 16 patients from South Wales whom the authors have studied personally and whose case histories are given in detail. None the less, they feel that a descriptive term to embrace all cases of the syndrome of trophic ulcers, sensory neuropathy, and erosion of bone is clinically helpful.

This book provides an interesting historical survey and a comprehensive review of the reports that have been made on these uncommon but important cases, although the final appraisal is perhaps somewhat nihilistic. The statement "extensive biochemical investigations are unhelpful and unnecessary" is possibly applicable to routine clinical management, but is unlikely to lead to a further understanding of the condition. The discovery of metabolic defects in a number of hereditary neuropathies has been an exciting advance in recent years and should encourage the search for a metabolic disturbance in the many types of hereditary neuropathy that are so far unexplained.

P. K. THOMAS.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Brain Damage in Boxers. By A. H. Roberts. (Pp. 132. 30s.) London : Pitman. 1969.

Baby and Child Care. New British edition. By Dr. Benjamin Spock, B.A., M.D. (Pp. 619. 25s.) London : The Bodley Head. 1969.

Parasitic Protozoa. By J. R. Baker, D.Sc. (Pp. 176; illustrated. Cloth 33s., paper 14s.) London : Hutchinson University Library. 1969.

Operative Surgery. 2nd edition. Vol. 7. Plastic Surgery. Edited by R. J. V. Battle, M.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 231 + xi; illustrated. 125s.) London : Butterworths. 1969.

Biologically Active Amines Found in Man. By Franz Franzen and Kurt Eysell. (Pp. 244 + vii. 100s.) Oxford : Pergamon Press. 1969.

Tumours of Bone. By Wilfred Kark, F.R.C.S.E., F.R.A.C.S. (Pp. 149; illustrated. 40s.) Bristol : John Wright. 1969.

Basic Clinical Parasitology. 3rd edition. By Harold W. Brown, M.D. (Pp. 345 + ix; illustrated. 85s.) London : Butterworths. New York : Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1969.

Clayton's Electrotherapy and Actinotherapy. 6th edition. A Textbook for Student Physiotherapists. By Pauline M. Scott, M.C.S.P., Dip.T.P. (Pp. 366 + viii; illustrated. 40s.) London : Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1969.

Corneo-Plastic Surgery. Proceedings of the 2nd International Corneo-Plastic Conference held in London, July 1967. Edited by P. V. Rycroft, F.R.C.S., D.O. (Pp. 628 + xl; illustrated. 200s.) Oxford : Pergamon Press. 1969.

Progress in Nuclear Energy. Series XII. Vol. 2. Part 1. Health Physics. Edited by A. M. Francis Duhamel, C.E.A.Paris. (Pp. 761 + xi; illustrated. 200s.) Oxford : Pergamon Press. 1969.

General Hospital Diets : A Guide to the Cost of Feeding Patients and Staff. 4th edition. (Pp. 87. 13s. 6d.) London : King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. 1969.

Exercise in Water. Edited by M. H. Duffield, M.C.S.P., Dip.P.T. (Pp. 125 + ix; illustrated. 28s.) London : Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1969.

An Atlas of Haematological Cytology. By F. G. J. Hayhoe, F.R.C.P., and R. J. Flemans, A.I.S.T. (Pp. 320; illustrated. 60s.) London : Wolfe Medical Books. 1969.

A Textbook of Psychosexual Disorders. 2nd edition. By Clifford Allen, M.D., D.P.M. (Pp. 478 + viii. 70s.) London : Oxford University Press. 1969.

Personality Structure and Measurement. By Hans J. Eysenck, Ph.D., and Sybil B. G. Eysenck. (Pp. 365 + xiii; illustrated. 63s.) London : Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1969.

Basic Medical Radiation Physics. By Leonard Stanton, M.S., F.A.C.R.(Assoc.). (Pp. 644 + xii; illustrated. 110s.) London : Butterworths. 1969.

The Intersexual Disorders. By Christopher J. Dewhurst, F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.C.O.G., and Ronald R. Gordon, M.C., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 154 + vii; illustrated. 70s.) London : Baillière, Tindall & Cassell. 1969.

Ciba Foundation Symposium : Homeostatic Regulators. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Julie Knight. (Pp. 327 + viii; illustrated. 75s.) London : J. & A. Churchill. 1969.

Roman Medicine. By John Scarborough, M.A., Ph.D. (Pp. 238; illustrated. 50s.) London : Thames & Hudson. 1969.

Pathology Annual. Vol. 4. Edited by Sheldon C. Sommers, M.D. (Pp. 344 + x; illustrated. 115s.) London : Butterworths. 1969.

Eat Well and Live Longer. Cookery without Animal Fat. By Theodora Fitzgibbon. (Pp. 272. 30s.) London : J. M. Dent. 1969.

Introduction to Social Administration in Britain. By Muriel Brown. (Pp. 208. 11s.) London : Hutchinson University Library. 1969.

Research in Student Mental Health. By John Payne. (Pp. 31. 7s. 6d.) London : Society for Research into Higher Education. 1969.

Actinomycosis. By Marcell Bronner, D.M.D., and Max Bronner, D.M.D. (Pp. 228 + xii; illustrated. 84s.) Bristol : John Wright. 1969.

The Age Between. Adolescents in a Disturbed Society. By Derek Miller, M.D. (Pp. 172. 35s.) London : Cornmarket/Hutchinson. 1969.

"Away with All Pests." An English Surgeon in People's China. By Joshua S. Horn, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 192; illustrated. 35s.) London : Paul Hamlyn. 1969.

Ideas of Life and Matter. By Thomas S. Hall. Vols. 1 and 2. (Pp. 818. Two vols. 180s.) London : University of Chicago Press. 1969.

How to Adopt. Edited by Ruth Rudinger. (Pp. 143. 10s.) London : Consumers' Association. 1969.

Occupational and Medicative Hazards in Ophthalmology. Edited by J. Francois. (Pp. 722 + xvi; illustrated. 300s.) Basle : S. Karger. U.K. : Academic Press. 1969.