to the variations which occur in autonomic reflex reactions under conditions of centrally induced autonomic imbalance. Since a large part of the experimental material is published here for the first time (70 of the 101 illustrations are from unpublished investigations), and since of necessity publication in this form omits many details of experimental procedure it is difficult to judge the scientific validity of much of the work. Its general interest and implications are, however, beyond doubt, and, since the results of the physiological experiments are also presented in a summarized and easily readable form, an account of this work is available to the general reader as well as to the specialist. It is perhaps surprising that the anterior hypothalamus is accepted without discussion as a parasympathetic region, and most physiologists will also be surprised to learn that the actions of adrenomedullary secretion do not reinforce sympathetic discharges, but may, in fact, inhibit them. In the later third of the book the psychiatric and clinical implications are considered. It is suggested that the autonomic balance of normal persons and of various psychiatric patients may be determined by use of the methacholine (Funkenstein) and noradrenaline tests. The importance of considering the age of the patient when evaluating the response to methacholine is emphasized. Since hypothalamic excitability and balance are thought to vary with the emotional and mental states of the patient, it is suggested that neuropsychiatric therapy should take such factors into consideration.

This is a provocative book—in which the neurophysiologist and psychiatrist will find much of interest. It is an account of the more recent researches, and views, of Gelhorn and his school, and will form a stimulus to many in thinking of psychiatric illness.

G. W. HARRIS.

BACILLUS CALMETTE-GUÉRIN

Le Souche du BCG. By A. Frappier and M. Panisset. (Pp. 120.) Montreal: Institut de Microbiologie et d'Hygiène de l'Université, 1957.

This book embodies the views of laboratory workers who are actually engaged on the study of the biology and identification of the B.C.G. strain and of its various substrains and vaccine preparations. The large experience of the authors in this field has enabled them to provide critical comments and to weld the information into a useful review. Much of the content was discussed at a conference called by the International Union Against Tuberculosis in Geneva in 1956. Preliminary sections on the history of B.C.G. are followed by a consideration of its inherited and acquired characteristics and variations and of its stability. It is recognized now that substrains in use in different laboratories, and the vaccines produced therefrom, differ in important respects other than those due to production techniques, though this heterogeneity has not been proved to have led to major virulence. Systems of control, so that the safety, identification, and antigenicity of a B.C.G. strain or substrain can be ascertained, are discussed in later sections. The book, which has a preface by L. Négre, of the Pasteur Institute, provides valuable reference material for laboratory workers concerned with B.C.G.

P. D'ARCY HART.
COMING EVENTS

Society for General Microbiology.—28th general meeting, April 6-8, at the Beveridge Hall, Senate House, University of London. The meeting will include a symposium on virus growth and variation. Further details from the Society, c/o Institute of Biology, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

University of Sheffield.—Course in dermatology for general practitioners from April 13 to 17 at Sheffield Royal Infirmary (see Advertisements, p. 67).

Laboratory Animals Centre.—Twelfth congress and symposium ("Quality in Laboratory Animals"), April 14-16, at the Royal Veterinary College, London, N.W.1. Details from the M.R.C. Laboratories, Woodmansterne Road, Carshalton, Surrey.


"Problems of Adoption."—Week-end course, April 24-26, at the Bracklesham Bay Hotel, Chichester. Details from the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency, 8, Bourdon Street, Davies Street, London, W.1.

Royal Society of Health.—Annual Health Congress, Harrogate, April 27 to May 1. Details from the secretary, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

Cremation Conference.—The Cremation Society’s conference will be held at Southsea from June 30 to July 2. Further details from the Society, 47, Nottingham Place, London, W.1.

Corneo-plastic Conference.—A conference on the application of plastic surgery in ophthalmology will be held at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, on June 6. Further details will be found at p. 67 of our advertised columns.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked . Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, February 16

Guy’s Hospital.—5.15 p.m., endocrine demonstration by Professor C. Dent on Hyperparathyroidism.

Postgraduate Medical School of London.—4 p.m., Guest lecture by Dr. Brian Ackner: Emotional Aspects of the Menopause.


