

## Splints and Braces

**Orthopaedic Appliances.** Brian H. Day, F.R.C.S. (Pp. 140; £1.45 paper cover, £2.95 cloth cover) Faber & Faber. 1972

Mr. Day has produced a book which is undoubtedly of value as an introduction to the neglected field of orthopaedic appliances; in 140 pages he has collected together, illustrated, and described a useful but limited selection of the devices available to treat some of the commoner orthopaedic conditions conservatively. However, the book suffers from a tendency to uncertainty of purpose in that despite the author's premise in the preface that the diagnosis in each circum-

stance has been decided and that reference is made only to the clinical features relevant to the choice of appliance, he veers at several points into discussion—for instance, on complications resulting from the mismanagement of hand injuries and on the conservative treatment of minor foot conditions. While this is perhaps difficult to avoid, the result is uneven, and the latter part of the book lacks the incisiveness and point of the first sections on cervical collars, corsets, and braces.

On several further points the author must be taken to task. Why does he include a section on abduction splints of the upper

limbs, which have an extremely limited application and are, on his own admission, difficult to fit and unsatisfactory in use, and omit completely any reference to Thomas-type calipers and bucket-top calipers for the later management of lower limb injuries and knee instability? No reference is made, either, to such important devices as the Milwaukee brace, which, although controversial, is in orthopaedic use regularly in many countries. Finally, the use of plastics in orthotic practice is referred to only in the briefest of terms and the newer foam plastics are ignored altogether.

JOHN A. HAMILTON

## Cytodiagnosis

**The Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer.** 3rd edn. Ruth M. Graham. (Pp. 476; £8.30.) W. B. Saunders. 1972.

In the preface to this book the author says that it is intended as a guide to cellular interpretation; as such it is liberally illustrated with photomicrographs and explanatory line drawings. The cellular morphology of all regions lending themselves to cytodiagnosis are described, with new chapters added since the last edition on the changes associated with oral contraceptives and the cytology of aspirates from the pouch of Douglas. The latter deals primarily with the early diagnosis of ovarian cancer and demon-

strates the use of cytology in this particularly difficult field of medicine. Tumours of the ovary pose considerable problems in histological interpretation, especially in the assessment of epithelial tumours of borderline malignancy. To overcome the additional diagnostic hazards attendant on the use of cytological methods alone obviously demands wide experience based on unlimited clinical material. For this reason one wonders whether such accuracy is not beyond the reach of the majority of routine laboratories.

Much cytological information can be derived from the detailed descriptions and illustrations in this book, and the exhaustive bibliography provides an excellent guide to additional reading. The author rightly

stresses the importance of close clinical co-operation and the necessity for complementary surgical biopsy. However, the inadequate correlative histological illustrations do not facilitate interpretation of the text. Certain inaccuracies can be found, particularly in the ovarian sections; for example, granulosa cell tumours and luteomas are not, as the author states, germ cell tumours, and pseudomyxoma peritonei is not in itself an ovarian tumour but a possible complication of such a neoplasm. Such statements regrettably detract from the merits of a book based on vast experience and meticulous attention to cytological detail.

J. O. W. BEILBY

## Information for the Hospital Administrator

**Hospital Information Systems.** Ed George A. Bekey, and Morton D. Schwartz. (Pp. 402; \$19.75.) Marcel Dekker. 1972.

Government publications on the Reorganised National Health Service are now coming at us thick and fast. They are loaded with talk about management, accountability, cost effectiveness, cost benefit, planning, and priorities, but unless the new area and district management teams are provided with much fuller and more reliable information than is available at present about the health needs of the populations they are to serve and about the cost, distribution, efficiency, and effectiveness of the health services they are to manage, all the talk will prove to have been so much hot air. Good health information systems are essential to the planning and organization of rational health services—to the definition of health care priorities and the allocation of available resources (money, manpower, and machinery) in relation to those priorities

and to local needs and existing local services. Without such systems the new specialists in community medicine will be unable to perform effectively their key roles at regional, area, and district levels.

