

for the study of the pathogenesis of many pulmonary diseases (not only those due to industrial exposures to dust and fumes) and for the design and control of protective and preventive equipment. This volume, which presents the papers given at an international symposium held by the British Occupational Hygiene Society at Oxford in the spring of 1960, is an almost unique source of information about many facets of our present knowledge on this fundamental subject.

Papers on the anatomy and physiology of the lung include accounts of recent observations by West and his colleagues on the streamlining of gas flow in the lungs and of the recent discovery by Pattle of the remarkable lining of the lung alveoli, which almost abolishes surface tension. Several papers are concerned with the immediate retention of particles in relation to their size, composition, and shape, and others refer to the subsequent mobilization of phagocytes and their role in eliminating particles from the lungs. There is clear evidence that the physical properties of the dust chiefly determine the first process, but phagocytosis, whose activity may be promoted by inert dusts, determines the second. This topic leads on to the presentation of new theories of the way in which fibrosis is initiated by the disintegrating macrophages in the case of silicosis and by the protein shell of asbestos bodies in asbestosis. Heppleston's evidence that active movement of dust, probably by macrophages, continues long after its deposition in the lung, even in and out of fibrotic nodules, is particularly interesting and there is plenty of information about the effects of dusts of various kinds on phagocytosis itself. Several papers deal with the ominous problem of the production of lung cancer by the inhalation of radioactive particles such as might be released from nuclear explosions.

The final section of the book tackles the important but still unsettled question of what size range of dust particles should be sampled in order to measure dust hazards, and the means by which elimination of irrelevant particles may be most accurately and conveniently achieved.

A useful feature of the book is the critical discussion of each group of papers, which is fully and coherently reported. In some instances the author's concessions in discussion are most relevant to his previous claims in his paper. C. N. Davies is to be congratulated on his work as editor and on his foreword in which he reviews with trenchant criticism the gaps in our knowledge revealed by the conference. Most of the papers in French or German have English abstracts, and the book is excellently presented. It will provide an indispensable source of reference to anyone interested in the way the lung deals with the dust inhaled in every breath. In particular those who are concerned with the way the lung may be damaged by excessive exposure to particles and vapours of all kinds should possess this book.

C. M. FLETCHER.

### WHAT THE PATIENT THOUGHT

*The Patient's Attitude to Nursing Care.* By Anne McGhee, A.M.I.A. Forewords by James Drever, M.A., F.R.S.E., and J. H. F. Brotherston, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. (Pp. 94+viii. 10s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone Ltd. 1961.

Surveys of various aspects, mundane to ethical, of the social life of the populace are now becoming so numerous as to suggest that ultimately a super survey

will be needed on the effects of surveys, lest the community becomes "big brother" minded. The one now under review, *The Patient's Attitude to Nursing Care*, has however a special interest for those connected with hospital work. It has been written by Mrs. McGhee, of the Nursing Studies Unit of the University of Edinburgh. The author, as is pointed out by Professor Brotherston in his foreword, is neither nurse nor doctor and her survey therefore does not deal with the technicalities of nursing or medical care but with patients' views and opinions, appreciative or critical, on the treatment they had received while in-patients.

One large general teaching hospital was used as the basis of the study, and patients from general medical and surgical wards whose stay in hospital had extended from five to 15 days were regarded as representative witnesses. Altogether 490 patients were visited with their consent about two weeks after discharge, and their verbal answers to a series of questions were analysed. The questionnaire included such things as lavatory and washing accommodation, ward decoration, bed curtains, lockers, commodes, noise, food, nursing and medical care, and so on. The answers did not lend themselves well to statistical analysis but were roughly divided into "satisfied," "satisfied with reservations," "dissatisfied with reservations," and "dissatisfied." Over the whole range about 17% expressed themselves as entirely satisfied and 7% as dissatisfied, the remainder falling into the intermediate groups.

In surveys of this sort it has to be recognized—and was in this case—that a lot depends upon the personality of the surveyor; upon, for example, his or her ability to separate the placid non-complaining person from the aggressive dissatisfied type. The former is often so grateful for the general outcome of his treatment that he is reticent about mentioning minor complaints, while the latter would never be satisfied whatever was done for him. These points have not been overlooked in this study; they must, however, affect the statistical results, but of course the book itself must be consulted for details of the analysis.

A useful appendix gives verbatim some of the more interesting and typical replies. This is a book which will be of value to all who are concerned with the running of hospitals whether from the planning, administrative, medical, or nursing points of view.

NORMAN C. LAKE.

### HORMONE ASSAY CONFERENCE

*Human Pituitary Gonadotropins. A Workshop Conference.* Edited by A. Albert, M.A., Ph.D., M.D. (Pp. 434+xi; illustrated. £6 14s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This book records the proceedings of a conference held in the United States in December, 1959. Attended by a selected group of 28 biologists and physicians, it is described as the first "workshop conference on hormone assay." The discussions lasted three days and dealt with many of the controversial problems of extraction and assay of urinary and pituitary gonadotropins.

The first session was devoted to methods of extracting gonadotropins from urine. The various modifications of the kaolin-acetone method received most attention, but tannic acid precipitation, attapulgite absorption, and benzoic-tungstic acid absorption were also discussed.

