

VIRUS DISEASES

The Background to Chemotherapy of Virus Diseases. By C. H. Stuart-Harris, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. and L. Dickinson, Ph.D., F.R.I.C. Pp. xi + 175. Illustrated. \$10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1964.

The contents of this attractive volume will be familiar to virologists, but for physicians it will prove most interesting and useful in explaining the differences in viruses and the reasons for apparently slow progress in the chemotherapy of infections caused by the 'true' viruses. Effective chemotherapy is fortunately available against the rickettsiae and organisms of the psittacosis-lymphogranuloma-trachoma group, but there are difficulties in devising drugs urgently required for treatment of many viral diseases encountered in practice. This monograph shows the development of logically based chemotherapeutic agents against such virus infections. The discussion is directed to the needs of the practising physician. N.S.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY FOR PHYSICIANS

Principles of Clinical Electrocardiography. 5th ed. By M. J. Goldman, M.D. Pp. 377. Illustrated. R4.20. Los Altos, California: Lange Medical Publications; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1964.

This book is characterized by the profusion and clarity of diagrams and actual electrocardiographic tracings illustrating the text. It starts with the electrophysiology of the heart, and ends with almost 40 pages on the interpretation of the electrocardiogram, and includes, *inter alia*, sections on foetal electrocardiography, spatial vectorcardiography, and—among the more frequently found abnormalities—the effect of refrigeration on the electrocardiogram.

Here is a book that can be recommended to students as well as physicians, but will probably prove to be of most value to those general practitioners who take and interpret their own electrocardiograms. N.J.B.deW.

RHODESIAN NURSING HISTORY

Mother Patrick and her Nursing Sisters. Based on extracts of letters and journals in Rhodesia of the Dominican Sisterhood, 1890-1901. By M. Gelfand. Pp. 281. Illustrated. R4.50. Cape Town and Johannesburg: Juta & Co. 1964.

This most interesting book is yet another of Prof. Michael Gelfand's valuable contributions to the historiography of Rhodesia. It deals with the adventures of a group of Dominican nuns, led by Mother Patrick, who provided a nursing service for the Rhodesian Pioneer Column into Mashonaland in 1890 and who subsequently pioneered the Rhodesian nursing service at hospitals in Bulawayo, Salisbury and Victoria. Much of the book consists of transcriptions of journals and correspondence of these Dominican sisters and their associates, so that the story is told in the words of the main characters themselves. But it is Professor Gelfand's wise editing, annotation and commentary that causes a coherent history to emerge.

The difficulties which confronted these women were enormous. Accommodation, sanitation and equipment were primitive; supplies were irregular; infectious tropical diseases were rife and apart from quinine there were no specific remedies; above all there was recurrent trouble with the Matabele people who resented the White invasion. Often it was only the enduring faith and devotion of the Dominican sisters which enabled them to cope with almost impossible situations. The nursing activities of the Dominican Sisterhood came to an end in 1901 when a foolish bureaucracy decided that these remarkable women were not suitably qualified to serve the expanding colonies' hospitals. The sisters quietly withdrew and their places were taken by lay nurses. But Mother Patrick and her colleagues had played an important part in the development of Rhodesia and Professor Gelfand's book will ensure that they are not forgotten. H.G.