Information about hospital activities is, of course, only part of the story, but it is a most important part because a most costly part of it. *Hospital Information Systems*, a book of 400 pages, puts between hard covers a series of papers which have been given at summer courses held at the University of Southern California since 1969. It provides a factual and well-documented account of the attempts being made in the United States, and particularly in Southern California, to handle the vast quantities of data now generated by hospitals and to relate them to the problem of the alarming and continuing increase in the costs of hospital care, the increasing complexity of hospital management, and the elusive and difficult matter of measuring the quality of medical care. (The even more elusive and

difficult matter of measuring the relative benefits of different methods of medical care is hardly mentioned.) American medical and administrative jargon is in many small ways different from our own, but the differences are no barrier to understanding the message. Patient "billing" looms, but not too large. Both "hardware" and "software" aspects are discussed, and among the many data-generating areas covered are the hotel-like activities of hospitals (inventory, control of personnel, supplies, beds, meal orders, etc.), diagnostic laboratories, therapeutic activities (particularly prescribing), intensive care units, and coronary care units.

The book contains much of interest to our own hospital administrators, biomedical engineers, and medical computer experts. And although it is focused on the American scene and limited to hospital services, it can be recommended to the members of our new area and district management teams.

C. R. LOWE

## SELECTED NEW TITLES

**Recent Advances in Cancer and Radiotherapeutics: Clinical Oncology.** Ed. Keith E. Halnan, F.F.R. (Pp. 412; £6.) Churchill Livingstone. 1972.

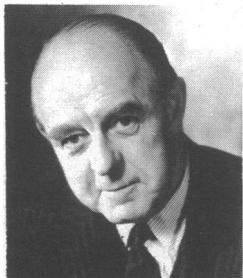
**Gaddum's Pharmacology.** 7th edn. Revised by A. S. V. Burgen, F.R.C.P., F.R.S., and J. F. Mitchell, Ph.D. (Pp. 251; £2.) Oxford University Press. 1972.

**Automation and Management in the Clinical Laboratory.** Ed. George E. Westlake, M.D., and James L. Bennington, M.D. (Pp. 274; \$12.50.) University Park Press. 1972.

study programmes and the materials necessary for them, is guided by an academic council under the chairmanship of Sir Brynmor Jones. Further details are available from the director of the department, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

#### New Chairman of J.C.C.

Sir Kenneth Robson has been elected Chairman of the Joint Consultants Committee, to succeed Sir John Richardson. Sir Kenneth is Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians and had been Joint Secretary of the J.C.C. for over 10 years. Mr. A. Parker, a consultant surgeon from the London Hospital, was elected to replace Sir Kenneth and join Dr. D. Stevenson, Secretary of the B.M.A., as Joint Secretary.



#### Royal College of Pathologists

At the ninth annual general meeting of the college held on 21 November the following honorary officers were elected: *president*, Professor J. V. Dacie, F.R.S.; *vice-presidents*, Professor D. N. Baron, Dr. A. J. McCall, Professor R. A. Shooter; *registrars*, Professor R. C. Curran; *treasurer*, Professor R. D. Teare; *assistant registrars*, Dr. B. S. Cardell.

#### Pests in Laboratories

The Medical Research Council has published a soft-covered handbook, *Common Parasites of Laboratory Rodents and Lagomorphs*, which gives advice on the identification of parasites, diagnosis of illness due to them, and its treatment. The book, which is printed on gloss paper with many half-tone illustrations, is published by H.M.S.O. price £3.00.

#### Seminars at B.M.A. House

A seminar on "Homosexuality" will be held at B.M.A. House, London, on Friday, 15 December, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details see advertisement on page xiv.

#### People in the News

Dr. F. H. C. Crick has been awarded a Royal Medal by the Royal Society "in recognition of his elucidation of the structure of DNA and his continuing contribution to molecular biology."

Dr. R. G. Whitehead, director of the Medical Research Council Child Nutrition Unit, Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Uganda, has also been appointed director of the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory, Cambridge, from October 1973.

