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_{12} 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

for example drawn up a list of some 150 notable biologists who do not appear in the present work. The list includes:

B. S. Albinus, Allman, Martin Barry, P. J. van Beneden, Berengarius Carpensis, Bojanus, Bonnet, Borelli, Camper, Casserius, Charleton, delle Chiaje, Coiter, Cowper, Dalyell, Erasmus Darwin, Delage, Dohrn, Dufour, Dujardin, G. J. Duverney, John Ellis, Estienne (Stephanus), Fernel, Frederick II Emperor of the Romans, Isidore Saint-Hilaire, Goethe, Goodsir, J. S. Haldane, Head, Hernández, Highmore, Kowalevsky, Lacaze-Duthiers, Ledermüller, Leidy, Leuckart, Martin Lister, Looss, Lower, Lyonet, Maupas, J. F. Meckel, Mundinus, Monro Secundus, Walter Needham, Newport, Oken, Oudemans, Pallas, Perrault, Piso, Pliny, Poli, M. G. Retzius, Roesel v. Rosenhof, Romanes, Rudolphi, Ruini, Rumphius, Ruysch, Salviani, the two Sars, Schaeffer, Seba, Severino, Siebold, Straus-Dürckheim, Theophrastus, D'Arcy Thompson, Tyson, Vejdovsky, Vicq-D'Azyr, Vieussens, C. F. Wolff, E. Wotton, and Zittel.

Nevertheless Mr. Howard's dictionary contains 1,300 biographies and 70 portraits, many of the latter having an unfamiliar appearance. There is also a very useful subject index, and a list of Nobel Laureates from 1901 to 1950. Our author may justly claim that his work is concise, authoritative, and even unique, since it is in a way an outline history of scientific discovery and theory distilled from the lives of the men who did the work.

The following corrigenda should be included in subsequent editions of the book: Agricola, b. 1494. Alcmaeon, fl. 510–480 B.C. Anaxagoras, b. probably 500 B.C. Beneden, b. 1846. Belon, b. 1517. Cesalpini, b. 1525. Cushing, d. 1939. Erasistratus, 304–257 B.C. Eustachio, b. 1524. His important *Opuscula* were published during his lifetime in 1563–4. Fabricius, b. 1533. Faber suggested the name *microscope* in 1625. Fontana, 1580–1656. Godlee died at Whitchurch, Oxon. Harvey was not knighted. Herophilus, b. at Chalcedon. Hippocrates died c. 360 B.C. According to Singer there is no evidence that *any* of the writings forming the Hippocratic Corpus were written by him. W. His, add senior. Jansen should be Janssen. Kircher, b. 1602. Lécluse, b. 1526. Libavius, b. 1546. Magendie, b. October 16. Manson was not a bacteriologist but a parasitologist. Mayow, b. December, 1641. "Milne-Edwards" not a hyphenated name—he was of Welsh descent and should be catalogued under Edwards. Fritz Müller, b. 1822. J. Müller's birth certificate gives his name as Johann Peter. He dropped the Peter, and preferred the German–Latin Johannes to Johann. The naturalist who "revealed to the world the new animal kingdom of Infusoria" was Leeuwenhoek and not O. F. Müller. Paré, b. 1510. Ray, b. 1627 (Wray until 1670). Redi, d. 1696. Steno, d. November 25, 1686. W. Turner, b. 1508. Vallisneri is the correct spelling.

We congratulate Mr. Howard on the completion of his novel and valuable work, which will doubtless pass through many revised and extended editions.

F. J. COLE.

NAIROBI DOCTOR

Under the Sun. (A Memoir of Dr. R. W. Burkitt, of Kenya.) By J. R. Gregory. (Pp. 109. 10s. 6d.) Kenya: The English Press, Ltd.

The doctor's bookshelves are filled for the most part with works of reference. Here is one which, for its entertainment value and the glimpse it gives into a world of exploration and adventure, is well worth the modest price asked for it.

Dr. Gregory recounts the life of his friend and senior colleague, "Kill or Cure Burkitt," the first and for many years the only doctor in private practice in Nairobi, and one of the most colourful characters in the history of the development of British East Africa. He has the Irishman's gift for telling a story, and takes us into history, politics, botany, zoology and ethnology. He tells us of Burkitt's uncompromising views on religion and the treatment of malaria; of his journeys into the wilds when roads were non-existent and motor-cars were open and unreliable; of early experiments with crops; of the old harbour of Mombasa, into which the Arab dhows come crowding in the north-east monsoon, the white flag of peace flying at their mastheads, and their decks echoing to songs of thanksgiving as their colourful crew furl the large lateen sails; of a zebra hunt by lions and a lion hunt by Masai. *Under the Sun* has the spontaneous charm of a traveller's yarn told by the fireside, and it is at the fireside at bedtime that it should be read.

HENEAGE OGILVIE.

TESTS AND TABLES

Clinical Pathological Data. Compiled by C. J. Dickinson, B.A., B.Sc. With foreword by C. E. Dent, Ph.D., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.I.C. (Pp. 32. 4s. 6d.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1951.

The aim of this slim notebook is to provide in a simple but convenient form tables for the interpretation of clinical pathology data. These are arranged in eight convenient tables. Next, there is a section of practical notes on tests which can be performed without elaborate equipment. This contains some tests which might have been superannuated, such as Haldane's method for haemoglobin estimation, Loewi's test for pancreatitis, and the tests for bile acids and salts in the urine; I cannot believe that these last are of practical value in the investigation of a case of jaundice. Finally there is an index to disease conditions which provides a quick reference to data for the diseases listed in the tables.

The dangers of a book of this kind are easy to see and to overestimate. The advantages are the great saving in time in having information so easily available. An improvement would be to punch a hole in the top left-hand corner so that the book could be hung on the wall in the test-room or consulting-room.

L. J. WITTS.

HISTORY OF NURSING

The Story of the Growth of Nursing as an Art, a Vocation, and a Profession. By Agnes E. Pavey, S.R.N. With foreword by Sir John Weir, K.C.V.O. Third edition. (Pp. 498. £1.) London: Faber and Faber. 1951.

This book tells the story of "the birth and development of each phase of nursing from its earliest beginning to its present form." It is obviously based on wide reading of the literature of the history of medicine and of nursing. The author recognizes that nursing may be an art, a vocation, or a profession, and she has rather artificially divided the subject into three parts concerned with three periods of time. From the dawn of history to the fourth century A.D. is the first period, during which nursing is called an art. This we consider rather unjustified, for there is no evidence that there was any nursing care in prehistoric or early historic times. Garrison gives a more likely account when he states that "the spirit of antiquity towards sickness and misfortune was not one of compassion." The second part is on the period from the beginning of Christianity to A.D. 1850, and during this period nursing is called a vocation. The military and secular nursing orders and the various religious nursing foundations fully justify this title, though the period also covers a time in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when nursing was neither an art nor a vocation nor a profession, but merely a lowly and sometimes low occupation. The third part of the book is on nursing as a profession; it starts with an account of Florence Nightingale and brings the subject up to date. In this third part the author gives much useful information, even tracing the effect of the National Health Service on the nursing profession.

The book contains much more than an account of nursing. The reader will find a short history of early medicine in the first 82 pages, and in the second part will learn much about the origin of hospitals. The variety of information provided may have contributed to the popularity it enjoys.

V. ZACHARY COPE.

The column "Books Received" has been discontinued.