

M. M. Glatt sets the production off to a good start with an excellent general review of the facts as regards the size of Britain's current alcoholism problem, as well as sketching the historical background. The wide range of the ensuing contributions may be indicated by listing some of the topics which are covered—the public health approach, the design of treatment programmes within industry, the work of a voluntary Regional Council on Alcoholism, the treatment role of the general practitioner and of the specialist, the probation officer's involvement, the special problems of the female

and of the young alcoholic, the attitudes of the Churches, the ramifications of the laws relating to alcohol sales, to public intoxication, and to compulsory treatment, and finally but by no means least the business of education and prevention.

What a round-up. This collection of papers is useful perhaps not only for what is actually written in its pages, but also in the witness which the contents list alone bears to the ramifying complexity of the social problems which go under the heading of "alcoholism." Whether society yet has anything approaching a coherent policy to

meet that complexity is a very open question, and the papers assembled here may rightly and inevitably convey the sense of a crowd of jostling actors without much stage direction—the book may mirror quite accurately the state of the nation in this regard. To complain about the price of a publication is, of course, usually misguided—books, like groceries, inevitably cost more each day. The sum of £4.50 for 80 loose-leaf sheets and a ring folder does, however, even in this inflationary age, deserve a little mild consumer protest.

GRIFFITH EDWARDS

## *A School Text for the Tropics*

**A New Tropical Hygiene and Human Biology.** Revised edition. L. G. Goodwin and A. J. Duggan. (Pp. 194; Paperback 85p.) George Allen and Unwin. 1972.

In 1960 Drs. Goodwin and Duggan published the first edition of this school text under the title *A New Tropical Hygiene*, which they designed essentially for use in Africa. The fact that it rapidly went through five impressions testifies to its outstanding success. The authors have now revised and expanded the text to include sections on animals of medical importance and tropical problems of environmental hygiene. This broadening of the book's scope, together with a certain raising of the level of the English used in it, should go far towards increasing its appeal to include schools beyond the African continent.

The first part of the text is devoted to a simple account of human anatomy and physiology. This is followed by a brief review of the animals of medical importance, prefaced by a short introduction to their classification within the animal kingdom. The student is then introduced to the concept of disease and the manner of its production by viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and helminths. Emphasis is laid on the natural history and epidemiology of disease particularly relevant to tropical countries. Brief but useful mention is made of the methods of prevention and treatment of most of the conditions described. The final section gives an introduction to the nature of our global environment and to the problems caused by interference with various ecosystems by the activities of man.

The book is illustrated with numerous

black and white figures, well selected and clear. Not only do they offer, for example, good instances of natural foci of disease transmission, but some are little artistic gems in their own right. The text is brief, simple, and well written and the typeface bold and easy to read (even in a poor light, sometimes an important consideration for students in developing countries). This new edition covers most of the syllabus for School Certificate and General Certificate of Education examinations in health science, except for first aid. It will certainly continue to be widely used in schools in tropical countries. It would also form an invaluable introductory text for students anywhere who are interested in problems of disease in the tropics.

W. PETERS

## *Wit and Wisdom*

**Richard Asher Talking Sense.** A collection of papers, including the Triad "Sense and Sensibility," "Myxoedematous Madness," "The Dangers of Going to Bed," and "Munchausen's Syndrome." Ed. Sir Francis Avery Jones. (Pp. 179; £2.50; paperback £1.50.) Pitman Medical. 1972.

Had I been fortunate enough, in my part-time capacity as a publisher, to be offered this book I would have tried to persuade my managing director to order a first printing of 50,000 copies. I would then have persuaded Sir Keith Joseph to send a free copy to every doctor on the register. This would have cost the N.H.S. £125 000, much of which could have been recouped from advertising. It might well have saved ten times

as much per annum, especially if I could have persuaded the examiners in the Conjoint to substitute Asher for anatomy as a compulsory subject for study.

I knew Richard Asher well, for he sometimes did me the honour of attending my outpatient sessions. I read and admired all that he wrote, but I did not fully realize his genius until I saw his papers and lectures collected in this volume. Perhaps he was the last of the medical polymaths. "And still the wonder grew that one small head could carry all he knew;" but it was not only the breadth of his knowledge that caused the wonder but the way he used it, and his wit and his iconoclasm, and perhaps above all his scrupulous use of the English language.

