move through the second half of the twentieth century, because experience is personal and much of medicine has changed in our lifetime from art to technology. Part I, which has the title ‘Groupings of Related Diseases Frequently Producing Puzzling Illness,’ extends to 560 pages and includes an atlas of skin disorders in the last 45 pages. Some idea of the quality and content of this first part may be given by the following quotation from the section on hepatic coma in the chapter entitled ‘Hepatic Disease and Jaundice.’

‘It is vitally important that Wernicke’s encephalopathy not be misdiagnosed as hepatic coma, due to the salutary effects of large doses of thiamine in the former state.’

The importance of not overlooking hepatic hypoglycemia (p. 21) and magnesium deficiency (p. 67) as causes of bizarre mental behaviour, neurologic phenomena, and coma have been discussed previously. Although the so-called ‘flapping tremor’ was at one time thought to be characteristic of hepatic failure, it has also been observed in pulmonary insufficiency, renal failure, pituitary insufficiency, severe malnutrition, and steatorrhea. Two other important and potentially treatable conditions that must be considered in the alcoholic patient with cirrhosis who develops serious neurologic involvement is a subdural haematoma and an infectious meningitis.

A large part of the book, but not all of it, is as good as this. Part I is followed by 100 closely printed pages of references, about 2,500 of them. Part II is a classification and analysis of useful diagnostic procedures; it comprises nearly 200 pages. Finally, there are a 25-page index of signs, symptoms, and laboratory manifestations, and a general index of nearly 40 pages. I should regard Dr. Roberts’s book as an extravaganza to buy—it costs £6 13s.—but I should be happy to have it on my shelves to consult when I am thinking over a puzzling case or preparing for a clinical demonstration.

L. J. WITTS.

ELECTROLYTE CHANGES IN SURGERY


This book, though comparable in size, is very different in style and emphasis from the well-known books by LeQuense and by Wilkinson on the same subject. For example, in this book only six pages are given to postoperative changes in water and electrolytes, whereas the discussion of acid-base alterations runs to 49 pages. We have here, in effect, a good account of those matters which have interested and engaged the authors, rather than a comprehensive survey of the field suggested by the title. The emphasis throughout is biochemical, and there is a note almost of despair on page 37, when it is admitted that ‘the diagnosis of the late stage of respiratory alkalosis is difficult to make except by history and physical findings.’

This is a book for those already interested in electrolyte metabolism rather than for the general reader. In addition to the central section on acid-base troubles, it provides useful insights into the dangers of excessive transfusion and pre-operative purgation. There is no index, but the table of contents is adequate.

D. A. K. BLACK.
authorities, whose estimated needs for this month were delivered by April 4. A very welcome though belated rise occurred, shortly after that date, in the response from young people, of whom only one in twelve had registered for vaccination by the end of February. As, however, it came very suddenly and was unexpectedly steep, a considerable number of local health authorities had to ask urgently for additional supplies of vaccine. These requests had all been met, a million extra doses having been distributed. Further large supplies would be issued to meet the needs of May, including a million doses of imported Salk and the vaccine available from British producers.

In reply to Mr. W. R. Williams (Manchester, Openshaw, Lab.) Mr. Walker-Smith insisted that there was no question of any wholesale breakdown, and it was quite wrong to suggest there was. What happened was that some local authorities, instead of requiring a preliminary registration, vaccinated on demand at open clinics, first to encourage young people to come forward and then to cope with the large numbers. In doing so on that basis there were necessarily occasional local difficulties of supply.

Alleged Threat to Third Injections

Dr. Summerskill told the Minister he was making a great mistake in adopting this attitude. The six questions represented the views of medical officers of health in different parts of the country. She produced some letters, and asserted that the Middlesex County Council in the previous week had told doctors that promises made to the council of supplies of vaccine had not been fulfilled, that no further vaccine would be available until May, that the only way the authority could meet its commitments was to refuse any third injection, and that people applying then could be given only one injection.

Mr. Walker-Smith's reply was that only one injection was given to start with, and a second after four or five weeks. He was certain—although speaking without notice—that the Middlesex demands, or supplementary demands, had been or were being met in the course of the week.

Dr. Summersskill: The instructions were that children who were ready for their third injection, which would give them full protection this summer, were not to be given it, but that that injection was to be given to new cases. Mr. Walker-Smith stated that it was within the discretion of each local authority how it arranged its programme.

