in a style in part dependent upon whether the authors belong to the same club. It is therefore important to say that I am now reading Professor Mansfield’s book for the third time. The first time I was so acutely conscious of our belonging to different clubs that until I neared the end I was inclined to return it, accompanied by the simple statement that I could not understand it. But something towards the end suddenly enlightened a dark corner in my mind. I read it a second time with understanding and enjoyment. Perhaps I shall see through it the third time, but till then I am bound to say that no one whose interest lie in thyroid disorders can afford to neglect it.

We have been accustomed to believe that the healthy thyroid gland produces but one hormone, of which the active part is thyroxine. Mansfield would have us believe that there are four: one which is concerned with blood formation, which he calls the myelotropic hormone; two which have the effect of lowering oxygen consumption, one of which comes automatically into action in the spring and one when the body is overheated—these he calls the thermothyrins; and one which we are unashamedly relieved to find is our old friend thyroidine. His statements are supported by many well-controlled experiments which command respect, and are of the greater importance now that pure thyroxine is coming into clinical use. They suggest that we shall not find that thyroxine is capable of replacing thyroid in all respects.

Indeed, our relief at finding thyroxine among the thyroid hormones may have been premature. It is not the simple stuff we thought it was. It is apparently true that it raises oxygen consumption by its action on the cells themselves and not, as some have tried to persuade us, by an action on the central nervous system. But the nerves are none the less necessary, for they are the channels along which thyroxine slowly reaches the cells. It has, moreover, other effects. By acting on the pituitary it causes the production of a hitherto unknown hormone which travels by the blood stream and immediately raises the oxygen consumption of resting muscles. A third activity is even more complicated. In its absence the thermothyrin B reverses its normal effect and raises oxygen consumption, whereas another substance in colloid is necessary for the normal activity of thermothyron A, thyroxine actually increasing its metabolic effect in thyroidectomized animals.

The last chapter, on Graves’s disease, might well have been omitted. It is full of stimulating speculation, but it lacks the solid, or seeming-solid, basis of experiment which gives the earlier chapters their value.

RAYMOND GREENE.

MEDICAL PROTOZOOLOGY


This new handbook on medical protozoology fills a gap in the literature available to the student of this subject. The early chapters on the structure, physiology, classification, and ecology of the protozoa give the reader an excellent introduction to the group to serve as a foundation for subsequent more detailed study. There follows a consideration of the intestinal protozoa of man in which clear descriptions are given of the four groups which occur in the intestinal tract—the amoebae, the flagellates, the coccidia, and the ciliates—and there is a separate chapter on the coprozoic protozoa.

One of the best sections of the book is that on the haemo-flagellates, the leishmanias and trypanosomes.

A good description of the former includes not only morphological details of the parasites in the vertebrate and insect hosts but considers their classification, cultivation, transmission, and host-parasite relationships. In describing the trypanosomes the author is in his own specialty and threads a skilful way through the intricacies of classification and differentiation of species, which is summarized in a key to the important mammalian trypanosomes.

The morphology, life-cycles, and methods of transmission of the important species are discussed individually, the fullest account naturally being that relating to the African pathogenic species and their vectors the tsetse flies. Some-what surprisingly, considering their importance, the malaria parasites are the last big group to be discussed. The description of these follows orthodox lines and there is nothing left out which the student should know. This statement emphasizes sufficiently the value of this section.

The third part of the book describes the methods of collecting materials for study, the making of permanent preparations, methods of diagnosis, and media for cultivation of various protozoa. The three coloured plates are excellent and the general format of the work very pleasing. It can be recommended as the most useful introductory work on medical protozoology for the student and medical officers and practitioners in the Tropics.

H. E. SHORTI.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received


Iodized Salt

Mr. Somerville Hastings on March 22 asked whether the Food Standards Committee had completed its inquiry into the measures necessary to give effect to the Medical Research Council’s recommendation that all domestic salt supplies in Great Britain should be iodized as a measure of protection against goitre.

Mr. Maurice Webb replied that this had been done, and presented briefly to the House the findings of the Food Standards Committee. These recommendations and the considerations which prompted them are presented fully elsewhere in this issue (p. 783).

Universities of Cambridge

The Rockefeller Foundation has provided a sum of up to £5,000 to the University for research in neurophysiology under the direction of Professor E. D. Adrian, O.M., F.R.S., during the five-year period beginning February 1, 1951, not more than £1,500 to be available in any one year.


University of Edinburgh

Dr. Douglas Guthrie, Lecturer on the History of Medicine in the University, will deliver a series of lectures entitled “A Retrospect of Medicine and Science” on April 18 and 24, May 1, 8, 24, and 29, and June 5, 12, and 19. On May 15 Dr. J. Menzies Campbell will present “A Survey of British Dentistry, 1685 to 1921” and on June 22 Professor K. Shyoeck (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.) will discuss “Social Medicine in the Nineteenth Century.” All the lectures will be delivered in the Physiology Lecture Theatre, University New Buildings, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, at 5 p.m. The course is open to all matriculated students and graduates of the University with the approval of the University staff without fee. Others may attend on payment of an entrance fee of 10s. in lieu of the matriculation fee. Details of the lectures will appear in the “Societies and Lectures” column of the Journal week by week.

