These concepts are not new. As the author himself points out, they derive from the teachings of Sapir and Whorf, two linguists who became particularly interested in comparative studies of language as a means of understanding each culture's symbolic value system, which in turn finds expression in custom and belief. Whorf emphasized that the vocabulary and grammatical forms of each language impose a particular mode of perceiving the world upon every child whose mother tongue it is; and in lesser degree this holds true for geographical or occupational sub-groups who develop a language of their own. His reading of Sapir and Whorf has prompted the author to make interesting observations of his patients' preferred delusions and of their cultural context, nor is this of purely academic interest—there are many West Indian patients in our hospitals and clinics to-day whose symptoms become more intelligible when one understands the significance of obeah (or magic) in their daily lives. Of particular interest in this community where sexual licence is very considerable is the absence of sexual themes in psychotic delusions; instead, a recurrent theme is the preoccupation with babies and dependent children. Here childbearing is an experience charged with pleasurable emotions; in fantasy as in fact, to bear a child is the preferred mode of accelerating one's advancement to adult status. Virginity, it seems, is not over-valued in the Virgin Islands.

G. M. CARSTAIRS.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.


AUG. 18, 1962 REVIEWS BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Dr. G. A. Gresham, of Gonville and Caius College, has been appointed University Morbid Anatmist and Histologist to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, with tenure from July 1, 1962, to the retiring age.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
At a meeting of the University Court held on July 16, Dr. W. I. Card, Reader in Medicine, was admitted to membership of the Faculty.

Mr. F. J. Gillingham, F.R.C.S., Senior Lecturer in Neurological Surgery, and Dr. A. R. Muir, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, were admitted to the status of Reader, from October 1, 1962.

Dr. J. D. Robertson, Department of Anaesthetics, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, was admitted to membership of the Faculty of Medicine for the period until September 30, 1962.

Honorary status was conferred as follows: Dr. J. P. Stewart, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Otolaryngology; Dr. D. C. Hutchinson, Honorary Lecturer in the Department of Medicine.

The following appointments were announced: Dr. E. M. Chinant, Temporary Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy; Dr. D. Doyle, Dr. J. M. D. Galloway, Dr. J. G. Millar, Dr. C. K. Fox and Dr. G. M. Ross, Temporary Demonstrators in the Department of Anatomy; Dr. Werner Schutt, Lecturer in the Department of Child Life and Health; Mr. D. I. C. Finlayson, Part-time Lecturer in the Department of Pathology.

Mr. B. R. Nolan, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgical Science.

Dr. R. M. Gaze has terminated his appointment as Lecturer in the Department of Physiology as from September 30, 1962.

A Surgical Demonstration Ceremonial on July 18 the following degrees and diplomas were conferred:

M.D.—I. A. Cameron, W. Campbell, J. Harkness, L. Kaufmann, J. R. Leitch, N. McDonald.


Diploma in Medical Microbiology.—R. G. Mahony. 


The following fellowships, etc., were awarded in the Faculty of Medicine: 
Cameron Prize in Practical Therapeutics, Professor A. S. Parkes, Sc.D., Ph.D., F.R.S., in recognition of his researches on the survival of cells and tissues at low temperatures which have had most important repercussions on many branches of surgery when certain techniques have, for the first time, been made practicable. 

Elton Scholarship and Leslie Gold Medal in Medicine, J. A. Phillips, Scottish Association for Medical Education, Woman's Prize, Beatrice Prize in Anatomy and Physiology, Dorothy Gillan Memorial Prize, Valerie Brooks. 

Buchanan Scholarship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Rosalie M. Turner. 

Mount Scholarship in the Practice of Physical and Historical Prize in Systemic Surgery, Murdock Scholarship in Clinical Veterinary Hospital Tuberculosis Trust Gold Medal, P. A. Kennedy. 

James Scott Scholarship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, M. George, Lawson Gifford Prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Annandale Gold Medal in Clinical Surgery, and Lewis Cameron Postgraduate Prize, on the death of D. J. C. Sheerman. 


Graduate Travelling Scholarships, J. G. Howard, B. Nolan. 

Wellcome Medal and Prize in the History of Medicine, W. A. Souter. 

Lawrence Poole Prize in Rehabilitation after Poliomyelitis, H. J. Seddon. 

Ampofo Medal for Tropical Medicine, B. K. Pali and L. S. Smith (equal).

Commended for thesis. 

With honours. 

In absentia.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
The title of Reader in Clinical Epidemiology has been conferred on Dr. C. M. Fletcher in respect of his post at the Postgraduate Medical School of London.

Sir Arthur MacNulty has been confirmed in the following: Professor J. W. S. Blacklock, professor of pathology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College since 1948; Professor G. P. Crowden, professor of applied physiology at the Royal London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine since 1946; Professor J. McCunn, professor of veterinary anatomy at the Royal Veterinary College since 1950; Professor R. J. V. Pulvertaft, professor of clinical pathology at Westminster Medical School since 1946; and Professor W. R. Spurrell, professor of physiology at Guy's Hospital Medical School since 1946.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
The following have been appointed Demonstrators in the subjects indicated in parentheses: Dr. A. C. Brunt and Dr. J. M. Kay (Pathology); Dr. B. H. Cummings and Dr. R. R. Roy (Anatomy).