Cost of Polio Vaccine

The Minister told Dr. Barnet Stross (Stoke-on-Trent, Central, Lab.) that 26½ million doses of vaccine had been distributed, of which 7½ million had been British and 16 million imported.

Mr. S. P. Viant (Willesden, West, Lab.), who asked about costs, was informed that the cost to the Exchequer of the vaccine for a series of three inoculations was estimated at between 10s. and 12s. The cost to local authorities of arranging for the vaccine to be administered varied according to the arrangements made, and an estimate was not available. No charge was made to the persons vaccinated.

Increase in Leprosy

The Minister informed Mr. Norman Pannell (Liverpool, Kirkdale, Con.) that at the end of 1958 there were 275 cases of leprosy known in the United Kingdom. Mr. Pannell pointed out that the number had risen from 46 cases in 1951, and asked what was the reason for this alarming increase. Mr. Walker-Smith said that the disease was contracted outside this country, and for that reason he could not say to what the increase was due.

Mr. Pannell thought the situation was becoming so serious that some regulations should be observed, particularly in regard to people entering the country suddenly and the disease. Mr. Walker-Smith did not think it could be described as serious. There was no evidence of a spread of leprosy in this country. He also told him that there were two special units in England and Wales where in-patient treatment was given, one of which was outside the Health Service. In addition many sufferers from leprosy could be treated as out-patients at hospitals without special facilities. In Scotland patients were treated at any major infectious diseases hospital or at the tropical diseases unit of the Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh.

Doctors' Pay

Mr. Kenneth Robinson (St. Pancras, North, Lab.) asked when the Minister expected to receive the report of the Royal Commission on doctors' pay. Mr. Walker-Smith: The Royal Commission expect to receive all outstanding information by the autumn and thereafter they will report as soon as possible.

Mr. Robinson: Was not the Royal Commission asked to make its report as a matter of urgency? The last information from the Minister was that he expected the report this summer. Why has there been further delay? Mr. Walker-Smith: The Royal Commission is proceeding as quickly as it can compatible with doing the job it was asked to do. I pass on expectations as I receive them from the Royal Commission.

Part-time Consultants

Mr. Kenneth Robinson also asked, how many whole-time consultants had transferred to part-time maximum sessions in each of the last five years for which figures were available. Mr. Walker-Smith said that information was not immediately available. He was having the necessary inquiries made, and would write to Mr. Robinson as soon as possible.

Mr. Robinson said the information ought to be available to Parliament. These transfers from whole-time to part-time, however financially advantageous to consultants, were detrimental to the hospital service and should be discouraged, not only by the Ministry but also by the Inland Revenue. Mr. Walker-Smith replied that the information would be available when he had made inquiries. At the end of this year improved statistical procedures would enable such information to be given without making individual inquiries. Mr. Robinson would be aware of the safeguarding of part-time consultant work by section 12 of the National Health Service (Amendment) Act, 1949.

On the last part of his question, they had better wait and see whether the Royal Commission had anything to say when it reported.

Chiropy Service

Mr. Walker-Smith, replying to questions by Mr. J. McKay (Walsend, Lab.) about the registration scheme for chiropractors taking part in the Health Service, said the difference arose between the point of view of the medical auxiliaries and the Joint Consultants' Committee. He had been seeking to help to resolve that difference. The Secretary of State for Scotland and he were now considering points put forward by the Joint Consultants' Committee.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In Congregation on January 22 the degree of B.M. was conferred on M. A. Rucklidge, L. M. McEwen, and, in absence, on J. Dodd.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In Congregation on January 24 the following degrees were conferred:

M.B., B.C.L. — N. A. Subedar, *R. W. Sherwin, G. D. Blackledge,
* J. M. L. Jones, R. M. Simons, J. Blake, J. W. Soper, J. R. Strong,
* D. B. MacAdam, T. Moreton.
* By proxy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

In December, 1958, the degree of Ph.D. in the Faculty of Medicine was awarded to J. R. Nixon (Chelsea College of Science and Technology) and R. Hardman (University of Nottingham).
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.

Saturday, May 9

SCOTTISH OTO-LARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—At Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. 2 p.m., 7th meeting.

Monday, May 11

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIAN AND MEDICINE.—At Leverhulme Lecture Theatre, Westminster Hospital Medical School, 5 p.m., Sir Adolphe Forlanini: Nutrition and Rheumatism.