University of Wales

Welsh National School of Medicine

The Council of the Welsh National School of Medicine has appointed Arthur Goronwy Watkins, M.D., F.R.C.P., to the newly established Professorship of Child Health at the Welsh National School of Medicine. Dr. Watkins has been Lecturer in Paediatrics since 1932 and is at present paediatrician to several hospitals and to the Tuberculosis Service in South Wales, and Adviser in Paediatrics to the Welsh Regional Hospital Board.

University of Manchester

On Founder’s Day, May 17, the honorary degree of D.Sc. will be conferred on Professor J. E. D'Arcy Nugus, M.S., F.R.C.S. Surgeon to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department, King’s College Hospital, for his contributions to medical research, particularly in laryngology, and on the Right Honourable Lord Boyd-Orr, D.S.O., M.C., J.P., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., formerly Director-General, United Nations University and Agricultural Organization, for public services and contributions to agricultural research.

Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics

We print below a summary of Infectious Diseases and Vital Statistics in the British Isles during the week ended March 11.

**Disease** | 1950 | 1949 (Corresponding Week)
---|---|---
Meningococcal infection | 27 | 2
Deaths | 1 | 1
Diphtheria | 62 | 9
Deaths | 2 | 1
Dysentery | 362 | 1190
Deaths | 2 | 2
Encephalitis, acute | 4 | 1
Deaths | 1 | 1
Erysipelas | 22 | 10
Deaths | 1 | 1
Infective enteritis or diarrhoea under 2 years of age | 18 | 13
Deaths | 2 | 5
Measles* | 5,476 | 60
Deaths* | 1 | 1
Orthopilaemia neonatorum | 34 | 13
Deaths | 9 | 2
Paralytic fevers | 1 | 1(B)
Deaths | 3 | 3(B)
Pneumonia, influenzal | 1,014 | 60
Deaths from influenzal pneumonia | 26 | 1,500
Deaths | 72 | 33
11 | 21
Pneumonia, primary | 108 | 14
Deaths | 259 | 48
11 | 15
Poliomyelitis, acute | 355 | 68
Deaths | 292 | 91
17 | 11
Puerperal fever | 41 | 4
Deaths | 6 | 2
Puerperal pyrexia | 106 | 5
Deaths | 113 | 9
Relapsing fever | — | —
Deaths | — | —
Scarlet fever | 2,093 | 123
Deaths | 176 | 77
127 | 1,189
Deaths* | 54 | 182
101 | 30
Smallpox | — | —
Deaths | — | —
Typhoid fever | — | —
Deaths | — | —
Tuberculosis | — | —
Deaths | — | —
Whooping-cough* | 1,917 | 77
Deaths | 361 | 73
53 | 2,653
Deaths* | 14 | 7
6 | 247
106 | 66
Deaths (0-1 year) | 301 | 37
Deaths (excluding stillbirths) | 38 | 45
Annual death rate (per 1,000 persons living) | 12 | 15
6,081 | 937
Deaths & stillbirths | 321 | 15
286 | 717
187 | 176
7,387 | 173
124
0 | 190
210 | 18-26 | 22
187 | 35 | 29
216 | 5 | 29
178 | 30

* Measles and whooping-cough are not notifiable in Scotland, and the returns therefore are on an approximation only.
† Deaths from measles and scarlet fever for England and Wales, London (administrative county), and Northern Ireland, and in England and Wales (excluding London), respectively.
‡ The number of deaths from poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis for England and Wales, London (administrative county), is combined.
§ Includes pyrexial fever for England and Wales and Eire.
* Includes puerperal fever for England and Wales and Eire.
† Primary pneumonia no longer notifiable in Eire.

No. 10

Diseases for

(a) England and Wales (London included).
(b) London (administrative county).
(c) Scotland.
(d) Eire (excl. Northern Ireland).
Hunterian Prize Essay

The Hunterian Prize Essay for 1949 has been won by Dr. S. M. Rivlin for his essay on the “Treatment of Varicose Veins and their Complications.” The subject for the 1950 essay is “The Diagnosis and Treatment of Irritating Rashes.” The competition is open to all general practitioners. Further details may be had from the honorary secretary, Mr. Clement Francis, 75, Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Institute of Social Psychiatry

The institute is appealing for £25,000 to encourage research, to develop the institute’s social rehabilitation scheme for offenders, and to open new therapeutic social clubs. At a dinner held on March 22, which was presided over by Colonel J. J. Astor, Dr. E. B. Strauss emphasized the need for further funds to carry on the institute’s work for mental health and public welfare. Sir John Charles, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, referred to some of the problems of a national medical service, asking, Was ear piercing a surgical procedure, and was slimming of the female form medical or cosmetic treatment? The institute’s activities had been most beneficial, and great opportunities lay ahead. Alderman Reginald Slamp, chairman of the Health Committee of the L.C.C., said that the L.C.C. contributed only 90% towards the institute’s expenses because it believed in voluntary service, leaving the other 10% to be raised voluntarily. Dr. Noel Harris recalled the past, when patients were sometimes brought to hospital in strait-jackets. The attitude of the public had done much to put patients off mental treatment, but that was changing. There was a great shortage of trained psychiatrists. The institute was hoping to contribute to the study of delinquency. Colonel Astor gave the toast of “The Institute,” which was replied to by Dr. J. Bierer.