The methods of assay of gonadotrophic material from urine were considered in detail. The contribution made

by follicle-stimulating hormone and interstitial-cell stimulating hormone to the results obtained in the various assays and the possibility of augmentation were discussed. It was generally accepted that the ratio of F.S.H.:I.C.S.H. is approximately the same in all material extracted from human urine (except in pregnancy). Subsequent discussions dealt with chemical aspects of urinary gonadotrophic material, gonadotrophic activity in blood, and "clinical aspects of urinary gonadotrophins."

The final sections are devoted to assay and properties of pituitary gonadotrophins. There is also an account of a meeting held in Denmark in July, 1960, to discuss the question of a new reference preparation of human urinary post-menopausal gonadotrophin.

This is a fascinating account of the problems in the field which were at the time, and still are, largely unsolved. This book should be read by all those who are performing urinary gonadotrophin assays and will give the clinician interpreting the results an insight into the complexity of the subject.

J. D. N. NABARRO.

### CONFERENCE ON TREATMENT

*Beiträge zur modernen Therapie—3. Vorträge und Diskussionsbemerkungen der sechsten Weimarer Therapietagung 1960 sowie Originalarbeiten und Übersichtsreferate.* Edited by Dr. med. Peter G. Hesse. (Pp. 481+xii; illustrated. DM. 54.40.) Jena: Veb Gustav Fischer Verlag.

This volume of *Contributions to Modern Therapy* is a report in German of the papers read at the sixth Weimar Conference on this subject. The papers have little in common with each other except that they were all delivered at the same meeting. They are not even all about therapy, for a long paper is included on the diagnostic radiology of the mid-brain. They are not even of uniform quality or type. Thus there is a thorough 60-page review of the tumours occurring in the region of the sella turcica, which has 186 references, and at the other extreme the whole subject of the therapy of infectious diseases is dismissed in a three-page abstract with no references at all. Medical, surgical, gynaecological, and otological subjects are all included in the same volume. In a short review of cardiac catheterization, by Forssman himself, the only British worker mentioned is William Harvey. There are reviews of the organization of the transfusion services in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. There is also a review of the therapeutic methods of an ancient Greek physician, Kappadox. More modern is the use of gliding in the treatment of anxiety states, and the use of music in the treatment of disease. The latter seems to be especially effective when combined with massage and coloured lights. Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata has proved suitable. Blood-pressure can be reduced thereby in hypertensives, asthma relieved, and hyperthyroidism soothed.

It can be seen how very heterogeneous this material is. Its main value would seem to be for those German-speaking people who wished to attend the conference but were unable to do so. It seems impossible otherwise to imagine any other reason for gathering so many diverse subjects into one volume. It is to be hoped that the best papers will be republished in the orthodox journals which exist for the purpose so that they may reach interested colleagues.

C. L. COPE.

### LABORATORY MEDICINE

*Clinical Diagnosis by Laboratory Examinations.* By John A. Kolmer, M.S., M.D., Dr.P.H., Sc.D., LL.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.D.(Hon.). Third edition. (Pp. 543+xix; illustrated. \$10.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1961.

The appearance of a third edition of this book indicates its continued popularity. Since the last edition in 1949 extensive revision must have been necessary, and indeed the author states that the present edition has been completely rewritten.

This is one of the few books which give a detailed guide to the interpretation of all laboratory procedures within a reasonable compass. This must of course mean that the amount of space devoted to each subject is strictly limited. Thus the whole of carbohydrate metabolism is dealt with in 10 pages, the examination of exudates and transudates in seven, and parasitology in 26 pages. Nevertheless the essentials are there and no serious omissions were noted. The bacteriological and serological sections are rather fuller and are among the most informative. A number of subjects are covered—such as mycology, medico-legal tests, and the examination of saliva—which are difficult to find elsewhere. The book is illustrated by numerous useful tables but very few figures, and the section on biopsy perhaps suffers most from this. There is of course no description of technique, but a number of useful references are given at the end of each chapter.

Minor criticism might be made of the omission of references to bilirubin conjugation and the rather scanty discussion of acid-base balance, but these are compensated for by the completeness of the book and by the wide field which it covers. It will be of more value to the clinician than to the laboratory worker, though the latter will undoubtedly use it for subjects outside his immediate field. The book should have a wide circulation and serve as a valuable work of reference for all interested in laboratory medicine.

N. F. MACLAGAN.

### CHILD PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

*The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child.* Volume XV. Managing Editors: Ruth S. Eissler, M.D., Anna Freud, LL.D., Heinz Hartmann, M.D., and Marianne Kris, M.D. (Pp. 481. 50s.) London: The Hogarth Press. 1961.

The fifteenth volume of this yearly publication of theoretical and clinical studies in the psycho-analytical field keeps up the standard that we have come to expect. The main paper this year is Bowlby's contribution on the theory of grief and mourning, and this is followed by criticisms of a constructive kind by Anna Freud, Max Schur, and René Spitz. Bowlby's work needs to be taken seriously because of his immense contribution to medical and popular understanding of the harm done to little children by separation from their mothers, harm that is liable to lead to a permanent distortion of the personality and character.

What psycho-analysts have to decide is the extent of Bowlby's contribution to theory. On the basis of his understanding of the small child's need for an uninterrupted relationship during the period of dependence Bowlby attempts to rewrite psycho-analytic theory, and his challenge has had value in that it has made a re-examination of theory necessary. And the theory of the early stages of the human individual's emotional development is far from complete. Nevertheless it seems that Bowlby's ethological approach, with stress laid on inborn release mechanisms, tends to