

Reviews

A TEXTBOOK OF THERAPEUTICS

Pharmacology in Clinical Practice. By Harry Beckman, M.D. (Pp. 839; illustrated. £3 3s.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1952.

This is an unusual but refreshing book. Its first sentence runs as follows: "You will probably observe, as I have, that allergists are an apprehensive group." The text occupies over 700 pages, and on the whole the standard of the first sentence is well maintained. The serious purpose of the book is to look at pharmacology from the point of view of the doctor standing by his patient, and not to teach the subject as a science. While a list of references concludes each chapter, the writing is didactic and few authors are quoted. One would expect that an ill-considered and inaccurate work would result, but surprisingly enough this has not happened. Wherever details of the scientific background are filled in, as, for example, in discussing the relation of vitamin B₁₂ and the intrinsic factor, it appears that the author is well acquainted with the most modern research. This, then, is a textbook of therapeutics. It is an excellent work written with good judgment and wide knowledge, in advance of books on therapeutics which are available in Britain. On the whole the book is a reflection of American medicine, but the outlook is often wider. Thus, in the treatment of heart disease the use of digoxin is compared with that of lanatoside C and of digitoxin to the advantage of digoxin. As is well known, digoxin was introduced in Britain and in consequence has received little attention in American literature.

There are, nevertheless, odd features. On page 462 the author gives a list of analgesics. It contains a large number of substances, and among them occur curare and acetylcholine, mustard, and turpentine. It is true that the text on analgesics is written with sanity, but why the author should include in this list mustard and turpentine is almost impossible to guess, and why he should include curare and acetylcholine is quite beyond conceiving. He would rightly fail in any examination if he made statements like that; curare has no effect on sensation, and acetylcholine causes pain. But probably most readers would not notice the substances in the list, and so no harm would be done. The book is to be recommended to the consultant as well as to those in general practice, for it is a comprehensive and very practical guide to modern therapy.

J. H. BURN.

CHADWICK'S CAREER

Edwin Chadwick and the Public Health Movement 1832-1854. By R. A. Lewis. (Pp. 411; 24s.) London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1952.

Edwin Chadwick is receiving his full meed of recognition. We recently reviewed Professor S. E. Finer's authoritative biography of Chadwick in this *Journal*, and we now have this detailed and documented study by Dr. R. A. Lewis before us.

Chadwick's career was a failure, albeit a glorious one. This occurred not only because he was in many respects a hundred years before his time—his arguments for State intervention in public health which now seem self-evident to us alarmed the early Victorians—but chiefly because of his aggressive personality. This book shows that he was his own worst enemy. He was conceited, arrogant, and rude; he refused to compromise and advocated central control when it was most inopportune. In contrast one has only to recall the great achievements of Sir John Simon at a later date to see how much could be won for public health by enlightened medical knowledge guided by conciliation and tact.

Chadwick was not a doctor, but he was instructed by Southwood Smith, Arnott, and Kay in the sanitary evils that prevailed in the first half of the nineteenth century and in the means of combating them.

"And from the first," writes Dr. Lewis, "when Chadwick sent Arnott, Kay, and Southwood Smith on their tour of investigation in 1838, the doctors were the strongest supporters of the sanitary movement, from the Queen's physician, Sir James Clark, and the University professor, W. A. Guy, down to the dispensary and hospital physicians, Joseph Toynbee, Thomas Laycock, William Duncan, and the unnamed rank and file of the Union surgeons and general practitioners."

Chadwick, in his self-exaltation, would never acknowledge his debt to these medical pioneers. He refused to give doctors the first place in the campaign for public health reform, and tried to subordinate their efforts to those of the administrator and engineer. He held that as sanitarians eliminated the causes of disease from the environment the traditional ministrations of the doctor would become less necessary. He even quarrelled with the inoffensive Farr when he pointed out statistical errors in Chadwick's statements.

