

## SANITATION

*The Practice of Sanitation.* 3rd edition. By Edward Scott Hopkins and Wilmer Henry Schulze. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company. 1958.

Please note that Messrs. Ballière, Tindall and Cox Ltd., of London, are the English distributors of this book, which was reviewed in the *Journal* of 29 August (33, 736). The English price is 64s.

## APPLIED PHARMACOLOGY

*Applied Pharmacology (Clark).* 9th edition. By A. Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.F.P.S. and H. O. Schild, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc. Pp. xii + 750. 165 figures. 50s. net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1959.

The first edition of this well-known book by a famous pharmacologist was published in 1923, not long after the author had left the University of Cape Town where he had been for a short time the first incumbent of the Chair of Pharmacology. In the recent editions the new authors have preserved the original characteristic features of the book—the presentation of direct scientific evidence for the therapeutic action of the more important drugs and the demonstration of the importance of this knowledge in their clinical application. The student—undergraduate and post-graduate—is provided with a background of factual knowledge and learns a critical approach to the increasingly complex problems of drug therapy. Most of the chapters have been rewritten, and new chapters added on the pharmacology of tuberculosis and on psycho-pharmacology. The methods of studying the action of drugs on the central nervous system are described, based on their effects on the gross behaviour and on the psychological reactions in animals and man. There are also 65 new figures and 50 more pages. 'Good wine needs no bush.' N.S.

## AUSCULTATION AND PERCUSSION

*Lehrbuch der Auskultation und Perkussion.* 2. Auflage. Von Prof. Dr. K. Hollmack. xii + 196 Seiten. 85 Abbildungen. DM 16.50. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1959.

Right from the onset it may be said that this book affords pleasant reading irrespective of the status of the reader concerned. It is primarily compiled and intended for the training of medical students and as such covers the field very adequately. Special emphasis is laid on technique of percussion and special site of auscultation together with interpretation of the essential heart sounds, inclusive of systolic click and opening snap heard in pulmonary hypertension and mitral stenosis respectively. Equally important emphasis is laid on the use of the stethoscope in the examination of the abdomen and peripheral vascular system.

The contents of this book are of such imperative nature that any teaching institution can ill afford to exclude it from its library. The book is strongly recommended by the reviewer; money spent on buying it will be money intelligently invested. D.J.H.

## RADIOGRAPHY OF THE INFANT'S ALIMENTARY TRACT

*X-ray Diagnosis of the Alimentary Tract in Infants and Children.* By Edward B. Singleton, M.D. Pp. 352. 215 figures. \$11.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

This book provides a long-needed addition to radiological literature. In the post-war years there has been dramatic advancement in the surgery of the alimentary tract of infants and children, which has been largely aided by radiological methods and techniques that ensure more accurate pre-operative diagnosis. The author in particular pays much attention to such radiological manoeuvres and methods, which he describes in detail. Congenital abnormalities are dealt with at great length, and their embryology and pathology are discussed in addition to their radiological appearances and methods of treatment.

The oesophagus is fully described, in particular the subjects of partial thoracic stomach and atresia.

Of special interest is the vexed question of the reduction of intussusception in infants. The author favours treatment by barium enema with operation as a second string to his bow. These methods are apparently the choice at his hospital in Texas, USA, as well as at many large centres of Scandinavia and Australia.

This book is well illustrated and printed on excellent paper, and is thoroughly recommended to radiologists, paediatricians and paediatric surgeons. I.O.F.

## CHRIST AND FREUD

*Christ and Freud.* A Study of Religious Experience and Observation. By Arthur Guirdham, M.A., D.M., B.Sc. (Oxon), D.P.M. Pp. 193. 21s. net. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1959.

Dr. Guirdham's aim is to study the psychiatric foundations of religion and, conversely, to estimate to what extent religious factors are important in relation to psychiatric conditions and more especially to neurosis. He believes that orthodox Christianity is a perversion of the psychologically irrefutable teaching of Christ and he shows how theology may actually be inimical to religious experience. A.H.T.

## HISTORY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

*A History of Ophthalmology.* George E. Arrington, Jr., M.D. Pp. 174. \$4.00. New York: MD Publications, Inc. 1959.