Few even amongst the most experienced

physicians will fail to learn from Asher's advice about the examination of a patient. No medical writer, however well educated, can fail to put himself in the pillory when reading Asher's scorching assessment of medical "English." His were the first complete accounts of myxoedematous madness, malingering, and the Munchausen syndrome, all reproduced here. These chapters underline the wit and wisdom of Richard Asher: he was always funny; he was never pompous; he was always clear in everything he wrote; his clinical sense never nodded.

His end was a sad one. Perhaps he saw all things too clearly and needed rose-coloured spectacles if he were to survive. But much of him survives in this book.

RAYMOND GREENE

## SELECTED NEW TITLES

**Multiple Choice Questions in Anatomy.** *Medicus Anatomicus.* (Pp. 118; 85p.) Bailliere Tindall. 1972.

**Pharmacology of the Peripheral Autonomic Nervous System.** Oliver Carrier, Jr., Ph.D. (Pp. 132; £4.70.) Lloyd-Luke. 1972.

**Stress Incontinence of Urine.** Robert Fyfe Zacharin, F.R.C.O.G., (Pp. 136; £4.45.) Harper and Row. 1972.

**Barton's Forceps.** Edward Parry-Jones. (Pp. 120; £3.20.) Sector. 1972.

**The Zoological Society of London. Scientific Report 1969-1971.** (Pp. 610; Price not given) Reprinted from *Journal of Zoology*, 166. 1972.

**Research on Multiple Sclerosis.** C. W. M. Adams, M.R.C.Path. (Pp. 182; Price not given). Charles C. Thomas. 1972.

**The Design of Clinical Trials in Cancer Therapy.** Proceedings of a Course in Clinical Pharmacology held at the Institut Jules Bordet in Brussels from 2 to 5 May, 1972. Ed. Maurice Staquet. (Pp. 418; 690 B.F.) Editions Scientifiques Européennes. 1972.

**Modern Problems in Ophthalmology. Vol. II. Acquired Vision Deficiencies.** Ed. G. Verriest. (Pp. 230; £8.15.) Karger. 1972.

**Dublin Children's Hospital.**—Centenary scientific conference, 16-18 November. Details from the hospital, Temple Street, Dublin.

**National Association of Clinical Tutors.**—Third annual meeting, 27 November, 9.30 a.m., Royal College of Physicians of London. Details from the honorary secretary, Dr. D. Ferriman, North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, London N18 1QX.

**National Symposium on "Care of the Dying."**—29 November, Royal College of Physicians of London, organized by the Department of Health and Social Security. Sir Keith Joseph will open the symposium and Sir George Godber will preside. Details from the chief information officer, D.H.S.S., Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London S.E.1. (Tel. 01-407 5522.)

**Irish Medical Association.**—Copies and details of the postgraduate teaching course, November-December, are obtainable from the I.M.A., 10 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

## 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 November

**BLAIR BELL RESEARCH SOCIETY.**—At Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 2.30 p.m., ordinary meeting.

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—4.30 p.m., Dr. M. F. Spittle: Principles of Radiotherapy.

**INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.**—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference.

### Tuesday, 7 November

**B.B.C. TELEVISION.**—1.15 p.m. on channel 2, 11.20 p.m., Tuesday, 14 November, on channel 1. Medicine Today: The Investigation of Liver Disease.

**INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.**—4.30 p.m., Dr. R. Marks: The Horny Layer.

**ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL COLLEGE.**—5 p.m., Mitchiner memorial lecture by Mr. H. C. Edwards: The Training of a Military Surgeon.

### Wednesday, 8 November

**INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. P. Pinkerton: Psychosomatic Approach to Childhood Asthma Exemplified by Videotape.

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.**—6 p.m., Mr. I. H. Pattison: Scrapie as a Model for the Study of Central Nervous System Degeneration; 7 p.m., Mrs. E. Beck: Neuropathology of some Experimentally Transmissible Degenerations of the Brain.

**INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. L. Crammer: The Scientific Basis of Successful Treatment With Tricyclic Antidepressants.

**INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.**—5 p.m., Mr. W. F. Hendry: Urinary Infection in Children.

**LONDON UNIVERSITY.**—At London Hospital Medical College, 5.30 p.m., Professor A. R. Muir: Growth and Differentiation of Skeletal Muscle.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Professor W. S. Bullough: The Chalcones, a New Endocrine System.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS.**—5.30 p.m., Dr. J. S. Wigglesworth: Pathology of Neonatal Respiratory Distress.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.**—5.35 p.m., Lumen lecture by Professor J. P. Shillingford: Advances in Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction over the last Ten Years.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—5 p.m., Hunterian lecture by Professor G. P. Arden, Surgical Treatment of Still's Disease.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—2 p.m., Pathology lecture.

**SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.**—5.30 p.m., Sydenham lecture by Dr. F. N. L. Poynter: Sydenham's Influence Abroad.

**CARDIOTHORACIC INSTITUTE.**—At Institute of Diseases of the Chest, 5 p.m., Dr. T. J. H. Clark: Management of Acute Asthma.

### Thursday, 9 November

**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.**—5 p.m., Sir Stanley Davidson lecture by Professor W. S. Peart, F.R.S.: Renal and Suprarenal.

**INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.**—At Chelsea Hospital for Women, 11.15 a.m., Mr. A. E. B. Matthews: Endometriosis. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.3.)

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—4 p.m., Professor A. Rapoport (Toronto): Metabolic Studies in Patients with Renal Calculi, 6 p.m., Anaesthetics lecture.

**ROYAL SOCIETY.**—4.30 p.m., Leeuwenhoek lecture by Professor H. L. Kornberg, F.R.S.: Carbohydrate Transport by Micro-organisms.

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—5.15 p.m., Mr. D. W. T. Roberts: General Surgical Problems arising during Gynaecological Surgery.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5.30 p.m., Dr. D. Harken: Surgical Treatment of Heart Failure.

### Friday, 10 November

**INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.**—At Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, 11.15 a.m., Mr. H. G. Arthur: Maternal Mortality; 3 p.m., discussion: Caudal and Epidural Analgesia. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from secretary, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chelsea Hospital for Women, London, S.W.3.)

**NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL.**—At Royal College of Physicians of London, 5 p.m., St. Cyres lecture by Dr. R. Bonham-Carter: Progress in Treatment of Transposition of the Great Arteries.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH.**—5 p.m., Frederick Price lecture by Lord Rosenheim: Inherited Disease of the Kidney.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.**—11 a.m., Professor N. F. McGowen: Changing Profile on Testicular Tumours.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.**—4.30 p.m., R. W. Johnstone memorial lecture by Professor W. J. C. Morris: Experiences with Cancer of the Vulva.

## UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

### ABERDEEN

Ph.D.—*In the Faculty of Medicine*: D. W. Sharp.  
DIP. PSYCHOTHERAPY.—Mette L. Nygard, A. W. Scott-Brown.

### MANCHESTER

Appointments.—Dr. T. J. Crow (senior lecturer, psychiatry); Mr. C. V. Horn (senior lecturer, orthopaedic surgery); Mr. J. Cronin (lecturer, otolaryngology); Dr. J. W. Gleisner (lecturer, psychiatry).

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

At a quarterly meeting held on 26 October, with the president, Dr. C. A. Clarke, F.R.S., in the chair, Sir Francis Avery Jones was elected second vice-president. Dr. D. W. Pugh, Dr. E. G. Wade, Dr. W. L. L. Rees, and Dr. S. Shuster were elected councillors of the college.

The appointment of Dr. J. T. Hart as Milroy lecturer for 1974 was announced.

The following were elected and admitted as Members: R. T. Bevan, R. H. Fox, P. N. Magee, J. S. Pepsy Rawlins, Elsie R. Rue, Margaret J. Sutall.

D.A.—K. Kyel-Mensah.

D.T.O.—J. Abdel-Karim Barghouthy.

D.PATH.—H. M. Rasim.

D.M.R.T.—E. R. Smith.

D.AV.MED.—N. E. Baldock, W. A. Cottier, R. C. Davie, K. Edgington, C. M. Fernando, F. C. Hurrell, E. C. Jamieson, Teik-Beng Khoo, R. Y. H. Lee, J. H. Leon, R. M. Stewart, H. A. Wober.

