

Though this book is aimed at a selected group of readers it deserves to be read by a much wider audience. Clinical neurologists will find much of value in it, and medical students should read and enjoy it after they have completed their courses in neuro-anatomy and physiology.

A. G. M. WEDDELL.

## Biomedical Advances

**The Scientific Basis of Medicine Annual Reviews 1970.** British Postgraduate Medical Federation. (Pp. 306; 50s.) Athlone Press. 1970.

Anyone requiring a concrete example of that current cliché, the explosion of science, should read Sir Ernst Chain's inaugural lecture on the biochemist's approach to medical research in the present volume. But the spin-off from scientific advance does not inevitably improve the lot of suffering people. As the lecturer pointed out, many of the basic concepts of disease and advances in therapy were established before the days of sophisticated biochemical machinery, and medicine can still give a lead if "it keeps close to, and allows itself to be inspired, guided and rejuvenated by the inexhaustive reservoir of new observations in the vast realm of biology. . ."

This could serve as an invitation to read the other 15 lectures in the book since in their different ways they illustrate just that point. Some are highly topical—rubella (J. A. Dudgeon), the long-acting thyroid stimulator (D. S. Munro), prostaglandins (E. W. Horton), vitamin D deficiency after partial gastrectomy (G. R. Thompson), and dopamine in relation to Parkinsonism (Marthe Vogt). Others will be read, as they were by an ignorant reviewer, out of curiosity—just how does a newborn baby regulate its body temperature (J. W. Scopes), or how does the cochlea act as a transducer (S. K. Bosher)? Whatever the reason they are all short, readable, and authoritative, and the book as a whole can be guaranteed to provide something in the way of refreshment and inspiration for even the most jaded polymath.

A. PATON.

## Testicular Tumours

**Tumours of the Testicle.** John P. Blandy, F.R.C.S. *et al.* (Pp. 199; 42s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Arising from an inquiry into the results of surgery and radiotherapy in the treatment of malignant tumours, this little book sets out to collect and criticize a wide range of information on this and related aspects of testicular neoplasia. A great deal has been written in recent years on various facets of the disease, and it is now particularly opportune that this material should be collected and

analysed as a whole.

After a brief historical introduction the aetiology, classification, and pathology are reviewed with special reference to the work of the Testicular Tumour Panel and Registry in Great Britain. The clinical features and differential diagnosis are discussed in a lucid and practical manner, and suggestions made for appropriate investigation and staging so that treatment can be rationally planned. The latter, incorporating surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy, is considered in some detail against the background of a large series of cases treated at the London Hospital, and some cogent comments are made on the value of lymphangiography and the place of radical lymph-node dissection.

Emphasis is placed throughout on the importance of close co-operation between the surgeon, radiotherapist, and pathologist, and there can be no doubt that the book will particularly appeal to those engaged in these fields as well as to clinicians.

J. D. FERGUSON.

## "Odd Looking" Neonates

**Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation: Genetic, Embryologic and Clinical Aspects.** Vol. 7. David W. Smith, M.D. (Pp. 368; 136s.) W. B. Saunders. 1970.

This book, which is the seventh volume in the *Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics* series, is a gem. It is beautifully produced and contains more than 600 superb illustrations, including four pages in colour, giving a lucid and helpful description of system development in the embryo and the fetus.

The main theme is that all malformations are the result of inborn errors of morphogenesis. The subject is considered in two categories: the single primary anomaly with resultant multiple defects, and multiple primary defects (dysmorphic syndromes). The latter are grouped into chromosomal abnormalities, dwarfism with associated defects, senile-like appearances, joint dysplasia, muscular and neurological disorders with other defects, predominantly facial defects, oro-facial-digital syndromes, genital anomalies, deafness, hamartomas, ectodermal dysplasia, skeletal and connective disorders, and individual anomalies with features of particular syndromes. Succinct clinical descriptions and unusually good photographs of all these conditions hold the reader's interest throughout. The chapters on morphogenesis and genetics and genetic counselling are both excellent, and there is a final chapter, which is equally good, on minor malformations and their relationship to more serious problems. The book ends with a series of useful appendices and a comprehensive index.

Paediatricians everywhere, obstetricians,

and all who have to deal with newborn infants will appreciate the help and pleasure they will derive from reading this monograph. Anyone faced with an "odd looking" newborn infant will almost certainly be able to find a picture to fit, together with details of the abnormalities likely, the natural history, aetiology, and useful comments. The author is to be congratulated on this outstanding contribution to paediatric literature.

WILFRID GAISFORD.

## Some Mediaeval Medicine

**The Medical Writings of Moses Maimonides.** Vol. 3. *Treatise on Haemorrhoids.* Medical Answers (*Responsa*). Translated and Edited by Fred Rosner, M.D., and Sussman Muntner, M.D. (Pp. 79; 50s.) Blackwell. 1970.

Chauvinistic feelings must never colour the historian's analysis of a man's achievement. Yet this has often happened in the history of medicine, and the stature of individuals such as Paracelsus, John Hunter, William Harvey, and Pasteur has at times been uncritically increased. This is also the case with Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (1135-1204), better known in the western world as Maimonides. He was an outstanding philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, and theologian, but whether his contribution to medicine per se as judged by that of his contemporaries and predecessors was of a high order is doubtful. Nevertheless, he was obviously an excellent physician, and his advice on therapy was always moderate and sound when contrasted with later excesses.

This book presents translations of two of his medical works. The first, *Treatise on Haemorrhoids*, appears in English for the first time and deals at length with non-surgical, especially dietary, therapy of the condition. The second, *Medical Answers (Responsa)*, contains advice on personal health and hygiene relating to eating, drinking, bathing, sleep, and so forth. Again his suggestions are reasonable and they reflect wide medical knowledge and experience. Each book is introduced, annotated, and analysed, and the translation reads easily.

Clearly Maimonides was following in the footsteps of the Greek, Roman, and Arabic physicians who had preceded him, and his medical work, unlike for example his multi-volumed *Code*, is therefore not noted for its originality. He is, however, an important figure in mediaeval medicine, and it is hoped that Drs. Rosner and Muntner will achieve their plan of editing all his works. Their present contribution will be of greatest appeal to those interested in the history of medicine, but the general reader may also be intrigued by enlightened medical counsel from a historical period usually castigated as barbaric.

EDWIN CLARKE.

## Books Received

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later.*

**Hepatic Failure.** Henry Brown, A.B., M.D. (Pp. 137; \$10.50.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**Physical Therapy Procedures: Selected Techniques.** Ann H. Downer, B.A., M.A., L.P.T. (Pp. 174; \$7.95.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

**Pathology Annual 1970.** Vol. 5. Ed. Sheldon C. Sommers, M.D. (Pp. 436; 140s.) Butterworths. 1970.

**The Psychology of Suicide.** Edwin S. Shneidman, Ph.D. *et al.* (Pp. 719; \$15.00.) Science House Inc. 1970.

**Pathology and Gynecology and Obstetrics.** C. Gompel, M.D., F.I.A.C. and S. G. Silverberg,

M.D. (Pp. 550; 350s.) J. B. Lippincott. 1970. U.K.: Blackwell.

**How Human Life Begins.** J. J. Head, M.A., Ph.D., B.Sc., A.R.C.S. (Pp. 46; 30s. Board. 21s. Paperback.) John Murray. 1970.

**Violence and the Brain.** Vernon H. Mark, M.D. and Frank R. Ervin, M.D. (Pp. 170; \$6.95.) Harper & Row. 1970.