This short monograph deals concisely with the ophthalmological chapter of the history of medicine, viz. the study, at first empiric and later scientific, of the vital sense organ which through the centuries has been most closely linked with superstitions, myths and legends. From the early probings of prehistoric man, the development of the scientific method is in turn influenced by the spirit of freedom of expression and criticism of the Greeks, the realism of the Romans, the dogmatism of the Middle Ages; but with the development of printing and easy communication and general progress in associated fields it makes its greatest advances. This tremendous territory is covered succinctly but without loss of lucidity or coherency. The considerable collateral historical material adds interest in the discussion of the general tendencies which are stressed, rather than purely biographical aspects. Unfortunately there are numerous typographical errors and the paper is not of the quality associated with American publications, but the book is nevertheless well produced and makes interesting reading.

L.S.

## BIOCHEMISTRY OF CLINICAL MEDICINE

*The Biochemistry of Clinical Medicine.* 2nd edition. By W. S. Hoffman, Ph.D., M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. xxi + 734. 63 figures. \$12.00. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1959.

It takes a book such as this to make one realize just how large a part biochemistry plays in modern clinical medicine and how difficult it must be to keep abreast of recent developments. It aims at presenting in a lively and readable manner the fundamental biochemical aspects of clinical medicine . . . and to elucidate that portion of the vast array of recently assimilated information in biochemistry that will help the clinician in the practice of medicine. Dr. Hoffman has admirably fulfilled these laudable aims.

The book is comprehensive in its scope, accurate in its detail, and simple and yet fundamental in its approach; all in all it is a pleasure to read. The author passes with effortless ease from a discussion on carbohydrates to one on lipids, from the kidneys to the liver and other organs and from the thyroid to steroids. He even wanders, perhaps a little less convincingly, into blood coagulation and other aspects of haematology as well as into many other fields. In the chapters where Dr. Hoffman speaks from his own very extensive experience and his own fundamental contributions he speaks with firm authority, even with dogmatism; in other chapters his touch is not quite so sure but, then, who can be complete master of all he surveys? But even these last-mentioned chapters are more than adequate.

Sometimes the approach is purely from a theoretical and laboratory angle; at other times there are complete clinical essays. The author has not hesitated to discuss signs, symptoms and differential diagnosis. Even advice on treatment is freely offered. At the end of each chapter there are short lists of references—not aiming at being exhaustive, yet adequate as a starting point for further reading.

This book will appeal to candidates for higher examinations, to physicians and surgeons, and to those practitioners who wish to revise their knowledge of biochemistry in clinical medicine. It is heartily recommended.

C.M.

## PARASITOLOGY

*Parasitology (Protozoology and Helminthology) in Relation to Clinical Medicine.* 2nd edition. By K. D. Chatterjee. M.D. (Calcutta). Pp. 188. 94 illustrations, including 16 coloured plates. Price in India, Rs. 17.50. Calcutta: Published by the author. 1959.

The reviewer was very pleased to see a smaller version of Chatterjee's *Human Parasites and Parasitic Diseases* to which the main objection was its prohibitive price. The present volume is within the reach of students and will form good introduction to the subject. The illustrations are superb, and so are the tables. Though there are points in the text with which the reviewer would differ, the material is sound, and the book can be recommended to student and practitioner alike.

R.E-D.

## SKIN DISEASES IN THE AFRICAN

*Skin Diseases in the African.* By G. H. V. Clarke, M.A. (Cantab.), M.B., B.S., A.R.I.C. Pp. ix + 172. 260 figures. 84s. net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1959.

Dr. Clarke has made a valuable contribution to dermatological literature in compiling this atlas of dermatoses affecting the negro. The diseases are presented in groups which contrast their incidence on black and white skins, and where a condition is not illustrated the reader is referred to a comprehensive bibliography. The illustrations appear to come almost entirely from the author's collection, and it is admitted that they are of varying quality; most are good, but there are a few rather murky specimens.

It is plain from this book, written from experience in Nigeria, that the incidence of skin diseases in the negro races varies from one part of Africa to another. Porphyria is common in the Bantu of South Africa, but evidently not in Nigeria. Dermatitis papulosa nigra is often seen in East and South Africa, but is very rare in West Africa and there are other differences too numerous to discuss in a review.

There are a few minor criticisms, some anticipated by the author. The lesions of folliculitis decalvans here depicted resemble those of chronic discoid lupus erythematosus so closely as to make the diagnosis doubtful. The condition illustrated under the title of multiple self-healing epitheliomata is not that described by Ferguson Smith and the appearances suggest a chronic granuloma. Behçet's syndrome should not be listed under venereal diseases.

This book will be of great service to any newcomer to Africa, but for future editions the author should not hesitate to borrow in order to illustrate conditions that are common in parts of Africa other than Nigeria, to which he now only makes reference.

J.M.