The Bisset Hawkins Medal for 1962 was awarded to Dr. W. R. S. Doll for his outstanding contributions to knowledge of the epidemiology of malignant diseases, especially of the lung, stomach, and blood-forming organs, achieved by the skilful application of statistical methods in the fields of both clinical and vital statistics.

The Ambul Nuth Bose Prize was awarded to the late Dr. P. H. W. Macdonald, for his contribution to the study of radiology, particularly in the elucidation of the detailed meaning of physical signs by modern haemodynamic techniques.

The Oliver-Sympsey Prize for 1963 was awarded to Dr. D. G. Marchant, for his contribution to making venography possible by the skilled technical development of an extracorporeal pump-oxygenator, and to the study of temporary reversible cardiac arrest.

Sir Aubrey Lewis was appointed Harveian Orator and Professor M. D. Milne as Bradshaw Lecturer, both for the year 1963.

The following lecturers were also appointed for 1963: 
Lumelian, Professor M. L. Rosenheim; Goulstonian, Dr. J. A. Prankerd; Mitchell; Dr. N. C. Oswald; Langdon-Brown; Dr. J. R. Nassim. For 1964, Croonian, Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, M.D., F.R.C.P.; FitzPatrick, Dr. R. R. Trail; Watson Smith, Professor C. D. Calman.

The following Fellows of the College were elected officers for the ensuing year: 
Censors, Dr. J. St. C. Elkington, Dr. W. D. W. Brooks, Dr. J. L. Livingstone, Professor C. B. Perry; Treasurer, Dr. R. R. Bomford; Registrar, Dr. Kenneth Robson; Harveian Librarian, Dr. C. E. Newman; Assistant Registrar, Dr. N. D. Compston.

The following reappointments were confirmed: Sir Arthur MacNulty as College representative on the Committee of Management of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, Dr. W. S. Cobham as College representative on the Committee of Management of the Chelsea Physic Garden, and Dr. K. Robson as College representative on the Governing Body of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation.

The following, having satisfied the Censor's Board, were admitted Members of the College:

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

On July 27 Dr. Howard Taylor and Sir Hector Hetherington were admitted to the Honorary Fellowship of the College.

At a meeting of the Council of the College held on July 8, with the President, Mr. Arthur C. H. Bell, in the chair, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Arthur C. H. Bell; vice-presidents, Mr. C. H. G. Macafee and Mr. H. J. Malkin; honorary treasurer, Sir John Peel; honorary secretary, Mr. T. H. Lewis; honorary librarian, Mr. Arthur C. Hill; honorary curator of the museum, Mr. R. Alan Brews; Assistant honorary curator of the museum, Mr. G. W. Garland; regional council honorary treasurers: Australia, Mr. S. Devenish Meares; Canada, Mr. G. M. Stearn; New Zealand, Dr. A. M. Rutherford; South Africa, Dr. F. N. Charnock.

Professor Bayard Carter, M.D., of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Duke University, North Carolina, U.S.A., was awarded the Green-Armytage Anglo-American Sterility Lecture.

The following candidates have been elected to the Membership:


Vital Statistics

Smallpox in 1961

The number of cases of smallpox recorded in 1961 throughout the world by the World Health Organization was 78,430—about the same as in 1959 but nearly 20,000 more than in 1960. The increase was due to the larger number of cases reported in India and Africa. In India there were 45,195 cases, in Indonesia 3,777, and throughout French Africa 2,741. Africa had reported only 10,000 more than in each of the previous three years—and the largest increases were in the Republic of Cameroon, the Congo (Leopoldville), the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nyasaland, and Upper Volta. There was a decrease of smallpox in South and Central America from a total of 3,090 in 1960 to 1,923 in 1961. In Europe there had been 12, 14, 47, and 25 cases in the last four years respectively: 17 of the 25 cases in 1961 were in Spain.

In India the Government has planned a national smallpox eradication campaign as part of its third five-year plan and proposes to vaccinate the entire population within three years. W.H.O. has estimated that the cost of a smallpox eradication programme in all the endemic areas of the world would be about $100m, assuming that about 1,000 million doses would have to be vaccinated.—W.H.O. Chronicle, 1962, 16, 302.

Thalidomide in the U.S.A.

Although thalidomide was not approved for sale by the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S.A. about 15,904 patients had received the drug from doctors who were carrying out clinical tests with it. Of these patients, about 17 were pregnant women (the stage of pregnancy not being known), and most of them were reported to have given birth to normal babies.—New York Times, August 8, 1962.
People in the News

Dr. B. M. Nicol has been appointed deputy director of the nutrition division of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Mr. Kenneth S. Robinson has been appointed Director-General of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. This is a new appointment which the Council of the Institute has made in view of its major developments in prospect in work for the deaf.