Wills

Dr. William Lyle, who was Unionist M.P. for Queen’s University in the Northern Ireland Parliament, left £22,542. Dr. Richard Walter Marsden, formerly medical superintendent of Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, left £27,674; Dr. William Cunningham Milroy, of Wallasey, £36,285; Dr. Francis Griffith Thomas, formerly ophthalmic surgeon to the Swansea General and Eye Hospital, £18,724; Dr. Richard Pitson Rosser, of Darlington, Durham, £20,850; and Dr. Henry Corsi, of Harley Street, W.1, £29,731.

COMING EVENTS

Medical Art Society

The annual exhibition of the Medical Art Society will take place at Walker’s Galleries, New Bond Street, London, W., from April 17 to 29. The annual dinner of the Society will be held at Kettner’s Restaurant, Romilly Street, London, W., on Monday, April 17, at 7 p.m.

British Medical Students Association

The following meeting has been arranged. Northern Region.

—April 4: Regional meeting at Leeds.

Royal Eye Hospital

The Royal Eye Hospital (King’s College Hospital Group). St. George’s Circus, London, S.E., has arranged a series of spring-term lectures open to postgraduate and undergraduate students. A fee of 5s. per subject will be charged for physiology and anatomy and for the practical courses on pathology and bacteriology, refraction, and operative surgery. Those wishing to attend any of the lectures, or the classes, are requested to apply for tickets of admission. The lectures on clinical ophthalmology and the occasional lectures are free of charge.

Rehabilitation Conference in Argentina

A conference on rehabilitation will be held at Buenos Aires in October, 1950. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Organizadas por el Ateneo de Kinesiologia, Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, Buenos Aires.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

Monday

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., April 3, 8.30 p.m., “Ulcerative Colitis,” to be introduced by Professor T. L. Hardy and Mr. Michael J. Smyth.

Tuesday


ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL (KING’S COLLEGE HOSPITAL GROUP). St. George’s Circus, London, S.E.—April 4, 5 p.m., “Science and Art of Refraction,” by Dr. T. H. Whittington.

Wednesday

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—(1) At St. Peter’s Hospital, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., April 5, 3.30 p.m., F. T. P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Professor of Urology, to introduce Specimens, by Mr. H. K. Vernon; (2) At St. Paul’s Hospital, Endell Street, London, W.C., April 5, 5 p.m., “New Problems of the Bladder,” by Dr. J. G. Sandry.

Friday

INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY.—At Royal Liverpool Hospital, Hope Street, Liverpool, on April 5, 5 p.m., “Neurofibrinomatosis of Central Nervous System,” by Professor J. Morelle (Louvain).

Thursday


APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Norman George Bisset McLetichie has been appointed to the chair of pathology at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, in succession to Professor R. P. Smith.

Dr. McLetichie qualified at Glasgow in 1936, and proceeded M.D. with honours in 1940. He was Director of Pathological Laboratories at Regina, Saskatchewan, before his present appointment.


BURNS, J. P. J., M.C., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

CHARRETT, MACDONALD ARTHUR, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Slough and Area Medical Officer for South Bucks.

CHAPPELL, ROLAND LAMBERT.—Consultant Surgeon to the Peterborough Area, G. H. Valentine, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

FOULKES, SIGMUND H., M.D., L.R.C.P.&S.Ed., Part-time Physician (Consultant), Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maidstone Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.


BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Fawkes.—On March 3, 1950, at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to Hilary (née Holton), wife of Dr. M. A. Fawkes, a son.—Richard de Fontenelle.

Giles.—On March 14, 1950, to Ruth (née White), wife of Dr. Christopher Giles, Wandas, Sandy Lane, Newcastle, Staffs, a son.—McCracken.

McCracken.—On March 15, 1950, at Hope Hospital, Salford, to Margaret (née Laycock) and Dermot McCracken, a son.—Robert Henry Joy.

Schofield.—On March 18, 1950, at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital, to Margaret (née Reeve), M.B., Ch.B., wife of Theo L. Schofield, F.R.C.S., a daughter.—DEATHS

Bellbery.—On March 21, 1950, Owen Henry Bellbery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of 35, Ware Bay Road, Folkstone.


Dunsmuir.—On March 14, 1950, at Hobart, Tasmania, Allan Dunsmuir, M.B., Ch.B., aged 67.


Mitchell.—On March 19, 1950, Ada Mitchell, daughter of the late Dr. C. C. Greig, of Fyvie, and wife of Alexander Mitchell, Ch.M., of The Lodge, Old Road, Aberdeen.


Wolferstan.—On March 17, 1950, at Ashford County Hospital, Kenneth Wolferstan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, aged 65.