

Studying Disease Patterns

Epidemiology: Principles and Methods. Brian MacMahon, M.D., D.P.H., and Thomas F. Pugh, M.D. M.P.H. (Pp. 376; £4.75.) J. & A. Churchill. 1971.

This is a new edition of a text which first appeared ten years ago. Although in broad outline the book is unchanged, developments in epidemiological techniques and a widening field of interest have forced a radical revision in detail. At the same time a subtle change in style makes for easier reading and readier comprehension. The traditional introduction through the classic studies of Snow, Farr, and Lind, for example, is retained together with the standard methods of using measurement and comparison of the frequency of disease in different groups of

the population to unravel the web of causation. But there is more emphasis on recent developments—for example, studies of migrant groups and the statistical analysis of observed clustering of disease in time or space.

Chronic diseases, and especially cancer, now absorb attention; and methods such as the cohort analysis of mortality that were originally used to study tuberculosis are shown to be equally appropriate in seeking environmental causes of Parkinsonism and peptic ulcer as well as cancer of the lung. There is a timely discussion of the distinction between deaths associated with and attributable to cigarette smoking and of the statistical aspects of the analysis and interpretation of results from both retrospective

and prospective studies.

A new section deals with the border areas between genetics and epidemiology. It covers, for example, the use of twin studies to separate the influence on disease of genetic endowment and environmental factors and the relation of birth order and parental age to mongolism. Inevitably, the choice of subjects reflect the work and interest of the authors. There is, for example, little about the developments in the techniques of clinical surveys of the prevalence of chronic disease. But such selective omissions in no way detract from the merit of an introduction to the subject which can be warmly commended to all students of preventive medicine.

D. D. REID

Heart and Circulation

Applied Cardiovascular Physiology. G. R. Kelman, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 274; £6.) Butterworths. 1971.

The author states in his preface that this monograph is intended to be a distillate of the vast literature on the subject, directed primarily at anaesthetists.

Professor Kelman has certainly succeeded in compressing a great deal of information into a book of very practical size. He has dealt with the main features of the subject with competence and lucidity, and has pro-

duced a useful review. The arrangement of the contents is a little uneven, and the chapter on the regulation of cardiac output might with advantage have followed or been included in the chapter on the heart. The section on electrocardiography is somewhat confused, and in nearly six pages devoted to the electrocardiograms only one paragraph mentions the precordial leads, which are dismissed as more empirical than the limb leads. There is no mention of the projection of vector forces of the horizontal plane. The book is excellently illustrated by clear line

drawings and tables. The text is clear, and the selected bibliography helpful. There is an appendix on "the derivations of parabolic velocity profile under conditions of laminar flow," and an adequate index.

This monograph will certainly be of value to anaesthetists and all who are interested in the circulation. It is a useful summary of work in a very large field and can be recommended as a valuable review of a very complex subject.

J. F. GOODWIN

Period Piece

Black's Medical Dictionary. 29th edn. William A. R. Thomson, M.D. (Pp. 1014; £2.75.) Adam & Charles Black. 1971.

Black's Medical Dictionary sets out to be something more than a technical dictionary or everyman's home doctor. It contains opinions and comment in addition to definitions of medical terms, and some subjects warrant short articles including descriptions of treatment. Unfortunately there are great pitfalls for anyone seeking to achieve this praiseworthy end. Opinion may be ill informed and the difficulty in keeping up with therapeutic advances is bad enough even for the practising clinician. It is with reluctance that a believer in natural selection questions the fitness of a work now appearing in its 29th edition, but in spite of claims of ruthless revising and updating the overall impression this book gives is that of a charming period piece.

We read of the need to nurse cases of rheumatic fever between blankets (never sheets), wearing gannet jackets with separate front and back joined only by shoulder tapes. Scarlet fever rates six whole

columns of pre-penicillin orthodoxy. The section on infectious diseases including quarantine and disinfection might stir the memories of the most senior general practitioners still in practice, but they would not be likely to follow its advice. There are instructions on the application of mustard plasters and laudanum fomentations.