COMING EVENTS


North-eastern Regional Hospital Board, Scotland.—Two residential work-study appreciation courses for senior members of medical, nursing, and administrative staffs in Region, September 10–16, Cumbernauld, University. Details from Honorary Secretary, Dr. E. Kawai, Pathology Department, St. James's Hospital, Balham, London S.W.12.


Nutrition Society.—Symposium, "Suicidal and Industrial Poisoning, Shock and Collapse," September 27–29, Tübingen, Germany. Details from Honorary Secretary, Dr. E. Kawerau, Pathology Department, St. James's Hospital, Balham, London S.W.12.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.—Scientific meeting. "Perinatal Mortality Survey" (conducted under auspices of National Birthday Trust), October 17, 10 a.m.–4.15 p.m., Nuffield Hall of College. Subjects include "Review of the Maternity Services," "Place of Booking and Discharge," "Toxaemias of Pregnancy," "Breach Deliveries," Details from Secretary, R.C.O.G., 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London N.W.1.

British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association (1948).—Annual meeting and conference, October 17–19, Temple of Peace, Cardiff. Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. J. Enoch Powell. Admission by ticket from B.H.C.S.A. Royal London Buildings, 42 Baldwin Street, Bristol 1, or from Conference Secretary, Mr. B. Glanville Davies, Welsh Hospitals and Health Services Association, 60 Newport Road, Cardiff.

R.A.F. Medical Branch Dinner.—October 19, Royal College of Surgeons. Details from Air Ministry (M.A.3), 1–6 Tavistock Square, London W.C.1.


New Issues of Specialist Journals

The journals listed below are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1

BRITISH JOURNAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The contents of the August issue are as follows:

New Clinical Test of Retinal Function Based Upon Standing Potential of Eyes. G. B. Arden, A. Barada, and J. H. Kelby

Analysis of Electro-Nystagmograms of Normal Subjects. Role of Lens in Development of Standing Potential. G. B. Arden and A. Barada

Indications of Pattern of Ocular Diseases in Aden Protectors. M. L. Ullal

Ocular Hypertension Associated with Simple Goltze Observed in Young Individuals. S. Gudernets

Artificial Pseudophakoid. C. D. Binkhorts

Surgical Anatomy of Levator Palpebrae Insertion. E. Epstein

Notes.

Volume 46, No. 8. (Monthly: £6 yearly; £9 with Ophthalmic Literature and Index.)

Societies and Lectures

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

Wednesday, August 22

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: SCHOOL OF CLINICAL RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TEACHING.—3 p.m., clinical demonstration on dermatology by Dr. A. Grehan, Biology of Fungus Infections of the Skin.

Friday, August 24

INSTITUTE OF DISEASES OF THE CREST.—5 p.m., Dr. H. Nicholson: clinical demonstration.

APPOINTMENTS


S. W., W. B., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., Consultant Surgeon, the Middlesex Hospital.

BIRTHS

Kezi.—On August 2, 1962, at Solihull Hospital, Solihull, Warwickshire, to Nonnie and Ambrose Green. F.R.C.S., a daughter, Kezi, aged 20 years, for attending.

Stark.—On August 8, 1962, at Perivale Maternity Hospital, to Pauline and Gordon Stark, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., a daughter, Fiona, aged 14 years, for attending.

Tyler.—On July 16, 1962, at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, to Jean (formerly Casey), M.B., Ch.B., and John Tyler, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., a son, Charles Rupert, brother for Wendy and Richard.

DEATHS

Elias.—On July 31, 1962, suddenly at his home, Sychnant, Penmaenmawr, Conwyshire, James Philip Elias, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Fairie.—On July 6, 1962, at Mornington, South Australia, William Miller Fairie, M.D., D.P.H.

Fullerton.—On July 30, 1962, at Totton Hospital, South Devon, Arthur Henry Fullerton, T.D., M.B., late of Tettenhall, Staffordshire, in his 90th year.


Macnamara.—On August 1, 1962, John Philip Macnamara, M.B., B.Ch., Colonel (ret.), late R.A.M.C., of Kaladan, Ceibridge, Co. Cildare, Ireland.

Matthews.—On June 11, 1962, at his home, 14 Bruce Road, Cricketers Green, Mitcham, Surrey, Francis Patrick Bruce MacTavish, R.L.C.P., A.S.I., M.R.C.S., aged 73 years.


Roberts.—On July 2, 1962, at St. Andrew's hospital, John Charles Ryder Richardson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.


Shaw.—On July 19, 1962, John Shaw, M.B., Ch.B., aged 89 years.

Taylor.—On June 28, 1962, at The Cholmeley Hospital, to Thomas, James Elizabeth, F.R.C.S., of "Danehurst," 6 Prices Avenue, Chiffoville, Margate, Kent.

Wilson.—On July 19, 1962, at his home, 7 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, Gordon Reginald Ward, M.D., F.S.A.


Wilson.—On July 8, 1962, at 18 Argyll Road, Glasgow S.1, George Alexander Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.