#### COMING EVENTS

**Biochemical Society**—Meetings, (1) 18-19 December, Nottingham University; (2) 4-5 Janu-

ary, Strathclyde, University, Glasgow. Details of both events are obtainable from the executive secretary, Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP. (Tel. 01-242 1076.)

**Royal Society of Medicine**—Holiday lectures suitable for young people between ages of 13 and 19 on 1, 3, 5 January, 2.30 p.m. Details and tickets (free) are obtainable from the conference secretary, R.S.M., 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE. (Tel. 01-580 2070.)

**Southampton and District Occupational Health Advisory Council**—Day symposium, "Asbestos," 4 January, 9.15 a.m., Southampton College of Technology. Details and application forms are obtainable from Mrs. Jean Forfitt, 224 Winchester Road, Southampton, Hants.

**Biological Engineering Society**—Conference, "Education, Training and Careers in Biomedical Engineering," 5-6 January, London W.C.1. Details and registration forms from Dr. O. C. J. Lippold, department of physiology, University College London, Gower Street, London W.C.1.

#### 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, 4 December

**INSTITUTE OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY**.—5.30 p.m., Clinicopathological conference by Professor I. Friedmann.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL**.—4 p.m., Dr. A. S. Tavill: Metabolism of Plasma Proteins.

##### Tuesday, 5 December

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**.—5 p.m., Arnott demonstration by Professor C. Long: Behaviour of Mammalian Erythrocyte Membrane in Presence of Calcium Ions.

**B.B.C. TELEVISION**.—1.15 p.m. on channel 2, 11.20 p.m. Tuesday 12 December on channel 1. Medicine Today: Diabetes in Pregnancy.

##### Wednesday, 6 December

**CARDIOTHORACIC INSTITUTE**.—At Institute of Diseases of the Chest, 5 p.m., Dr. M. C. Pearson: Radiological Procedures and the Clinician.

**INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY**.—6 p.m., Dr. A. Ridley: Glioma Immunology; 7 p.m., Mr. J. S. Garfield: Aspects of Treatment of Gliomas.

**INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY**.—5 p.m., Mr. J. E. A. Wickham: Surgery of Urinary Calculi.

**LONDON UNIVERSITY**.—At Institute of Child Health, 5.30 p.m., Professor A. E. Boyo (Lagos): Haemaglobulin Biochemistry and Erythrocyte Pathology. **OXFORD UNIVERSITY**.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Litchfield lecture by Mr. C. Webster: Medicine in the English and French Revolutions.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**.—4.30 p.m., Erasmus Wilson demonstration by Professor L. Brent: Tolerance and Transplantation.

**ST. ANDREW'S HOSPITAL, LONDON E.3**.—1 p.m., Mr. M. P. Ward: Problems of Cold at High Altitudes.

##### Thursday, 7 December

**DUNDEE UNIVERSITY**.—5 p.m., Dr. T. A. Sears: Neurophysiological aspect of Voluntary Activation of Respiratory Muscles.

**HONYMAN GILLESPIE LECTURE**.—At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, 5 p.m., Professor C. T. Dollery: Is there a Rational Basis for Drug Therapy?

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON**.—8.30 p.m., Fitzpatrick lecture by Dr. E. A. Underwood: Evolution of Haematology—History of some Diseases of the Blood.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND**.—5 p.m., McIndoe lecture by Dr. J. Bruner: Contributions of Sir Archibald McIndoe to Surgery of the Hand—Surgical Exposure of Flexor Tendons in Surgery of the Hand.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL**.—6 p.m., Dr. M. Rosen: Some Problems on Pain Relief in Labour.

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**.—5.15 p.m., Professor E. M. Symonds: Medical Responsibility in Teaching Human Reproduction.