The style is often quaint and prudish, there is a high moral tone throughout. The desirability of going straight from one's bed to plunge into a cold bath is stressed. The usefulness of cantharides as a vesicant is discussed, but the popular belief in it as an aphrodisiac is not mentioned. I was relieved to find that masturbation is regarded as normal, but characteristically it is described only very cryptically, and that in Latin. In a section on drug addiction, which is in many ways admirable and informative, there is the very dubious assertion that much current industrial discontent is due to "a generation of tranquilised workers." Do the bosses stick to gin and tonic?

Delightful but archaic terms such as alpenstich, cyanche, merycisin, and saleratus retain their place but Australian antigen, cystinuria, gamma camera, and vasectomy

will not be found. The failure to update is never more evident than in the illustrations, some of which must be survivors from the first edition, adding little enlightenment but a certain Edwardian atmosphere. In the majority of cases the inaccuracies and the old-fashioned style and content are harmless and amusing. Occasionally one fears for the unnecessary distress which might be caused to the lay reader consulting the book. For example, the shy young man with impotence is unlikely to receive the reassurance he needs on discovering that his affliction may be due, if not to serious endocrine or neurological disease, to ignorance, fear, or abnormal desire.

In spite of these criticisms much of the work is well informed, accurate, and up to date. However, the proportion which is significantly outdated and the number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies are such as seriously to limit its usefulness as a book of reference. One drawback for the medical secretary who might otherwise find it useful is that it is etymological rather than phonetic.

M. J. CHAMBERLAIN

SHORTER NOTICES

Last May a study group under the chairmanship of Dr. G. S. Dawes held a two-day meeting at the Royal College of Obstetricians and

Gynaecologists to consider methods of monitoring the health of the fetus in pregnancy and labour. A report of the proceedings has now appeared in cyclostyled form. The contributions include discussion of monitoring the fetal heart, measuring hormones in amniotic fluid, and

estimating fetal size by ultrasound. *Methods of Monitoring the Fetus in Pregnancy and Labour*, edited by Stanley Clayton and Richard Beard, is published by the R.C.O.G. at 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG (pp. 242 + 30; £1 plus 45p postage).

People in the News

Dr. M. F. Perutz, F.R.S., chairman of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, has been awarded a Royal Medal of the Royal Society "for his pioneering work on the molecular biology and structure of proteins."

Dr. Cicely D. Williams, of London S.E.24, was recently presented with the 1971 Martha May Eliot award at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Williams graduated B.M., B.Ch., Oxford in 1923 and became F.R.C.P. London in 1949. She has been visiting professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine since May this year.

COMING EVENTS

Royal College of Physicians of London.—(1) Teach-in for junior hospital staff, "Gout," 7 December, 8 p.m. (2) Growing points in medicine session, "Respiratory Failure," 8 December, 2 p.m. For details of both events see advertisements on page xxii.

Biochemical Society.—Meetings, (1) 20-21 December, Imperial College, London S.W.7, programme includes contributions by the molecular enzymology and the neurochemical groups; (2) 5-6 January, Hull University, jointly with Society for General Microbiology. Details of these events are obtainable from the secretary, Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP (Tel. 01-242 1076/7/8/9).

"The Painful Back, from Youth to Age."—Day symposium, 13 January, 9.30 a.m., Royal College of Physicians of London. Fee £3. Organized by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, 8-10 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HN (tel. 01-240 0871), from whom details are obtainable.

"Lipoprotein Phenotyping."—Day symposium, 25 January 10 a.m., Royal Postgraduate Medical School. Fee £5. Application forms and details are obtainable from Dr. B. Lewis, department of chemical pathology, R.P.M.S., Ducane Road, London W12 0HS.

Institute of Psychiatry.—Details of lectures, demonstrations and courses, January-March, are obtainable from the dean of the institute, de Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London S.E.5. (Tel. 01-703 5411.)

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, 6 December

BLAIR BELL RESEARCH SOCIETY.—At Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 5.30 p.m., papers will be read.
INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. I. Sarkany: Apocrine Sweat Glands.
INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference.

Tuesday, 7 December

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4.30 p.m., Dr. D. G. Ferriman: Endocrine Aspects of Disorders of Hair Growth.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—6 p.m., Dr. M. Braithwaite: Mechanisms of Acute Circulatory Failure.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—5 p.m., Dr. Alan Hill: Surgery in Rheumatoid Arthritis—a Physician's Viewpoint.

