first edition have been adopted. The book is rather longer than the previous edition, but it contains good lists of references for further reading and an excellent index. There are a few misprints. I was intrigued to find that a "blow-up" film of the skull should be taken to demonstrate a frontal collection of air. Reference to the earlier edition shows that this is merely a "brow-up" view. This second edition should enhance the book's well-deserved success.

J. W. ALDREN TURNER.

**Flying Doctors in East Africa**


This book is a layman's account of a romantic attempt to help solve East African surgical problems by aid brought by flying surgeons to the spot needed, or by bringing in sick and wounded from distant places by air.

The organization started in Australia with a highly scattered, intelligent, and essentially healthy population, depending on home radio transmitters for children's schooling. Radio and television romanticized it, and well-meaning helpers in Africa translated it to that continent, where one has only to walk round the corner to find all the patients that existing medical facilities can cope with. Sir Archibald McIndoe started the East African service with a team of plastic surgeons dealing mainly with children burnt while sleeping when flammable furniture is in their room. Now, a flying doctor service is a status symbol in several African States, like a large presidential palace. Medical administrators should take a calm and reasoned view of the high cost and low returns of maintaining or chartering aeroplanes, which deteriorate rapidly in the tropics; even the tires are chewed by hyenas. Most African States give a low priority to medical services—much below that accorded education, and it is difficult to believe that responsible local advisers will spend money on medical aid by air.

The idea of "flying doctors" is an appealing one, and this account of the devoted services rendered by the personnel of the East African service is both interesting and readable. To fly long distances to bring a leukemic African child to Nairobi or to fetch a victim of inter-tribal strife may seem to indicate a lack of proportion in spending money given for medical aid, but the activities of helpers from many countries, some of whom have even surrendered their nationality for their work's sake, are beyond all praise and deserve more than cold critical analysis. Tribute is due to the educational services in hygiene undertaken by the service, and to the work done in promoting the morale of hard-pressed medical personnel in isolated hospitals.

This book is frankly intended to appeal to generous hearts to enable the service "flying wing-tip to wing-tip with the eagle carrying modern medicine to those in need" to carry on its beneficent work.

GEORGE R. MCROBERT.

**Books Received**

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later.*