D.I.H.—S. A. E. Abd-Eldayem, R. A. S. Balogun, R. L. Bayman, Eileen M. Booth, Elizabeth F. Bradley, B. C. Elvin, M. M. Gupta, A. S. Koh, A. B. Quainoo, A. M. Semmence, E. Tarimo.

D.C.H.—S. Acharya, S. N. Adhikaree, S. K. Adjei, I. W. Aitken, Elizabeth M. Allen, R. J. Andrews, G. D. Ansell, C. R. Ashton, N. H. D. Atherstone, P. G. Baker, P. K. Ballard, R. K. Banerjee, Deborah M. Barff, Elizabeth A. Barnes, Diana M. L. Birch, Sarah J. Bodden, Julia M. Brown, E. J. M. Cantillon, S. K. Chakrabarti, Catherine A. Chalmers, Elizabeth J. Chambers, A. H. Chapman, G. J. Charlwood, P. J. Cummings, S. Court, Margaret J. Crawford, Mary C. Gormon, A. R. Cunningham, D. A. Curnock, M. K. Dang, G. S. Davidson, Elizabeth A. Dibley, M. G. Dorman, D. A. Ducker, J. M. Elwood, Angela M. Evans, J. E. Findlow, Millicent C. W. Floate, J. M. Forrest, S. M. F. Fraser, Susan Fricker, C. R. M. Glayser, W. D. Gorrod, P. J. Graves, Anne M. Green, M. J. Harran, Shirley V. Hodgson, C. O. Holme, S. J. K. Holmes, A. Hutchinson, G. C. Ibezi, Henrietta M. H. Ip, G. C. Jain, F. Jaieyemi, J. R. Jarvis, Delyth W. Jones, T. G. R. Jones, Dhanalakshmi Karthigesu, S. D. E. Kelly, Razia Khatun, E. M. Krantz, C. S. Kumaranyake, Heather M. Lakin, E. J. Lavender, P. R. Layman, N. T. Leach, P. H. Lee, W. Lenny, A. P. Lewis, D. Lillystone, Lo Chi Chan, C. O. McKeown, J. I. McLachlan, W. S. F. Mann, Nicolette P. F. Mills, P. K. Misra, A. H. Mowbray, N. Murtaza, D. I. Mustafa, Sunita A. Naravane, J. A. A. Nichols, F. Oberklaid, N. M. O'Mullane, G. G. Owens, S. R. Patel, R. J. Paterson, Cynthia Phillips, June V. Phillips, Susan E. Phillips, D. W. Pilling, C. Protestos, R. H. Qureshi, P. Reeder, A. N. Redington, Helen Reid, S. M. Renton, Helen P. Ring, I. F. Robertson, R. Robertson, Mary E. Rodgman, J. C. Sadler, D. M. Sanders, A. H. Sellick, D. I. Shier, H. F. Shipman, J. A. Sills, Beulah Simpson, Elizabeth Smibert, C. M. Squire, T. A. Stefani, D. W. Stevens, Urmila Tandon, Anne E. Tattersall, D. J. Thakrar, Than-Nu-Shwe, Patricia E. Thurlley, J. S. M. Toms, Marion A. Wakefield, Mair Walker, J. B. G. Watson, M. L. White, O. P. G. Whitfield, R. N. Wild, A. R. Wilkinson, C. Willcox-Jones, Elizabeth M. Wood, V. Yu Yu-Hei.

D.M.R.D.—F. Aazam-Zanganeh, D. B. Agrawal, A. H. Albar, J. L. S. Alexander, Parvin I. Alipour, N. A. Aljassani, D. J. Allison, A. B. Ayers, J. A. Barr, N. C. Barracklough, E. M. Bass, K. A. Brownlie, P. J. Bryan, Helen M.-L. Carty, T. M. H. Chakera, D. C. Clark, A. Cohen, B. Cosmann, R. S. Dossetter, J. P. G. du Plessis, N. R. V. Edmunds, N. Fariz-Husein, R. A. Fawcitt, Rosemary Ford, G. C. H. Freakley, Isobel G. Furnival, Georgietta O. Goodluck, R. W. Graham, D. W. Gregory, P. Griffiths, M. Gyi, Christine M.

