

BOOK REVIEWS

Tropical Medicine

Medicine in the Tropics. Ed. A. W. Woodruff, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 623; £12.) Churchill Livingstone. 1974.

Thirty-eight authors, most of them world authorities in their fields, have contributed to a new work that is, according to the Editor's preface, designed to provide clinicians with "an authoritative account of current medicine in the tropics." And that it certainly does. In a generally well balanced and very refreshing text, the reader is provided with a remarkably comprehensive 36 chapters covering the entire range of tropical medicine from immunology and immunopathology, through the protozoal and helminthic infections, microbial diseases, nutritional disorders, haemoglobinopathies, and concluding with chapters on heat disorders, occupational diseases, problems of poisoning by animals and plants, cardiovascular diseases and, finally, psychiatric disturbances of particular relevance in tropical areas.

What makes this book such interesting reading is the manner in which the majority of the authors have provided an up to date and, in some cases, remarkably detailed, scientific background to the more clinical sections of their particular chapters. Certain chapters, such as those on immunity and immunopathology and on the haemoglobinopathies, are so detailed that they could well serve as basic texts to those subjects in their own right and, because of this, could perhaps be considered as overelaborate within the general context of this book.

A typical chapter deals with its subject matter under the headings of definition, aetiology, epidemiology, pathology, symptomatology, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, prophylaxis and prevention, and prognosis. While a few chapters are well illustrated with line drawings or black and white photographic plates, the majority are not, and this appears to me to be an unfortunate omission. However, each chapter con-

cludes with a good bibliography plus recommendations for further reading. It appears from the dates of works included in these references that the manuscripts of some chapters were submitted several years before actual publication, as must be inevitable in an ambitious and novel assembly such as this. This is no doubt a deficiency that will be remedied in the future editions there will certainly be as this reference book becomes known.

While the price of the normal edition is £12 (a reasonable price within the reach of most clinicians in a country such as our own), it is to be hoped that the publishers will produce a cheaper, soft-back edition for sale in the tropics, where it should receive wide acclaim as a valuable, modern text in clinical tropical medicine both for teaching and reference. Professor Woodruff deserves congratulations for his able editorship of this excellent symposium.

W. PETERS

Disease of Protean Manifestations

Lupus Erythematosus. 2nd. edn. A Review of Current Status of Discoid and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Their Variants. Ed. Edmund L. Dubois, M.D. (Pp. 798; price not given). University of Southern California Press. 1974.

This is a large, heavyweight 798-page single volume publication dealing with a single disorder, lupus erythematosus. But lupus erythematosus is itself a heavyweight condition and has so many facets and faces that it might as well be 20 or more different disorders, and patients suffering from it may initially attend many different clinics in a general hospital—renal, rheumatic, dermato-

logical, gastroenterological, haematological, psychiatric, neurological, and so on.

The book has 19 contributors, all but six from the U.S.A. There is a wealth of information here, and 2,975 references are listed under the authors' names in alphabetical order; half these references, from number 1,439 onwards, are in a supplementary bibliography running up to February this year, no mean achievement. Since the first edition, published in 1965, the sections on the kidney and autoimmune aspects have been entirely rewritten and two new chapters added on the New Zealand mouse model and coagulation defects. Most of the chapters are followed by a supplement bringing the information up to date.

Much of this impressive book is written by the editor himself, including comprehensive chapters on the clinical picture of systemic lupus erythematosus and its treatment. Of interest in his series of patients is the decline in the last ten years in deaths from uraemia and neurological causes, while deaths from fungal and opportunist infections have increased, probably owing to prolonged steroid therapy. Deaths from malignancy increased over the same period from two to seven per cent.

There is a vast amount of interesting material in this well produced and well illustrated comprehensive book.

F. DUDLEY HART

Hospital Anthology

Great Men of Guy's. Ed. William B. Ober. (Pp. 392; \$12.50.) Scarecrow Press. 1973.

This anthology of a medical school is especially commendable because it reveals the thinking of contemporary workers engaged on their several lines of clinical research. Richard Bright, Thomas Addison, and Thomas Hodgkin joined the staff of Guy's Hospital within a period of five years, and those pioneer clinical chemists, George E. Barlow, George Owen Reece, and Golding Bird likewise, almost two decades later. The three physicians, as had been the custom, were competent morbid anatomists denied the later advantages of microscopy, and so their important contributions to medicine depended largely upon their dissections. This

dual and worthwhile training for clinicians persisted in many hospitals for over a century.

Two little known characters are brought to light in this book; Albert Swaine Taylor, an early forensic pathologist whose evidence would have been more dreaded by the guilty in the days of capital punishment than would be the case today; and Thomas Williams, one-time student at Guy's and a picturesque figure who, in 1843, foresaw the potentialities for human pathology of the Schleiden and Schwann cell theories. The place of honour in the collection of writings is given to the veteran Sir Astley Cooper, relic of the days of "the Borough Hospitals" and pace-setter for the young men of Guy's.

These masters of prose and scientific deduction of the first half of the nineteenth

century have been well chosen by the editor, and the short biographies he includes are admirable. It should be added that the knighthood (or more likely baronetcy) with which he credits Dr. Richard Mead, though surely deserved, is not documented.

In a foreword, Lord Brock cites others he regards as having been worthy of selection, up to and including Sir Arthur Hurst, who will be remembered with affection by many: here then is a suggestion for another volume. But some readers may react to Lord Brock's understandable enthusiasm for Guy's by asserting that there are other medical schools which perhaps deserve an anthology, in which case Dr. Ober will be kept very busy.

W. H. MCMENEMEY