##### Friday, 8 December

**LONDON UNIVERSITY**.—At St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, 5 p.m., Dr. M. M. Elkind (New York): Damage-repair Studies of Sublethal Radiation and Drug Effects in Mammalian Cells.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH**.—4.30 p.m., Professor B. N. Brooke: Current Problems in Management of Inflammatory Diseases of the Intestine.

**ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL**.—11 a.m., Surgeon Vice-Admiral J. Watt: Burns of Sea Battles.

##### Sunday, 10 December

**MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY**.—10 a.m., Dr. T. Warnes: Alkaline Phosphatase.

#### UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

##### ABERDEEN

**Appointments**.—Dr. R. Jenkins Taylor (lecturer, general practice); Mr. C. B. Lunan (lecturer, obstetrics and gynaecology); Dr. P. E. G. Carter (medical officer, Student Health Service).

##### LONDON

**M.D.**.—D. J. Coltart, A. B. Shaw, R. S. Stern, D. R. Sutton.

**M.S.**.—J. E. Castro.

**Ph.D.**.—In the Faculty of Medicine: Barbara C. Cooke, J. Caldwell, T. Thane, S. R. Hesselwood, S. O. Natel, R. Castillon, J. F. Osborn, E. E. Thorpe, J. M. A. Wilton.

**M.Sc.**.—In the Faculty of Medicine: Sher M. Khan, A. H. Mian, Pushpa Sadanah, Jean O. Williams, P. J. Ell, J. G. B. Millar, E. D. Yurman, Violeta M. Manansala, J. Reeve, B. J. Essex, W. M. Garraway, P. H. Gentle, W. E. Kearns, A. Kitchener, C. J. M. Martini, Judith Robinson, Gloria G. Ruocco, J. A. Spies.

**M.Phil.**.—In the Faculty of Medicine: B. G. Mansourian.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND** F.R.C.S.I.—H. C. Bredin, D. R. Edwardes, P. R. Gaffney, S. P. F. Hughes.

#### APPOINTMENTS

**EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD**.—Mr. W. B. Costley (consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft areas); Dr. M. J. Brindle (consultant in radiology, King's Lynn H.M.C. and North Cambridgeshire H.M.C.); Dr. E. B. Peterson (consultant in child and family psychiatry, Peterborough and Stamford H.M.C.); Mr. R. Martin (consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, Norfolk and Norwich areas); Dr. D. J. Muller (consultant in mental illness, Peterborough and Stamford H.M.C. and Fulbourn and Ida Darwin H.M.C.); Dr. J. MacNae (consultant in accident and emergency, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital).

**SOUTH-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD**.—Dr. A. D. Perrett (consultant physician, Cornwall clinical area); Dr. F. G. Rooth (consultant psychiatrist, Bristol clinical area, joint appointment with U.B.H.); Mr. S. Haynes (consultant general surgeon, North Gloucestershire clinical area); Mr. R. J. Clarke (consultant general surgeon, South Somerset clinical area, Yeovil); Dr. J. S. Watkins (consultant geriatrician, Devon and Exeter clinical area); Dr. F. K. M. Beach (consultant in general medicine, South Somerset clinical area, Yeovil); Dr. R. M. H. Hodgson (consultant anaesthetist, Plymouth clinical area); Dr. Margaret T. McKiddie (consultant in general medicine, North Gloucestershire clinical area); Dr. Lorna A. Brown (consultant anaesthetist, Bath clinical area); Dr. G. D. Morrison (consultant Venerologist, Plymouth and Devon and Exeter clinical areas); Dr. R. F. Orr (consultant psychiatrist, Devon and Exeter clinical area); Dr. B. W. Perriss (consultant anaesthetist, Devon and Exeter clinical area); Dr. D. H. Keeling (consultant in nuclear medicine, Plymouth and Cornwall clinical areas).

#### Correction

##### Protection against Hong Kong Influenza

In the letter from Dr. R. E. Hope-Simpson (25 November, p. 490), in the fourth line of the second paragraph and in the accompanying Table, the term "Asian" H<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> virus" should have read "Asian" H<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> virus."

#### 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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