

## Reviews

### DISEASES OF THE EYE

*Systemic Ophthalmology.* Edited by Professor Arnold Sorsby. (Pp. 733; 309 figures and 38 coloured plates. £4 4s.) London: Butterworth and Co. 1951.

This book should have comprehensive appeal to a wide range of readers. "Systemic ophthalmology" is interpreted as covering the innumerable conditions wherein ocular disease is associated with disturbances elsewhere in the body, and, liberally as this is interpreted in the present volume, it embraces much of ophthalmology and also much of medicine. Some indication of its scope is seen in the subjects reviewed. The first section is about the bearing of experimental embryology on ocular problems, the ocular conditions (particularly retrolental fibroplasia) related to premature birth, intrauterine infections (syphilis, rubella, and toxoplasmosis), and the host of genetically determined anomalies which play so obvious a part in ocular pathology. The second part is on inflammations, allergies, and bacterial, rickettsial, viral, mycotic, and other infections which affect the eyes and at the same time have systemic implications; in this section those infections (brucellosis, leprosy, and tropical conditions) which are not particularly common in Britain are extensively discussed. The third part is on nutritional, metabolic (including diabetes and rheumatism), and endocrine disorders; the fourth on central nervous disturbances; the fifth on cardiovascular and haemopoietic conditions; and the sixth comprises a general miscellany which includes the ophthalmic implications of skin diseases, injuries, and intoxications, and such problems as the metastases of tumours, and senile changes.

The book is of composite authorship by a large number of the most prominent among British and American ophthalmologists; the editor must be congratulated on the eminence and distinction of his team. Moreover, the editing has been good in that there are fewer contradictions than are usually seen in work of this type, and little overlapping of the various subjects. As in all such books, the chapters differ in quality, but most of them are good and some excellent—particularly those by Reese and Blondi on retrolental fibroplasia, by Woods on ocular infections, and by Nevin and Kiloh on organic central nervous disturbances. Most chapters show a nice blend of established and new information, giving a fair presentation of the present state of our knowledge and an indication of emergent trends. Finally, the general production of the book is excellent and the abundant figures are often particularly informative.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER.

### VITAMINS

*Vitamins. A Digest of Current Knowledge.* By Leslie J. Harris, Sc.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 244; 84 illustrations and 111 structural formulae. 15s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1951.

In a small book of some 200 pages Dr. Harris has compiled an excellent digest of current knowledge of the vitamins. The historical approach has been rightly used throughout the book to give the student a balanced insight and understanding of the problems under discussion. A useful list of references is given at the end of each chapter. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs, line drawings, and graphs. Dr. Harris describes concisely and lucidly the clinical, chemical, and pathological effects which result from deficiency of the various vitamins in man and in animals. By the inclusion of an appendix the book is brought right up to date and includes even such recent information as the relationship of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to Castle's intrinsic and extrinsic factors.

The physician interested in nutrition may perhaps feel that too great a proportion of the book has been devoted to pathology and chemistry and more should have been given to clinical aspects of nutrition, including such vexed questions as the existence and recognition of subclinical states of vitamin deficiency in man. In the preface Dr. Harris says that the object of his book is to supply a relatively brief and summarized account of the vitamins which will be useful to science students, medical students, dietitians, and others who wish to gain an impression of the present state of knowledge on this subject. The author can be congratulated on successfully accomplishing this object by producing a small book which is pleasant to read, excellently illustrated, and packed with useful information.

L. S. P. DAVIDSON.

### GUIDE TO JUNG'S WORK

*The Psychology of C. G. Jung.* By Dr. Jolande Jacobi. Fifth edition, new and revised. (Pp. 204; 19 illustrations. 12s. 6d.) London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. 1951.

The writings of Professor Jung, dating from 1902, amount to thirty-five books and almost a hundred contributions to various journals. His work has been that of a pioneer and he has made no effort to systematize his psychological theories and research. The purpose of this book is to provide a synopsis and guide to the essential features in Jung's teaching. This is a wellnigh impossible task, and particularly so because Jung's work is undogmatic in character—the very antithesis of a closed and finished system.

The volume grew out of a lecture, and it still retains something of the lecture atmosphere, particularly in the first two chapters, which occupy two-thirds of the book. A diagram on the blackboard is apt to lose vitality when reproduced in print, and there are too many diagrams here. The third part, on the practical application of Jung's theory, is much more interesting. Here the author gives Jung's views on transference and discusses the dialectical quality of analysis, the therapeutic application of Jung's theory of types, the hypothesis of the collective unconscious and archetypes, the compensatory relationship between the conscious and the unconscious, the process of individuation, and the place in therapy of spontaneous drawing and painting.

The book will be of special interest to those who have read at least some of Jung's books. For the beginner it is too condensed and, alas, too dogmatic, especially in its comments on the psychological aspects of religion. A biographical sketch of Jung provides much interesting material and gives a glimpse of Jung himself. There is also the most complete bibliography of Jung's writings yet published. The translation is somewhat ornate, and there is a tendency to use ungainly neologisms such as influenceability, paradoxicalness, perturbedly. The index is useful and impeccable.

E. A. BENNET.

### DICTIONARY OF SCIENTISTS

*Chambers's Dictionary of Scientists.* By A. V. Howard, B.Sc. (Cols. 500; 70 illustrations. 12s. 6d.) London and Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers. 1951.

This must have been a difficult book to compile, covering as it does all branches of science from Hippocrates to the present time in a volume of only 250 printed octavo pages. The biographical literature to be consulted is considerable, and there are many dates and particulars still in doubt in spite of the wealth of current historical research. There is evidence in the book that Mr. Howard has read widely and competently assessed the value of conflicting material. His main difficulty, the solution of which makes shrewd demands on the scholarship of the selector, was to decide what to omit. The inclusions, where there are so many obvious possibilities, can readily be determined and justified, but the rejected raise doubts almost beyond solution. We have