Chadwick was wrong in thinking that the prevention of disease was solely a matter of environmental hygiene, although this was of great importance. But his driving energy and fanatical zeal aroused the public conscience, and he achieved the following important results before he was forced to retire from the General Board of Health in 1854: first, his *Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population*, 1842; secondly, the first Public Health Act, 1848; and thirdly, the setting up of a central health authority with a medical department in the same year. Then he established the linking of State medicine with the medical profession, the importance and desirability of medical officers of health, the value of co-operation with the Registrar-General and the guidance afforded by vital statistics, the principle of medical inquiry by the State into disease and the sanitary condition of the nation, and the encouragement of voluntary agencies for the education and public health service of the people.

This book will be read with interest by public health workers. It is well printed and produced.

ARTHUR S. MACNALTLY.

DREAM ANALYSIS

The Handbook of Dream Analysis. By Emil A. Gutheil, M.D. (Pp. 710; 85 illustrations. £2 8s.) New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation. London: George Allen and Unwin. 1952.

The author hopes that this book, "a product of thirty years of research and practice, will help move scientific dream interpretation forward towards the advanced position which several other psychoanalytic techniques have attained." About 600 pages are devoted to interpretations of as many dreams, but the final result is disappointing. This is not because there is little in the book that is fresh or scientific about dream interpretation. Dreams have occupied a central place for half a century in the writings of Freud and Jung and their pupils, and, in view of all the accumulated knowledge and experience, any major revision of theory or approach would scarcely be expected. The disappointment is, rather, related to the author's endeavour in the book to use dream analysis as a basis for teaching psychotherapy.

Dr. Gutheil clearly has much insight into patients' emotional conflicts, as many of his interpretations of their dreams show. But by devoting attention too exclusively to dreams he gives the impression that he is creating a "dream book" rather than presenting the basic principles of unconscious dynamics from which the student can understand the neurotic patient as a whole as well as his dreams. Moreover, certain other features do little to dispel this impression. First, there are far too many assertions made about what is or is not established. Secondly, the author is sometimes inconsistent about the role of unconscious dynamics.

Thus, although he states that artificial or invented dreams can be interpreted as if they were real ones (because unconscious forces go into the selection of the content), later on he is worried about the unreliability of the free associations of many patients because they are influenced by reading psycho-analytic literature. Thirdly, the author tries to cater for students much too diverse in their backgrounds. The glossary, for example, includes the following: "*Haemorrhage*: Bleeding; *Typical*: Pertaining to a type, an example, or a characteristic." In short, for the elementary student, as for the experienced psychotherapist, there is not much here that is not to be found in the classical texts.

J. D. SUTHERLAND.

CORRELATIVE CARDIOLOGY

Correlative Cardiology: An Integration of Cardiac Function and the Management of Cardiac Disease. By Carl F. Shaffer, M.D., F.A.C.P., and D. W. Chapman, M.D., F.A.C.P. (Pp. 525. £2 7s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1952.

My dictionary states that to correlate means "to connect together by the disclosure of a mutual relation." A conscientious teacher of cardiology spends much of his time correlating, and it is good to see that the authors of this book for students emphasize this important didactic principle in their preface, even to the exclusion of all other matters. The shock comes at once, for the work is presented in summary form, an impossible medium for serious correlation.

Students undoubtedly like lists when preparing for examinations, and it may be fairer to judge the book as a means of "hastily filling the mind with information for a temporary purpose." Scanning the lists of concise statements, a reviewer, if human, finds himself on the alert for error; for one of the great dangers of the summary form is that it favours the parrot mind and, being unencumbered with explanatory text and references, can impart almost any information, correct or false, without exciting the critical faculty. Unfortunately serious errors of fact, of omission, and of judgment are rather obtrusive; these, together with the lack of good pen portraits of clinical syndromes, poor differential diagnosis, indifferent physiology, substitution of line drawings for skiagrams, electrocardiograms, and other photographs or tracings, and a bad index, make this book difficult to recommend.

PAUL WOOD.

MÉNIÈRE'S DISEASE

Ménière's Disease. By Professor Henry L. Williams, M.D., M.S. in Otol. (Pp. 349. £2 10s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1953.