University College London: Department of Biochemistry.—At Physiology, Gower Street, W.C. 5 p.m., public lecture by Professor A. Haddow, F.R.S.: Chemistry and Biology of Cancer.

(2) Mechanisms of Malnourish Change.

Tuesday, February 17

British Postgraduate Medical Federation.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. Lynne Reid: Chronic Bronchitis and Hypersecretion of Mucus.

Heathwood Orthopaedic Hospital.—8.30 p.m., Mr. W. A. Alexander Law: Surgical Reconstruction of the Hip.

Institute of Dermatology.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. G. Cosgrove: Lepraemia (R). London University.—At London Hospital Medical College, 5.30 p.m., special lecture in pharmacology by Professor E. Bueding (Louisiana): Mechanism of Action of Schistosomulae Agents.


St. Mary’s Hospital Medical School.—At Wright-Fleming Institute Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. E. M. Edwards: Genital Tuberculosis.

South-West London Medical Society.—At Bournemouth Hospital, 8.30 p.m., Dr. R. A. Zeltin: Role of the National Blood Transfusion Service in General Practice.

Wednesday, February 18

Harveyan Society.—7.30 p.m., clinicopathological meeting.

Institute of Dermatology.—At London Hospital Medical College, 5.30 p.m., Dr. J. T. Ingram: Porphyria.

Institute of Urology.—4.30 for 5 p.m., Dr. R. C. B. Pugh: Testicular Tumours.

Midland Medical Society.—At Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 8.15 p.m., Dr. E. S. Taylor: Neurasthenia.

Postgraduate Medical School of London.—At Bournemouth Hospital, 8.30 p.m., Guest lecture by Dr. A. T. Sandiford: Schistosomicidal Drugs.

Yorkshire Society of Anaesthetists.—At General Infirmary at Leeds, 8.30 p.m., Dr. A. J. Griffiths: Hypotension. The Peripheral Venous Pressure and the Veno-motor Response.

Thursday, February 19

British Institute of Radiology.—8 p.m., subject: Radiographic Techniques used in Treatment Planning. Papers by Dr. R. S. Poistion, Dr. J. A. Stevenson, and Dr. J. J. Davidson.

British Postgraduate Medical Federation.—At London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 5.30 p.m., Dr. R. H. Motte: Radiation and the Toxic Agent.

Hypnotherapy Group.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 8 p.m., Dr. J. A. D. Day and Night Hospital, Tooting Bec, London, S.W.17.

Liverpool Medical Institution.—8 p.m., pathological meeting. Dr. Keith Simpson: Pathology’s Part in G.I.D. Investigations.

Manchester Medical Society: Section of Anaesthetics.—At Staff House, Manchester University, 7.45 for 8 p.m., Professor W. D. M. Paton: Effects of Halothane on Anaesthetic Narcosis.

North-Western Thoracic Society.—At Clinical Sciences Buildings, York Place, Manchester, 5 p.m., Dr. John Jones: Reconstruction of Bronchial Carcinoma; Dr. L. Liversedge: Neurological Manifestations of Bronchial Carcinoma.

Royal College of Physicians of London.—5 p.m., Merc Daniels Lecture by Dr. F. J. Kerley: Mass Radiography in the Prevention of Disease.

Royal College of Surgeons of England.—4.35 p.m., Annual Demonstration by Dr. A. H. Bierer: The Neurohypophysis—Review of its Structure and Function. (2) 5 p.m., Ophthalmology Lecture by Professor A. Sorby: Retinal Arteriosclerosis—Recessive and Dominant Forms.

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.—7.30 p.m., Professor K. R. Hill: Some Aspects of Liver Disease in the West Indies. A discussion will follow.

St. Andrews University.—At Physiology Department Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. J. F. Goodwin: Hypertension.

St. George’s Hospital Medical School.—5 p.m., Dr. Desmond Curran: Cardiac failure.

Friday, February 20

Association of Clinical Biochemists.—At Clinical Lecture Theatre, Middlesex Hospital, W., 7 p.m., meeting of Southern England and Northern Wales Region. Professor J. K. R. Lindsey.

