

to prevention. So reasons Dr. Duncan Leys in his introduction to this volume, which is the second annual report of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War.

Conditioning—that is, the conscious control of the behaviour of others—was the general theme of the conference, and it was discussed from physiological, sociological, and psychological angles. The twelve thoughtful papers, each by an expert in his own field, give material for reflection and enlightenment on a subject of common concern. Those responsible for the policy of the M.A.P.W. decided, wisely, against a pacifist appeal, preferring research into the pathogenesis of war to a frontal attack on its weapons. No one wants war, and, as Professor Haddow says, the romance of war has vanished and an atomic war can have no psychological satisfactions.

It is good that the Medical Association for the Prevention of War has been formed. Already its 1963 meeting has been held. Let us hope that the 1963 report will escape the delay in publication that has been the fate of this important little book.

E. A. BENNET.

SURGICAL ARMAMENTARIUM

The Instruments of Surgery. By Francis Mitchell-Heggs and H. Guy Radcliffe Drew. (Pp. 526+x; illustrated. £5 5s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1963.

As the armamentarium of the surgical operating theatre becomes more extensive and complex the need for books such as this increases. That the need is being met is indicated by the fact that this is the second publication of its type to be reviewed in the *B.M.J.* within a few months. The present volume is stated to be “designed primarily for those who are in charge of instruments and apparatus in hospitals—the surgeon’s assistants, theatre sisters, and instrument technicians.” In this matter two bodies—the Institute of British Surgical Technicians and the Association of Operating Theatre Technicians—can be easily confused, but it appears that the Institute is more concerned with the manufacture of instruments and appliances and the Association with their maintenance and application in the hospital itself. Both the authors of this volume are connected with the Institute.

A book of this character must have plenty of illustrations. There are 1,134 in all, for the most part taken from instrument makers’ catalogues. The accompanying letterpress explains how they are used and in many instances includes an interesting historical summary of their development. A certain number of illustrations show the instrument or appliance actually in use—for instance, retractors in operations and belts in the treatment of herniae and spinal deformities.

The eponymous naming of instruments has its virtue in avoiding what would otherwise be a long, detailed description and tedious discrimination, but when small variations from the original are made with change of the name there is likely to be trouble in attribution and priorities. Thus Horsley’s bone forceps (Figs. 423, 850) are shown with a toggle joint, but it is very doubtful if the original had other than a simple joint as shown in catalogues of the time.

It is a pity in a book which is generally well adapted for its purpose that the proof-reading, and especially the arrangement of captions, should be so bad. As examples, Figs. 765 and 767 are the same with different captions, and so are Figs. 756 and 764. On the other hand, the text on p. 316 refers to an illustration of an Otis urethrotome that is not there. In Fig. 718 a lithotrite is attributed to Teevan, but the caption lies between what is almost certainly a Thompson’s and a Bigelow’s instrument. (Incidentally

compression of the bag of the evacuator does not “wash particles of stone into the glass bowl”—they fall in by gravity.) Fig. 507 is not an illustration of Souttar’s ingenious oesophageal tube, unless the reproduction has gone wrong.

Some of these errors—unfortunately there are others—may have arisen from the fact that many of the blocks have been supplied by the instrument makers, and this has determined the arrangement of the captions to the illustrations, many of which are compound. These mistakes should be corrected in any future editions, for the book is informative and useful.

NORMAN C. LAKE.

AIDS TO REHABILITATION

Principles of Rehabilitation. By W. Russell Grant. Foreword by Sir James Paterson Ross, Bt. (Pp. 76+xi; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

In essence this slim volume is a reprint of a series of articles under the same title contributed to *The Practitioner* during 1961 and 1962. There is little or no change in the original papers; one might have wished, perhaps, for some editing and expansion and a more logical arrangement of chapters. The advantages to the publisher of reproducing material in this form are obvious, but the length of presentation of articles designed to be read at monthly intervals in a journal do not necessarily make for a balanced book.

The emphasis here is on rehabilitating patients in the activities of daily living and working with disabilities rather than on the physiotherapeutic aspects of the subject. This is very helpful, and the articles concerned are stimulating and well illustrated. There are a number of new ideas. The author’s well-known agricultural rehabilitation unit is described; so are some excellent designs for kitchens and combined bath-bed-and-lavatory facilities for grossly handicapped patients. The title refers to “principles,” but the author has in fact concentrated more on describing his wide experience of a number of practical devices and techniques. This is therefore an introduction to a subject which is already very large and about all aspects of which a great deal more could be said: It is bound to whet the appetite of anyone approaching rehabilitation for the first time.

There are no references, and hardly any mention is made of the names or sources of the commercially available gadgets. These omissions detract from the usefulness of the book, since, in hospital or outside, it is the tracing and acquisition of the aids that takes the time.

J. N. AGATE.

DIABETES AND INSULIN

The Story of Insulin. Forty Years of Success Against Diabetes. By G. A. Wrenshall, Ph.D., G. Hetenyi, Ph.D., and W. R. Feasby, M.D. (Pp. 232; illustrated. \$4.75.) Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press. 1963.

The dramatic discovery of insulin has tended to be overshadowed in the lay mind by the equally exciting but more recent discovery of penicillin and the later antibiotics. It seems opportune, therefore, that the whole story should be retold. It is particularly worth telling, as the authors of this account are directly associated with the birthplace of insulin and are personally acquainted with many of the people and places concerned. The present volume is written in a clear and free style which should appeal to medical and non-medical readers alike.

The background is clearly set. We are taken from the earliest references to diabetes in the Ebers papyrus of 1500