

and can only be judged in isolation. Combined together as separate chapters in this book they make a strange potpourri. It is stated in the preface that the book contains something for all specialists. Unfortunately, the corollary is also true that there is not very much for anybody. There is an obvious need for a widely published permanent record of the lectures so that they may take their place in the literature, and together they will form an historical commen-

tary on contemporary interests. But who is to buy this book to read it from cover to cover? Twenty chapters include such diverse titles as "The present status of fluoridation," "The biochemical pharmacology of tolerance to opioid analgesics," "The ageing eye," and "Recent advances in the understanding of the muscle spindle." The combined summaries might be required reading for some nightmare postgraduate cocktail party.

The need to keep on a general front is

accepted in the age of increasing specialization, but who in active practice has time enough or is sufficiently motivated to encompass more than one or two of these? In any case, a serious effort to keep up must be much more systematic than awaiting the inevitably random offerings of this high-powered medical "Readers' Digest."

M. J. CHAMBERLAIN

## Advice on Inheritance

**Genetic Counselling.** Alan Curruth Stevenson, F.R.C.P., and B. C. Clare Davison, M.D. (Pp. 355; £2.75.) Heinemann. 1970.

The purpose of this book is primarily to help general practitioners, paediatricians, and other clinical specialists to give genetic advice to patients and their families. The authors do not think it important which doctor explains the advice, but do feel that the counsellor should be medically qualified—mainly because exact diagnosis is an essential prerequisite. The book should certainly help the family doctor who wishes to include genetic counselling within his framework of family care (and who is better placed to give this advice?). But a word of warning to any reader: if not already cognisant of the geneticist's jargon, work through the early explanatory chapters first, otherwise the distinction between mutant and segregant heterozygote—and much else of potential value—will be missed.

The section of the book accorded the most thorough treatment is that on risk estimates, incorporating the concept of prior and posterior probabilities and methods of combining pedigree and biochemical information.

The theoretical considerations in these chapters and appendices are designed rather for the medical geneticist—others may find the detail irksome. For instance, there are 40 pages devoted to counselling in X-linked traits. In contrast, the practice—one might say the art—of counselling is allocated a meagre three pages. This is sad in view of the considerable experience these authors have.

In the clinical section, they cover every condition likely to be met in the average practice, and a good few which never will. (But one subject a family doctor might well be asked about is not mentioned—presumably because of its nonsignificance—that is, the inheritance of skin colour.) One applauds their efforts to give a single risk figure whenever possible; but the recurrence risks of 1 in 10 and 1 in 15 after sporadic cases of tuberous sclerosis and osteogenesis imperfecta respectively are perhaps rather gloomy. The value of illustration is exemplified on page 216; one immediately identifies this particular variant of Treacher Collins with families in one's own experience. More photographic illustrations would have been welcome.

Some subjects are particularly well dis-

cussed—for example, cleft lip and palate—and there are few statements with which to quarrel. One is that it is the simple imperforate anus—probably "covered anus" is meant here—that may include an X-linked form. Again, on page 229, there is confusion in the polycystic kidney section, and in the "familial form" it is the enlarged kidneys which may obstruct labour; the cysts are uniformly small. It would be nice to see more encouragement for the application of new techniques in counselling. For instance, one would surely discuss amniocentesis with a D/G translocate mother, if she very much wanted her own child, as well as assessing risk figures. The possibility is mentioned later, on page 292, but not with any enthusiasm.

This informative account is written by physicians with much practice in giving advice on genetics. They anticipate the difficulties and offer solutions from their own experience, and have gone to considerable trouble to ensure the accuracy of the risk figures. It is a book which can safely be recommended to those for whom it was designed.

HELEN BLYTH

## About Hallucinogenic Drugs

**Psychedelics: The Uses and Implications of Hallucinogenic Drugs.** Ed. Bernard Aaronson and Humphrey Osmond. (Pp. 512; £3.15.) The Hogarth Press. 1971.

This is unquestionably, as the publisher claims, a wide ranging and serious book. Written primarily for the layman by a distinguished team of transatlantic authors, it contains fascinating accounts of the psychedelic experience itself, and of its relationship to different societies, to religion, to mental order and disorder, and even to its "non-drug analogues"—hypnosis and meditation.