British Tuberous Tuberculosis Society.—At 26, Portland Place, London, W., 5 p.m., subject: Genito-urinary Tuberculosis. (1) Mr. James Gow: Genito-urinary Tuberculosis—Ten Years of Progress. (2) Mr. Howard Hanley: Conservative Surgery in Renal Tuberculosis. (3) Dr. Harwood Stevenson: Genito-urinary Tuberculosis in an Orthopaedic Hospital: Discussion to be opened by Mr. M. F. Nicholls. Members of the British Society of Genito-urinary Surgeons.

Faculty of Radiologists.—At Royal College of Surgeons of England, 4 p.m., Radiology Section meeting. Discussion: Statistical Problems Arising in Cancer Therapy. To be opened by Professor T. A. Bradford Hill, Professor Robert McWhirter, and Dr. J. W. Rose.

Institute of Dermatology.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. L. Forman.

Institute of Diseases of the Chest.—5 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. N. C. Osawa.

Institute of Laryngology and Otology.—3.30 p.m., clinical discussion for general practitioners. Mr. C. Gill-Carey: Emergency in Throat: Nose, and Ear Practice.

King’s Canterbury Hospital.—5 p.m., clinical meeting.

Leicester Christian Medical Association.—At Leicester Royal Infirmary, 8.45 p.m., Reverend R. de Courcy Allen: Drunka, Drunks, and Drunken.

Plymouth Medical Society.—At Department of Physiotherapy, Dale Road, 8.30 p.m., Physiotherapy—A Practical Demonstration of Modern Methods.

Postgraduate Medical School of London.—At (1) 10 a.m., Guest lecture by Mr. H. Osmond-Clarke: Cervical Disk Lesions. (2) 4 p.m., Guest lecture by Mr. S. W. Stanbury: Oesophagitis.

Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society of Glasgow.—At Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 8.30 p.m., Dr. T. Fraser, Mr. A. Macdougal, and Dr. J. M. Cargoas: Management of the Painful Hip.

Saturday, February 21

General Infirmary at Leeds.—11 a.m., Sir Francis Walke, F.R.S.: We Have to Unlearn about the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System.

North of England Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Society.—At Middlesbrough, 2 p.m., 35th ordinary meeting.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Davis.—On February 1, 1959, to Jessamine (formerly Akhurst), M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.O., wife of Michael K. Davie, M.B., B.S., of "St. Dominic," 58, Newmarket Avenue, Canterbury, Kent, a daughter for Mr. and Mrs. Michael Davie, of Lilliput, at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, in Bideford, Devon. (2) 8 a.m., Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, of 51, Leith Road, Edinburgh, a son.

DEATHS

Campbell.—On January 19, 1959, James Graham Campbell, M.D., of 283, Sandbanks Road, Lilliput, Dorset, for 74 years, at a son.

Cowan.—On January 22, 1959, at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Edward Geoffrey Syney Cowan, D.S.O., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Colonel, late R.A.M.C. (retired). (3) 8 a.m., Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, of 51, Leith Road, Edinburgh, a daughter.

Cowan.—On January 22, 1959, at the Manor Hospital, Bath, Somerset, James Cowan, M.B., Ch.B., Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C. (retired). (4) 8 a.m., Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, of 51, Leith Road, Edinburgh, a son.

Davie.—On January 19, 1959, Arthur Duncan Forbes, M.B., of Nyvans, New South Wales, Australia, for 47 years, at 15, Woodlands Road, Manchester, Lancs, Charles Wainwright Fort, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.

Hawke.—On January 19, 1959, at 9, Sandringham Road, Marylebone, London, S.W.1, Dr. T. Fraser, M.B., for 34, Ovington Court, London, S.W., aged 65.

Johnstone.—On January 19, 1959, at 19, Sandringham Road, Marylebone, London, S.W.1, Mrs. M. Johnstone, of Blandsfield, Studland, Dorset, of 25, Barlow’s Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Warwick.