The most interesting part of this monograph is the full account of Ménière's original work and his explanation of the labyrinthine origin of the paroxysms of vertigo and vomiting, which had previously been considered to be cerebral in nature. The author emphasizes the importance of Ménière's contribution and explains the facts about the famous necropsy in which a haemorrhagic effusion was found in one labyrinth. He makes it clear that Ménière did not consider this to be the usual lesion of the disorder to which his name was later given. He also points out that Knapp suggested hydrops of the labyrinth as the cause of Ménière's disease in 1871, some 67 years before it was demonstrated pathologically.

Dr. Williams thinks that the basic disturbance in the disorder is an allergic vasospasm with resulting labyrinthine hydrops, but describes a second group of cases in which there are typical attacks of labyrinthine vertigo without clinical evidence of cochlear involvement; he assumes without pathological proof that in these cases there is vasospasm but no hydrops. The section on differential diagnosis is rather inadequate, no mention being made of

paroxysmal positional vertigo or of vestibular neuronitis, which may easily be confused with Ménière's disease, and the author gives scant consideration to episodes of vertigo as an early symptom of disseminated sclerosis. He discusses in detail the possible lines of treatment, in general favouring a low fluid and salt regime together with vasodilator drugs, and in cases where surgery is needed preferring destructive labyrinthotomy to intracranial section of the vestibular nerve.

This monograph should be useful to doctors who often see sufferers from Ménière's disease, for it gives a large amount of information about previous writings on the condition and an adequate account of cochlear and labyrinthine tests. But unfortunately there is a good deal of repetition, and there is no assessment, based on an adequate series of cases, of the natural history of the disease and the prognosis. That would have been invaluable in a monograph of this type.

J. W. ALDREN TURNER.

PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY

Dermatology: Essentials of Diagnosis and Treatment. By Professor Marion B. Sulzberger, M.D., and Jack Wolf, M.D. 4th ed. (Pp. 592; 65 figures, and 8 plates. \$10 or £3 18s.) Chicago: Year Book Publishers. London: Interscience Publishers. 1953.

In this fourth edition of their work the authors are presenting a practical textbook of dermatology dealing with a wide range of common dermatoses but omitting any discussion of rare affections, aetiological theories, general pathology, and histopathology. In the foreword the work is commended to the student and the busy general practitioner, and both will find it a useful book of reference; but the dermatologist will find it of interest also.

The plan of the work, the introduction, and the exposition of the principles of diagnosis, topical medication, and management generally are excellent. The authors draw attention to the physical characters of the applications and the purpose they serve, and they discuss in detail the methods of application and removal and the techniques of bandaging, enjoining their readers to know everything about a few useful remedies and to administer them properly. Not only must the physician give instructions, but he must himself demonstrate these procedures and techniques and must repeatedly check the results of treatment. This is all most admirable and might well be studied by nurses as well as students and doctors.

The authors consider that infantile eczema and the so-called "atopic dermatitis" of adolescent and adult are allergic diseases distinct from eczematous dermatitis of external and unknown origin. They pay great attention to keeping away from potential allergens, especially by elimination diets and by making bedrooms "allergen free" or at least "hypoallergenic." Moving to a warm dry climate is advocated. In discussing pyoderma they emphasize the value of antibiotics applied locally, impetigo being cured in three to five days. Some regard this procedure as unwise and likely to favour the spread of resistant strains of organisms. Leg ulcers and chilblains are not discussed.

"Irritancy," "allergenicity," "morbistatic," and "zoonoses" for diseases due to animal parasites are not attractive terms. "Sharply focussed history" and "symmetrical paired comparison" are expressions that need explaining. The latter refers to the use of different applications to symmetrical sites on the patient to judge which may be the more effective. It is a common practice but not one calculated always to increase the confidence of the patient. The experience of the authors with A.C.T.H. and cortisone is particularly interesting, for it is so much more extensive than that of anyone in Britain. The presentation is balanced and impressive. This is a stimulating and useful textbook; it will be welcomed by dermatologist and general practitioner.

J. T. INGRAM.