

familiar ring; otherwise the book is a new attempt to lure the young clinical psychiatrist into the practice of research.

The quality of the chapters, fourteen in all, varies. So does their length, which ranges from seven to twenty-seven pages, with eleven pages the favoured number. Some chapters are merely brief reviews of a research topic. Others give examples to illustrate how the research worker should proceed. Some have a selective bibliography, others no references at all. The most successful are those that deliberately set out to instruct. The contributions of the editors are good examples. Dr. Sainsbury discusses the tedious but vital task of getting the money to pay for a piece of research, while Dr. Kreitman shows how hospital records can be used—and misused—in retrospective research. Other chapters of special interest to the beginner are on the use of a library, by Mr. L. T. Morton, and on writing a scientific paper, by Dr. Denis Leigh. The research worker devoid of inspiration should benefit from reading the first chapter—how to choose a topic for research—by the late Dr. Mayer-Gross. These chapters make the book worth buying.

J. L. GIBBONS.

OEDEMA

Les Oedèmes. Hormonothérapie, antagonistes de l'aldostérone et salidiurétiques. By M. Albeaux-Fernet and J. D. Romani. (Pp. 333+vi. 65 NF.) Paris: Masson et Cie, Editeurs. 1962.

This monograph is a useful review of modern knowledge of the physiology of oedema formation and of its clinical management. Oedema formation in congestive heart failure, cirrhosis of the liver, the nephrotic syndrome, acute nephritis, and pregnancy is excellently discussed. The sections on cyclic oedema of females varying with the phases of the menstrual cycle and fluid retention secondary to adrenal cortical syndromes are considerably less detailed. Notable omissions in an otherwise thorough review are descriptions of protein-losing enteropathy leading to hypoalbuminaemia and secondary oedema, and fluid retention due to abnormalities of the lymphatic channels.

Aspects of modern renal physiology relating to excretion and regulation of water and salt are in most cases well and accurately discussed, though the counter-current system of the renal medulla is rather inadequately explained. The sections on diuretic drugs are informative and accurate, but the book was written too early for inclusion of an account of the actions of triamterene.

The bibliography is especially useful in giving many well-selected references from the American, British, and European literature. This monograph can be recommended as a first-rate French review of an important aspect of clinical medicine and treatment.

M. D. MILNE.

HISTORY OF NURSING

A History of Nursing. By Isabel M. Stewart and Anne L. Austin. Fifth edition. (Pp. 516+x; illustrated. \$5.75.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1962.

In the centenary tributes evoked by the establishment of the International Red Cross in 1863 two facts must be remembered. Its Swiss founder, Henri Dunant, got his inspiration from Florence Nightingale's work in the Crimea, even though in presenting his plans for the care of the sick and wounded in time of war and disaster he

did not mention women nurses, trained or untrained. Secondly, the American Civil War, which broke out in 1861, evoked the formation of a Women's Central Association of Relief, which in turn was followed by the United States Sanitary Commission. The W.C.A.R. was, as the authors of this book say, "a Red Cross organization without the name, and so well known in Europe that one wonders why so little recognition of its work was given by Henri Dunant and the other founders of the International Red Cross Society in 1863 and 1864."

For those to whom the scholarly four-volume *History of Nursing* (1907-1911) by M. Adelaide Nutting and Lavinia L. Dock was not easily accessible a shorter version by Miss Dock was published in 1922. Subsequent editions in 1925, 1931, and 1938 were supplemented by other histories, either newly written or revised versions of older ones, like Woolsey (1950), Frank (1953), Sellew and Ebel (1956), Seymer (1958), Shryock (1959), Pavay (1959), Jensen (1959), Jamieson, Sewell, and Gjertson (1959), and Dolan (1959), so the publishers have wisely decided to replace Miss Dock's original by what is virtually a new book, by Isabel M. Stewart and Anne L. Austin.

These authors give a long, broad view of nursing history that begins with the medical codes of early Egypt and ends with the admission of the Egyptian Nurses' Association to the International Council of Nurses in 1961. Indeed, after disposing of the Nightingale Revolution by page 145 the authors devote the next two-thirds of the book to considering the five English-speaking countries (Great Britain, Ireland, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia) which adopted the Nightingale system early and did much to introduce it to other parts of the world; the modern systems that have developed in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa; and finally the international agencies affecting the profession. Copious bibliographies are appended to each chapter.

W. H. G. ARMYTAGE.

NOTTINGHAM INFANTS

Infant Care in an Urban Community. By John and Elizabeth Newson. (Pp. 268. 42s.) London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1963.

Factual statements about infant care are hard to come by, but dogmatic statements based on impressions without evidence can be found almost anywhere. It is because of their awareness of this difficulty that two Nottingham psychologists studied 773 Nottingham families in order to discover how their young children were in fact being reared. They chose the children by random sampling, but excluded illegitimate children, recent immigrants, and children with handicaps. After the inevitable losses 709 mothers were left for study. They were interviewed by health visitors and university staff.

Statistics have been kept down to a minimum, with the result that the authors have managed to make this a readable and interesting book. Subjects discussed include the mothers' attitude to labour and delivery, including the well-known complaint that they are left alone in hospital during the first stage; their attitude to breast-feeding (and the relevant figures), with the observation that mothers' embarrassment over breast-feeding in the presence of others is related to the role of the breast as a sex symbol; self-demand feeding