

will recognize that a number of sections have reappeared virtually unaltered. This is not an adverse criticism of a book designed to teach the fundamentals of blood group serology. The important basic principles have changed little over the last few years, though research in this field is advancing at an ever-increasing rate. Some sections have been expanded and new ones added. New information has been provided on the automation of blood grouping, the assay of factor VIII, intrauterine transfusion, the therapeutic administration of anti-D immunoglobulin, serum fractionation, and on most of the blood-group systems including serum allotypes. The application of blood groups to forensic medicine is particularly well discussed, one of the authors being a leading expert in this field.

Some errors present in the previous edition have been taken on into the new one. One end paper, illustrating stages in the production of ABH and Lewis blood group substances, contains a statement that O_h Le (a-b-) individuals are rare whereas O_h Le (a+) persons are extremely rare. The frequencies of these two phenotypes should be interchanged.

Advanced readers who need detailed information on recent discoveries will need to look elsewhere to supplement what is provided here, but those working in a routine laboratory will find that it meets almost all their needs.

K. L. G. GOLDSMITH.

Medicine in Africa

The Early History of Scientific Medicine in Uganda. W. D. Foster, M.D., M.C.Path. (Pp. 112; 15s. 6d.) East African Literature Bureau. 1970.

The serious study of the diseases of Uganda began during the lifetime of still surviving members of our profession. Although the biographers of Sir Albert Cook and others

have written histories which partially cover the ground, Dr. W. D. Foster of King's College Hospital, London, who spent four years as a professor in Kampala, has produced a most readable and inexpensive paperback history, which will not only add to his established reputation as a medical historian but will remind us of the great part played by the missionaries of the C.M.S. in opening up Africa, of the vital influence of a handful of R.A.M.C. officers—notably Bruce—and of the remarkable tale of Aldo Castellani (still with us), of the trypanosome, and of sleeping sickness. The early beneficence of Henry Wellcome is recorded.

This valuable study indicates the whereabouts of source material still to be quarried.

GEORGE R. McROBERT.

Social Aspects of Child Care

Foster Care: Theory and Practice. V. George. (Pp. 251; 60s.) Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1970.

The author, who is a lecturer in applied social science at Nottingham University, writes not only as a research worker in various aspects of child care, but also from wide experience in the field. Finding the literature on foster care in this country to be still very scanty he set out to discover the prevailing relationship between theory and practice. His investigations were concentrated on three local authorities, two urban and one rural, which he calls Largetown, Smalltown, and County. His report, which includes a large number of statistical tables, provides the most complete and objective study yet available of British theory and practice relating to the fostering of children in public care.

The book is divided into four main sections, starting with a historical review of the principles and issues of foster care in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The second and third sections deal with present concepts and actualities regarding the role, recruitment, and assessment of foster parents, and the placement and supervision of foster children. The final section analyses the outcome of the cases studied, offering conclusions and recommendations.

While paying tribute to the efforts of field workers and the considerable advances in understanding of the problems of deprived children and the greatly improved training of staff, the author notes that there is still a wide gap between theory and practice, mainly owing to the urgency of taking into care, and the shortage of suitable foster homes. Two-thirds of the children admitted are under 5 years and, despite the well-known disadvantages of placement of such young deprived children in families with their own children of similar age and sex, such "dumplings" are still frequent. Three-fifths of the children received have siblings, but families are still broken up and the author was disturbed to find that even trained and experienced child care officers did not always ensure that the separate members knew where their siblings were from the outset, or subsequently make suitable arrangements for keeping them in touch with each other. He was particularly concerned to find that less use was made in 1968 of expert psychiatric and psychological advice than in 1961.

The whole book reflects the author's objective but understanding approach, and although it requires close reading, it merits careful study by all who are concerned with social aspects of child care. A useful reading list is provided, but many of the essential footnote references are not dated. This is a disadvantage which should be remedied in any future edition.

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Books Received

Books noticed here may be reviewed later.

Anatomical Techniques. 2nd edn. D. H. Tompsett, Ph.D. (Pp. 283; 100s.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

Contraception and Sexual Life: A Therapeutic Approach. L. P. D. Tunnadine, M.B. (Pp. 80; 25s. Board. 12s. Paperback.) Tavistock Publications. 1970.

Kids, Brains and Learning: What Goes Wrong—Prevention and Treatment. Ray C. Wunderlich, M.D. (Pp. 534; \$10.50. Cloth. \$7.50. Paperback.) Johnny Reads Inc. 1970.

Advances in Drug Research. Vol. 5. Ed. N. J. Harper and Alma B. Simmonds. (Pp. 278; 90s.) Academic Press. 1970.

Drug Problems and Their Management. Derek Richter, M.R.C.P. (Pp. 42; 4s.) Association for the Prevention of Addiction. 1970.

The Medical Annual. 1970. A Year Book of Treatment with a Practitioners' Index. Ed. Sir Ronald Bodley Scott, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.P. and R. Milnes Walker, C.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 586; 63s.) John Wright. 1970.

The Innervation of the Vertebrate Heart. Ed. Edwin F. Hirsch, M.D. (Pp. 210; \$16.50.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Molecular Basis of Odor. John E. Amoore. (Pp. 200; \$16.50.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Protein Sequence Determination: Methods and Techniques. S. Blackburn, Ph.D. (Pp. 292; \$16.75.) Marcel Dekker. 1970.

Short-Term Changes in Neural Activity and Behaviour. A Conference Sponsored by King's College Research Centre Cambridge. Ed. Gabriel Horn, M.D., and Robert A. Hinde. (Pp. 628; 208s.) Cambridge University Press. 1970.

Atlas of Descriptive Histology. 2nd edn. Edward J. Reith, Ph.D. and Michael H. Ross, Ph.D. (Pp. 250; \$11.50.) Harper & Row. 1970.

Surgeon in Nepal. Peter Pitt, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 225; 50s.) John Murray. 1970.

Life Assurance Medicine. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Life Assurance Medicine London 1970. Ed. R. D. C. Brackenridge, M.D. (Pp. 250; 60s.) Pitman. 1970.

Advances in Steroid Biochemistry and Pharmacology. Ed. M. H. Briggs. (Pp. 517; 150s.) Academic Press. 1970.

Practical Neurology. 2nd edn. W. B. Matthews, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 267; 50s.) Blackwell. 1970.

Global Systems Dynamics: International Symposium Charlottesville, Va. 1969. Ed. E. O. Attinger. (Pp. 354; 156s.) S. Karger. 1970.

Advances in the Study of the Prostate: At the Royal Society of Medicine London 1969. Ed. D. C. Williams, Ph.D., et al. (Pp. 133; 50s.) Heinemann. 1970.

Inhalation Therapy Procedure Manual. 2nd edn. T. J. DeKornfeld, M.D. and Don. E. Gilbert, A.R.I.T. (Pp. 102; \$7.25.) Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Professional Organisations in the Commonwealth. Ed. Sir James Currie, K.B.E., C.M.G. (Pp. 511; 90s.) Hutchinson. 1970.

Introduction to the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System. 2nd edn. David Bowsher, M.D. (Pp. 185; 20s.) Blackwell. 1970.

Corticosteroids in the Treatment of Shock. Ed. William Schumer, M.D. and Lloyd M. Nyhus, M.D. (Pp. 163; \$10.00.) University of Illinois Press. 1970.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Causes of Sudden Death in Infants. Ed. Abraham B. Bergman, M.D. et al. (Pp. 248; 95s.) University of Washington Press. 1970.

Drug Dependence. Ed. Robert T. Harris, Ph.D. et al. (Pp. 342; 95s.) University of Texas Press. 1970.