Wednesday, 8 December

DUNDEE UNIVERSITY.—5 p.m., Dr. P. W. Nathan: The Behaviour of the Divided Spinal Cord in Man.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. M. Turner-Warwick: Immunosuppressant Treatment in Some Lung Diseases.
INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES.—At Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, 11.45 a.m., Dr. G. P. Crean: "The Development of the Intestinal Mucosa."
INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—(1) 6 p.m., Dr. P. H. Fentem: Role of Autonomic Nerves in Control of Arterial Blood Pressure. (2) 7 p.m., Dr. R. Bannister: Clinical Disorders of Autonomic Nervous System.
INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—5 p.m., Dr. G. A. Rose: Hyperparathyroidism.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS.—5.30 p.m., postgraduate museum demonstration by Dr. J. R. Tighe: Ovarian Tumours.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Bradshaw lecture by Sir Henry Osmond-Clarke: Hip Joint Surgery in the 20th Century.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—5.15 p.m., Dr. K. Taylor: Dysgammaglobulinaemias and Diseases of the Gastrointestinal Tract.

Thursday, 9 December

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.—At Foresterhill medical buildings, 5 p.m., Dr. E. Lawson McDonald: Scope of Surgical Treatment in Heart Disease.
HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE.—At Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, 5 p.m., Mr. E. R. Hitchcock: Pain, Patterns and Patients.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor H. C. Nohl-Ohsers: Investigation of Anatomy of Lymphatic Drainage of Lungs as Studied by Lymphatic Spread of Bronchial Carcinoma.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.—7.30 p.m., Dr. C. A. Wright: What is *Schistosoma Intercalatum*, Fisher 1934?
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.15 p.m., Mr. S. A. Seligman: Blood Pressure Cybernetics in Pregnancy.
SOUTH WEST WALES HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.—At Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Mr. D. W. Owen: Surgery of Diverticular Disease.
WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.15 p.m., Mr. Guy Blackburn: Management of Thyroid Cancer.

Friday, 10 December

CHARLES BURNS CLINIC, BIRMINGHAM.—At Queensbridge Road, Moseley, 4 p.m., Mr. E. T. Briggs: Education and Treatment of Maladjusted Children in a Residential Community.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—11 a.m., Mr. D. Johnston: The Three Vagotomies.

Sunday, 12 December

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—10 a.m., Professor I. Gillespie: Evaluation of Surgery for Peptic Ulcer.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

LONDON

The title of reader in clinical pharmacology has been conferred on Dr. D. G. Grahame-Smith in respect of his post at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

LIVERPOOL

Appointments.—Mr. D. I. Bowen (lecturer in ophthalmology).

BRISTOL

Appointments.—Dr. J. D. Anderson (lecturer in clinical bacteriology (virology)); Dr. R. A. Branch (lecturer in clinical pharmacology); Dr. R. J. Burwood (lecturer in radiodiagnosis); Mr. B. N. C. Littlepage (lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology).

FACULTY OF RADIOLOGISTS

On 19 November the following candidates, having satisfied the examiners, were admitted Fellows:

RADIODIAGNOSIS.—S. S. Amar, P. J. Anderson, A. J. Bezuidenhout, A. M. Dholakia, J. T. Ennis, B. M. Gompels, S. C. Gupta, P. Hicken, P. A. James, M. R. Jones, M. Y. Kadwa, B. C. King, A. E. Kirkpatrick, B. J. Loveday, J. McIvor, W. J. McNeill, G. W. Moore, J. H. Newton, W. G. M. Ritchie, J. B. Rowlands, M. A. Rudwan, R. C. Sanders, G. J. Sant, D. J. Stoker, R. D. Taft, R. S. Ward, G. H. Whitehouse.

RADIOTHERAPY.—A. F. Broad, J. R. Brown, A. W. Lees, M. J. Peckham, K. Singh, N. R. Youssef.

The Rohan Williams medal was awarded to Dr. W. G. M. Ritchie (radiodiagnosis).

The seventh examination for the F.F.R. to be held in Australasia will take place in October 1972.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

At the annual general meeting, held on 20 November, Dr. G. I. Watson was re-elected president of the college.