Hall, K. Hall, Claire V. Hendry, Martha A. W. Hewitson, G. Hussain, Pamela A. Jones, T. Khalid, S. Kisumbi, K. M. Kotecha, H. Latigo, E. L. Levin, E. C. D. Lim, S. Lwin, R. Maguire, J. B. Masterson, B. R. May, Rhiannon Mitchell, S. A. Mukhtar, M. D. Newfield, H. M. V. L. B. Nikapota, J. P. Owen, J. P. Fallon, G. Papassiopoulos, A. Papastathopoulos, S. R. Patel, K. S. Pathak, J. Pemberton, A. C. Quinn, K. Ragupathy, Devyani N. Savia, M. R. P. Shaw, N. C. W. Smith, Aisne F. Stoker, H. N. Surati, K. P. Tan, Ann De C. Tate, G. L. V. Tatler, A. C. Ude, Susan B. Walkden, A. A. Warner, A. J. A. Wightman, E. W. Williams, F. J. B. Williams, H. K. Wilson, K. P. Wong, So San Y. Wong, A. L. Wod, K. H. Yeong, M. A. Zirevogel, Nam J. Lim, O. J. Follows.

D.O.—K. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, A. T. Alkalhoud, K. M. Al-Rifai, D. J. Austin, M. F. Bakhoun, F. A. Benjamin, K. O. Bentsi-Enchill, M. R. Chaudhuri, R. Y. S. Chen, J. H. Cook, Barbara M. Dickinson, H. C. Ghosh, D. C. Gibbons, R. C. Gupta, V. Gusa Lavan, M. Hasan, Marie K. Housley, M. Idrees, A. Khalik, N. B. Mammo, D. R. Michell, F. W. D. Narnor, M. D. Parekh, P. A. G. Payne, O. Prakash, M. Ram, N. Samanta, M. N. R. Shama Sundara Rao, P. A. Shaw, R. Soler, A. el R. Soudan, C. Townsend, K. Tuckuck, J. C. Tudor, T. C. Wong, D. G. Yadav. D.Phys.Med.—Aleya M. El M. El Banna, W. A. Kemp, F. R. I. Middleton, H. N. Misra, Celia M. Prinn, C. Soria-Herrera, Md. A. Wahed, G. K. Wilson.

D.P.M.—Elspeth M. Earle, Jane M. I. McKeown, R. N. Mitra, Angela M. Scrase, Valerie J. Spotswood, Dulcie E. Suleman.

D.T.M.&H.—Anne M. A. Aandstad, M. M. Akhter, P. Archer, A. A. R. Awad, R. H. Barr, W. A. H. Behrens, W. Beresford, S. K. Biswas, Julie L. Clift, J. R. de Carteret, D. H. C. Evans, G. K. Fuller, J. E. Hellman, R. C. Hickman, M. G. M. Jayarajan, H. J. P. Kyroneppa, M. Lewis, D. Lister, S. M. Malik, S. H. Mohammed, Veronica A. Moss, D. C. Muogbo, G. Pillay, S. A. Qawi, R. H. Qureshi, A. Rimi, R. Roessin, E. Savdie, R. A. H. Seger, H. C. Spencer, P. F. H. Stingl, Beatrice Y. Talwate, A. S. M. Taslimuddin, E. D. B. Tenambergen, A. M. Yosri, S. M. Zmily.

## Corrections

### New Consultant Contract

In the letter from Dr. J. C. Briggs (28 October, p. 241) we regret that a printing error resulted in a loss of a line. The relevant sentences should have read: "As a result, the South-west Regional Whole-time Consultants Organization has approached 197 whole-time consultants in the region and asked: 'Are you in favour of an option *not* to engage in private practice being included in any contract negotiated?'"

"Of those approached 129 replied and 126 were in favour of the clause."

### Dentist's Libel Action Resumed

We regret that in our "Medicolegal" note on 28 October (p. 266) we incorrectly described Mr. Michael John Heath as a doctor and a member of the Department of Anaesthetics at the University of Birmingham. In fact, at the time that the Birmingham article was published (31 May, 1969) he was a lecturer in the Department of Conservative Dentistry at the University of Birmingham.

## Notice to Authors

When original articles and letters for publication are not submitted exclusively to the *British Medical Journal* this must be stated. Accepted articles may subsequently be selected for publication in the North American monthly edition.

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