The chapter on therapeutic applications ranges from individual and group psychotherapy, through alcoholism, to concepts of death and architectural design. Wide rang-

ing indeed, but some medical readers will no doubt be surprised to learn that "every scientist using psychedelic therapy with alcoholics found the same proportion of recoveries . . . about 50 per cent were able to remain sober or to drink much less" (page 361). The concluding chapters are in similarly approving vein. Three accounts of the current scene contain more criticism of society than of drug-taking as a means of opting out of it; and, as for the future, we are led to believe that psychedelics provide a chance—though "perhaps only a slender one"—for man to reform before it is too late.

There is no doubting the fascination of all this. The book is intensely thought-provoking on many of the most serious problems confronting us today. It should be widely

read, but only by those prepared to keep their critical wits about them. Gullible or unwary readers may find themselves being taken on a mind-boggling trip by guides who seem blissfully unaware that this form of transport may carry a greater risk of serious accidents en route than of arriving—at an uncertain destination.

This lack of critical appraisal and balance spoils an otherwise worthy enterprise, the first of a new series on the science of human behaviour. I hope later volumes will be better balanced. They may be equally broad and serious, but I doubt if any will be more readable—or more provoking.

GEORGE BIRDWOOD

## SELECTED NEW TITLES

**Regeneration of Liver and Kidney.** *New England Journal of Medicine* Medical Progress Series. Nancy L. R. Bucher, M.D., and Ronald A. Malt, M.D. (Pp. 278; £6.) Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

**Laboratory Aids in Diagnosis.** Stephen H. Holt, M.D. (Pp. 185; £4.) Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

**J. W. Ballantyne M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin. F.R.S.E. 1861-1923.** Helen Russell, M.D. (Pp. 34; 50p.) The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. 1971.

**Sjögren's Syndrome.** Vol. 2 In the series Major Problems in Internal Medicine. Martin A. Shearn, M.D. (Pp. 262; £4.90.) W. B. Saunders. 1971.

**Clinical Laboratory Statistics.** Roy N. Barnett, M.D. (Pp. 197; £7.) Churchill Livingstone. 1971.

## MEDICAL NEWS

### Southampton Medical School

The medical school of Southampton University was formally opened on 20 October by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services. Lord Rosenheim, P.R.C.P., gave the inaugural address on the subject of "Unity in Diversity". He stressed the importance of preventing specialization spreading into the undergraduate period and of helping future doctors to appreciate the role of medicine in society. "The construction of society, the concept of team care, and modern ethical problems," said Lord Rosenheim, "must be presented to the student as essential background material to the effective practice of medicine." He warmly welcomed the close links that students in Southampton would have with the community—"one of the many advantages of being able to use regional facilities for university education." Reviewing the medical discoveries made in his own lifetime, Lord Rosenheim said that he took an optimistic view and believed that research would continue to lead to new and completely unexpected developments. The stimulus provided by an atmosphere of research was one of the major reasons for "embedding" a medical school in a university.

### Chair of Genetics

Dr. Stuart William Glover has been appointed to the chair of genetics at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Dr. Glover was born in December 1928 and graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in 1953. He was then awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, which he held at the Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor. He returned to Trinity College in 1955, where he held an Irish M.R.C. Fellowship, and proceeded to the degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. in 1956. Since 1957 he has been on the staff of the Medical Research Council working with Dr. (now Professor) W. Hayes until 1968 at Hammettsmith and since 1968 at Edinburgh in the department of molecular biology.

## COMING EVENTS

**Royal College of Physicians of London.**—Growing points in medicine, "Acute and Chronic Renal Failure," 8 November, 2 p.m. For details see advertisement on page xxii

**Second "Epidemiology Today" Course.**—10-12 November, 1971, at The General Infirmary at Leeds. Details from Dr. K. Schwarz, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, 32 Hyde Terrace, Leeds, LS2 9LN. (Tel. Leeds 36171, extn. 72.)