Dr. C. A. H. Watts was awarded the James Mackenzie prize.

Dr. G. O. Barber was awarded the Butterworth gold medal.

The Foundation Council award made to the late Dr. Bruce Cardew for his outstanding services to general practice was presented to his widow.

Sir John Biggart and Dr. Christopher Clayson were invested as Honorary Fellows of the college.

The following members were elected Fellows of the college:

B. N. Adsett, Olive M. Anderson, T. J. Anthony, C. P. Anyon, G. W. Bathgate, B. Bendkowski, R. C. Bennett, D. Bielenky, W. Blair, R. H. Bowie, J. T. S. Buchan, F. C. Calvert, G. W. Clark, B. Colville, D. Cumming, R. H. Davis, J. J. Doherty, A. G. Donald, Q. F. Evans, J. F. Fisher, J. A. Forbes, J. B. Forsyth, C. Jean Fraser, A. Fullerton (posthumously), J. Gauld, Constance A. Gibbs, J. F. Gowen, I. Gregg, T. J. M. Gregg, C. M. Harris, A. G. Heron, G. G. Jenner, C. R. Kay, K. E. Lane, J. M. Louissou, J. F. Lowe, R. D. MacDiarmid, I. B. K. MacGregor, M. L. Marinker, S. F. Marwood, R. A. M. Miller, N. C. Mond, J. S. Noble, M. Pearl, Kathleen M. Pearson, W. M. Platts, A. M. Revie, O. K. Shorten, N. H. Silvertown, K. R. Simcock, R. M. Solomon, J. Spears, H. Stoll, L. J. Stoll, J. E. Struthers, D. F. Symonds, H. E. Thorn, P. A. Walford, J. Watson, C. E. S. Weeratunge, J. T. Woodfall, P. J. J. Wren, E. Wynne-Jones, D. Zacharin.

At the meeting of council immediately following the a.g.m., officers were elected as follows:

Chairman, Dr. E. V. Kuenssberg; **vice-chairman,** Dr. D. L. Crombie; **deputy vice-chairman,** Dr. B. C. S. Slater; **honorary treasurer,** Dr. S. J. Carne; **honorary secretary,** Dr. D. H. Irvine.

APPOINTMENTS

BIRMINGHAM REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Dr. G. Danta (consultant neurologist Mid and North Staffordshire groups); Mr. N. J. Merlin (consultant in accident and emergency surgery, Walsall group); Dr. P. J. Leopard (consultant dental surgeon North Staffordshire group); Dr. L. Alexander (consultant physician (with special experience and training in diabetes), North Staffordshire group); Dr. C. H. J. Swan (consultant physician (with special experience in gastroenterology), North Staffordshire group); Dr. K. Prowse (consultant physician (with special experience and training in chest diseases), North Staffordshire group); Dr. J. R. Mann (consultant paediatrician, South Birmingham group); Dr. R. W. Whiteley (consultant psychiatrist, South Warwickshire group).

SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Dr. P. Banks (consultant, dental surgery, Tunbridge Wells, Central Kent and Hastings groups); Dr. M. J. Goggin (consultant, general and renal medicine, Canterbury group); Dr. Rosemary J. Sichel (consultant, pathology, Woolwich group); Mr. P. S. Firth (consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, Mid-Sussex, St. Francis and Lady Chichester, and Brighton and Lewes groups).

UNITED BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS.—Mr. D. B. Clarke (consultant cardiothoracic surgeon).

WESSEX REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Mr. A. D. Noble (consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, North Hants); Dr. J. C. Harding (consultant in physical medicine and rheumatology, Bournemouth and East Dorset); Dr. P. L. Golding (consultant physician, Portsmouth); Dr. Margaret Evans (consultant anaesthetist, Portsmouth).

Corrections

Confidential Information and Cervical Cytology

In the letter by Dr. Mary Pack (6 November, p. 364) the first line of the second paragraph should have read, "First, what is the N.H.S. Central Register at Southport . . ." and not Stockport as inadvertently printed.

Vacuum Termination of Pregnancy

In the letter from Dr. Stella C. Lewis (6 November, p. 365) the phrase at the end of the first paragraph should have read "28 in Hg" and not "28 mm Hg."

Notice to Authors

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