PLYMOUTH MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Greenbank, 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. C. Popjak: Lipid Metabolism and Atheroma.

ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Weight-Fleming Institute of Microbiology, 5 p.m., Almroth Wright Lecture by Professor G. W. Beadle (California): Molecular Basis of Embryonic Development.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON: DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY.—At Physiological Theatre, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1, 6 p.m., public lecture by Dr. J. B. Neillands (U.S.A.): Iron Metabolism in Micro-organisms.

Tuesday, May 12

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE: SECTION OF PSYCHIATRY.—8 p.m., Professor Marta Friedman: A New Neurasthenic Syndrome and its Bearing Upon the Classification of Neurotic Illness.

WYMOUTH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Physiology Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m., Fibron Memorial Lecture by Sir George Thomson: Principles of Polarization.

HEATHERWOOD ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.—8.30 p.m., Mr. E. W. Somerville: Connected Dislocation of Hip.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—At British Institute of Radiology, 5 p.m., Dr. O. E. Flitsman: Radiology of Benign Skin Conditions.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Hampstead Hospital, 2 p.m., Professor H. C. Kays (New Zealand): Staphylococcal Cross-infection in the Maternity Unit.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Mortimer Street, W. 1, 5.30 p.m., special university lecture in Medicine by Professor J. C. Beck (Montreal): Regulation of Adrenal Cortical Function.

ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—At Weight-Fleming Theatre, 5 p.m., Dr. H. R. Haines: Gynaecology.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. G. Parnows-Smith: Neurology.

Wednesday, May 13

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH.—5 p.m., Dr. David Yi-Yung Hsia (Chicago): Diabetes of the Diabetic Mother.

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY.—5.30 p.m., Dr. A. Tickner: Biochemistry of Poisons.

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—5 p.m., Dr. R. W. Riddell: Aspergillosis as a Cause of Pulmonary Disorders.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—At Radcliffe Infirmary, 5 p.m., Litchfield Lecture by Dr. Elliot State: Genetics of Mental Disease.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—5.30 p.m., Dr. R. F. Gale: Disorganization of the Bacterial Cell by Antibiotics.

Thursday, May 14

DENTAL IMPLANT SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.—At St. George’s Hospital, Tooting Bec Lane, London, S.W. 17, 5 p.m., Professor Talmage Keene: The Future of Dental Implants.

INSTITUTE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY.—At Queen Charlotte’s Hospital, 2.30 p.m., Professor G. Lenzon: Induction of Labour.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At St. Thomas’s Hospital Medical School, 5.30 p.m., special university lecture in human anatomy and morphology by Professor B. E. Innesmark (Gottemburg): Functional Anatomy of the Locomotor System, Including the Spine.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—4 p.m., Dr. J. D. N. Nabarro: Chemistry of the Reticulo-endothelial System.

ST. GEORGE’S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—5.30 p.m., Thomas Young Lecture by Professor P. B. Meadwar, F.R.S.: Immunological Tolerance.

Friday, May 15


INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—4 p.m., Dr. W. Frain-Bell: Primary Skin Cancer.

INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY.—5.30 p.m., clinical demonstration by Dr. G. B. Mitchell-Hedges.

LEICESTER CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Leicester Royal Infirmary, 8.45 p.m., Mr. Cedric Harvey: Understanding the Child.

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON.—10 a.m., Dr. T. G. Ward: Management of Maxillo-facial Injuries.

COMING EVENTS

IV Festival International du Film Medico-Chirurgical d’Enseignement, de Prevention et d’Education Sanitaires.—This Festival will not take place in May as previously arranged but from September 11 to 14.

Faculty of Dental Surgery, R.C.S. (Eng.).—The department of dental science will be formally opened on May 22 by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, who will also deliver the Charles Tomes Lecture on “Facial Neuralgia.”

Faculty of Medicine, University of Paris.—A course on allergic disorders will be held from May 25 to 30 at the Clinique Medicale Propedeutique de l’Hopital Brousseaux. Further details from the hospital, 96, rue Didot, Paris, 14.

Society for the Study of Infectious Disease.—Meeting to be held on May 30 at Ruchill Hospital. Details from Dr. J. B. Landon, Brownlee Laboratory, Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow, N.W.