**B.M.A. (South Lancs and East Cheshire Branch).**—Symposium, "Surgical Emergencies at Home and in Hospital," 14 November, Cheadle Royal Hospital. Details from the honorary secretary of the branch, B.M.A., Boyd House, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester M14 5RH.

**"Smoking in Hospital."**—Conference, 16 November, Hospital Centre, London W.1, organized jointly by Action on Smoking and Health Ltd. and King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. Those wishing their work on the problem to be reported and others requesting details should contact Dr. J. Dunwoody, director-general, A.S.H. Ltd., 11 St. Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB. (Tel. 01-935 7695.)

**Clinical Immunology Workshop.**—In honour of Professor Jan Waldenström, 18-20 November, for general physicians and senior registrars. Details from Dr. D. Geraint James, Royal Northern Hospital, London N7 6LD. (Tel. 01-272 7777, extn. 218.)

**National Association of Clinical Tutors.**—Second annual meeting, 24 November, 10 a.m., Royal College of Physicians of London. The programme includes a conference on "The Relationship between Academic Centres and Pharmaceutical Houses." Details from Dr. P. C. Farrant, Postgraduate Study Centre, Dartford District Hospital, Joyce Green, Dartford, Kent DA1 5PL. (Tel. Dartford 23231, extn. 13.)

**Whipps Cross Medical Centre.**—Intensive Course for General Practitioners 22 to 26 November, 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Details from Dr. John C. Turner, 33 Chadwick Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1NE.

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

At a meeting of the council held on 14 October Dr. Joel W. Baker of Washington, D.C., U.S.A. was admitted to the honorary Fellowship.

Professor L. P. le Quesne of London was admitted as a member of the court of examiners and Dr. I. C. Geddes of Liverpool was admitted as a member of the board of examiners in anaesthetics.

Diplomas of Fellowship were granted to B. G. R. de Silva, L. M. Perera, A. H. Sheriff Deen.

Diplomas of Fellowship in the Faculty of Anaesthetists were granted to G. G. Pollock, L. H. Grove, O. Marrack, Patricia A. Steane, D. R. F. Tillett, Ann C. McAra, P. F. Tidnam, Joanna M. Guy, J. M. Newbery, F. L. Barton, A. R. Evans, J. J. K. Chan, R. D. Latimer, K. B. J. Beswick, C. J. Shannon, W. Bond-Taylor, M. J. Lindop, A. K. Nicola, C. J. Pemberton, P. A. Southern, Diana E. Latham, Patricia A. Taylor, P. D. Challen, Jennifer Coulson, Ann Ferguson, G. M. Hall, G. S. Ingram, M. J. Lancaster, R. J. Lenz, A. D. Simcock, Elizabeth E. Sykes, J. H. Williams, Jennifer M. Edwards, R. S. Narang, M. A. Qureshi, Josephine C. Bevan, D. H. Wallace, J. M. France, J. J. O'Donnell, G. C. Ray, Y. E. Angole, T. D. Biswas, M. P. Shenoy, K. K. Dutt, P. H. Balkrishnan, Valerie J. Betham, I. Williams, F. A. Brough, A. S. Chowdhary, N. K. Mathur, Sheila Currie, S. K. Debnath, J. A. Duncan, R. J. Eltringham, J. P. Keaney, T. W. Ogg, Usha Sheorey, Barbara A. Baird, G. T. Bell, H. Dervos, L. R. Dougan, Jean C. McMillan, A. K. Sen, Jill D. Walton, Patricia Barry, Imelda G. Bourke, R. S. Bruce, S. A. Carvin, Lorna M. Mendonca, Mary M. Meurer, Niranjana P. Patel, W. S. Rehfish, H. Z. Su, J. S. Thomas, Jane S. Willoughby, Frances C. Arrow, H. W. Bauld, D. A. Child, D. C. W. Chung, T. K. Conningridge, D. G. Dalrymple, R. Edwards, B. T. Finucane, T. J. Gilbert, I. C. Keith, Rosemary G. Macdonald, I. S. Milne, Valerie M. J. Muir, K. R. Murrin, M. Pabari, D. Reid, S. L. Snowdon, Sheena D. Wyse, A. C. Wainwright, Janine T. Rodrigues, S. Gunawardena, P. L. Misra, N. Poopalasingham.

