

caused, but not those in animals, are fully described, as is their treatment.

Dr. Willis has a liking for the macabre. The frontispiece is a picture of a casualty from the Peninsular War in opisthotonos, and the section on uterine infections opens by quoting a horrifying description of the death of a woman from obstructed labour. *Cl. welchii* septicæmia is the inevitable termination of this now almost unheard-of disaster, whereas its much more common occurrence after criminal abortion is determined by other factors. "Foamy" liver, due to gas formation in the organ which, apart from muscle, has the largest store of fermentable carbohydrate, is not mentioned. *Cl. welchii* food poisoning is fully described, and this organism is credited with producing three different forms of necrotizing enteritis. Are these really distinct? Catgut is only just mentioned as a source of postoperative tetanus, whereas it was a common one until statutory control of its sterilization was introduced in the early 'thirties. In connexion with infection from blank cartridges on Independence Day it might be useful to add that horsehair wads were responsible for this (pace the author's anxiety to exculpate the horse as an invariable tetanus carrier), and that a toy pistol firing such cartridges on sale in England years ago until banned produced fatal tetanus in numbers of its juvenile users. These are now matters of ancient history, and only the encyclopaedic character of this book, with liberal quotations from earlier writers, excuses any mention of them.

The whole profession, and bacteriologists in particular, should be grateful to the author for this tremendous compilation. It will take its place immediately as an accepted work of reference.

L. P. GARROD.

The Growing Process

Human Growth after Birth. By David Sinclair, D.Sc., F.R.C.S.E. (Pp. 180+x; illustrated. 28s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1969.

In this concise volume the author has collected from many sources valuable information on growth after birth. He deals with the nature of growth, growth in height and weight, growth of tissues and of systems. Indices of maturity, changes in shape and

posture, factors impairing growth, repair, disturbance of growth, and old age are all discussed, and graphs and sketches illustrate the different aspects described.

As the study of growth is becoming more common this book should be read not only by students of medicine but by a much wider audience, especially students of the biological science and even by those who are concerned with the growing child. It is not generally appreciated that while the muscular system increases its weight from 30–40 times from birth until maturity the increase in the nervous system is only fivefold.

This is an excellent introduction to the study of human growth from birth until death, which is "but an end to growing."

W. J. HAMILTON.

Science and Ethics

Medicine, Morals, and Man. Edited by Ernest Claxton, M.B., D.T.M.&H., and H. A. C. McKay, M.A., D.Sc.(Oxon.). (Pp. 184. 16s.) London: Blandford Press. 1969.

The compilation of this interesting little volume was begun after a successful get-together held at St. George's House, Windsor, in March 1968 of medical men, scientists, and theologians. The book comprises 15 essays touching on a wide range of topics of human concern, but all emphasizing the need to treat patients as people, not as things. This is, or ought to be, a truism to all members of the profession, but, as medical specialisms increase in number and decrease in range of interest it is a truism of which we need constantly to be reminded. The solution will come, probably, through the increasing collaborative activities of specialists. In emphasizing the social nature of both man and medicine the book performs a valuable service.

Inevitably there is variation in quality. Some of the chapters are very good indeed. And at least wherever a proselytizing note creeps in it does so unashamedly (as in the "plugs" for Moral Re-armament), and the reader can take evasive action.

Ethical problems in medicine, and in society generally, are going to be widely discussed in the years to come. It is good to see so many distinguished people discussing

them now, and I hope the book will have a wide circulation.

BERNARD TOWERS.

Versatile Renaissance Physician

Doctor Cardano: Physician Extraordinary. By Alan Wykes. (Pp. 187+xii; illustrated. 45s.) London: Frederick Muller. 1969.

The thought of an Italian professor of medicine urgently summoned to travel over icy Alpine passes and through hostile France to give advice and succour to the most important Scotsman of his time makes one marvel at the hardiness and zeal of our professional predecessors. On the successful completion of his mission he rode south from Edinburgh to London mounted on an "ambling good tempered horse" surrounded by servants, and accompanied all the way by a troop of official cavalry appointed to guard the treasure chests of gold coin and ornaments earned in Scotland as fees and gifts from his archiepiscopal patient and many others. His call to London was to advise on the health and horoscope of the English King Edward VI.

This must have been the zenith of the career of Gerolamo Cardano (1501–76), mathematician extraordinary, geonomist and palmist, horoscopist, astrologer, inventor, and physician. The story of this doctor of international fame has just been retold by Alan Wykes in a small, well-illustrated, and thoroughly documented book.

The Renaissance produced many extraordinary characters in Northern Italy, but none stranger than Cardano, who first achieved fame by scientific calculation of the odds in gambling games, and whose name is still remembered in the Cardan shaft of the motor car differential. Wykes paints a convincing picture of life in the Po valley with its ducal rivalries and ever-present arthropod-borne scourges—plague, typhus, and malaria—and of the shattering effect of the arrival, in addition to the prevalent epidemic pestilences, of syphilis freshly imported from the New World. Cardano is surely worthy of rescue from obscurity, and this book, which deals with his rises and falls and with historic quarrels with fellow mathematicians, is well worth the price asked.

GEORGE R. MCROBERT.

Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Occupational and Environmental Cancers of the Urinary System. By W. C. Hueper. (Pp. 465+xix; illustrated. 180s.) London: Yale University Press. 1969.

Pharmacological, Convulsive, and Other Somatic Treatments in Psychiatry. By Lothar B. Kalinowsky, M.D., and Hans Hippus, M.D. (Pp. 470+xi. \$14.75.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1969.

Hypothalamus and Thalamus: Experimental Documentation. 2nd edition. By W. R. Hess. (Pp. 77+vi; illustrated. DM. 54.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1969.

Coronary Heart Disease: Epidemiology and Prevention. By N. P. Saheta, M.R.C.P. (Pp. 294+xi; illustrated.) Bombay: Kothari Book Depot. 1969.

Malnutrition is a Problem of Ecology. Edited by Paul Gyorgy and O. L. Kline. (Pp. 224+xii. 56s.) Basle: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.

Hormonal Contraception. By Jurgen Haller, M.D. (Pp. 288; illustrated. \$12.) Los Altos, California: Geron-X. 1969.

Human Neuroanatomy. 6th edition. By Raymond C. Truex, Ph.D., and Malcolm B. Carpenter, M.D. (Pp. 673+xiv; illustrated. 150s.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1969.

Monographs on Atherosclerosis: Tissue Cultures. By O. J. Pollak, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 143+xii; illustrated. 82s.) Basle: S. Karger. U.K.: Academic Press. 1969.

Bing's Local Diagnosis in Neurological Diseases. 15th edition. By Webb Haymaker, M.D. (Pp. 600+xiii; illustrated. 292s.) London: Henry Kimpton. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1969.

The Natural History of Acute Cerebrovascular Disease. A Retrospective Study of 769 Patients. By Jørgen Marquardsen. (Pp. 192. D. Kr. 50.) Copenhagen: Munksgaard. 1969.

Atlas of Obstetric Technic. 2nd edition. By J. Robert Willson, M.D. (Pp. 313+vii; illustrated. 178s.) London: Henry Kimpton. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby. 1969.