Diplomas of Membership were granted to Jacqueline C. Hubbard, M. S. Iqbal, Carol McGuinness, J. D. Osborn, M. Pollard, S. H. A. Razvi, G. J. R. Richardson, C. J. Sanderson, N. Satyu.

## SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

For attending lectures marked \* a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

### Monday, 1 November

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—4.30 p.m., Dr. D. Porter: Epidermal Cell Kinetics.  
**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—4 p.m., Dr. F. Dudley Hart: Treatment of Pain at Night.  
**SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.**—At Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, 6.30 p.m., Society of Chemical Industry Medallist Address by Dr. D. W. Kent-Jones: Modern Food and Food Additives.

### Tuesday, 2 November

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—4.30 p.m., Dr. P. A. Riley: The Epidermal Melanocyte Unit.  
**INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.**—At Chelsea Hospital for Women, 11.15 a.m., discussion. Mr. C. A. Simmons: Investigation of Urinary Incontinence. (Admission by ticket only,

obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.3.)

**ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.**—5 p.m., Dr. J. M. Cameron: The Battered Baby Syndrome.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—6 p.m., Dr. M. J. T. Peaston: Parenteral Nutrition, the present position.

**SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.**—5.30 p.m., Sydenham lecture by Lord Brock: John Keats's Last Illness.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.**—5 p.m., Dr. D. A. Brewerton: The Rheumatoid Hand.

**WILKINSON LECTURE.**—At Institute of Dental Surgery, London W.C.1, 5 p.m., Sir Brian Windeyer: Medical Education in London—Backwards, Forwards or Sideways?

### Wednesday, 3 November

**ASSURANCE MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—At the House of the Medical Society of London, 5 p.m. discussion, Dr. R. D. C. Brackenridge, Mr. A. J. Steeds: The Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Life Assurance Medicine, 1970.

**BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE.**—7.45 p.m. Mr. J. Clayton: The Press—Instant Expertise.

**DUNDEE UNIVERSITY.**—5 p.m., Professor A. S. Douglas: Current Concepts on Thrombosis.

**INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.**—5 p.m., Dr. B. E. Marshall (Philadelphia): The Lung in Shock States.

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.**—6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sandoz Series of Advanced Lectures on Disturbed Physiology, Dr. P. A. Merton: Control of Voluntary Movements. Dr. Peter Nathan: The Behaviour of the Divided Spinal Cord.

**INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.**—At Queen Charlotte's Hospital, 3 p.m., discussion, Dr. Eva Alberman: Perinatal Mortality. (A mission by ticket only, obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.3.)

**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. A. J. Coppen: Biochemical Factors in the Affective Disorders.

**INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.**—5 p.m., Mr. A. R. C. Higham: Investigation of Haematuria.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Haworth memorial lecture by Mr. A. J. Alment: A Royal College in the 1970s.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.**—5.15 p.m., Dr. D. Holdsworth: The Gut and Oral Glucose Tolerance.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—2 p.m., Dr. R. V. Short: Biology of the Male Sex Hormone.

### Thursday, 4 November

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—5.15 p.m. Dr. N. Oakley: Carbohydrate Metabolism in Diabetic Mother and her Fetus.

**WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—5.15 p.m., Dr. J. F. Stokes: clinicopathological conference.

### Friday, 5 November

**NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL.**—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5 p.m., St. Cyres lecture by Dr. K. E. Jefferson: The Skeleton in Heart Disease.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—11 a.m., Professor J. Swinney: Management of Bladder Cancer.

**UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.**—Sandoz Foundation Lecture by Dr. Richard P. Michael: Communication and Sexual Status among Primates.

## CORRECTIONS

### Better Specimens from the Female Genital Tract

In the letter by Dr. S. Selwyn and Dr. J. K. Oates (16 October, p. 170) the sixth line should have read "... as well as the special difficulties posed by the increasing incidence of non-specific urethritis."

### Notice to Authors

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