

for the first time in 150 years since the Mental Health Act of 1959. Schools of thought about mental illness are polarising into the psychosocial and the medical, a dichotomy which was never so marked before. Neurology has not yet fulfilled its nineteenth-century promise, and the benefits of laboratory science in discovering causes are still not generally appreciated or indeed available. No one can tell what direction the mainstream will take.

Not surprisingly there has been a burgeoning of interest in the history of psychiatry. It has been said that the history of a science is the science itself. Understanding psychiatry's past clarifies the present and may even give useful leads to the future. This book is a welcome addition to the literature. It traces early medical and social attitudes and theories with the help of transcultural parallels from the present. Mediaeval sources are few and scant, so that the result is more of a patchwork than a picture, but such as have come down to us are assembled here and provide the material for further studies. Real live patients emerge from the twelfth-century monastic records of St Bartholomew's in London and the fifteenth-century healing shrine at Windsor. Henry VI's case is related at length, but the conclusion that he was schizophrenic is disappointing. The book ends with a group of charming plates, chiefly taken from manuscripts, including the earliest known view of Bethlem Hospital dating from about 1555.

RICHARD HUNTER

Atlas of Medical Helminthology and Protozoology

2nd edn. H C Jeffrey and R M Leach. (Pp 121; £9.) Churchill Livingstone. 1975.

Tropical medicine is a clearly defined subject quite distinct from "medicine in the tropics" or the more embracing but even vaguer subject of "international health." Tropical medicine is the applied branch of medical protozoology and medical helminthology whose special concern is with diseases such as malaria, trypanosomiasis, amoebiasis, schistosomiasis, onchocerciasis, filariasis, and a whole host of parasitic diseases with complicated life cycles involving insects, snails, and often a wide range of alternative vertebrate hosts.

This atlas has established a well-deserved reputation among students for the diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene as the best visual aid manual in the subject. It is beautifully illustrated with clear diagrams of the life cycles, pathology, and diagnostic features of most of the parasites that have been recorded from man. Though it is the product of the Royal Army Medical College, where officers serving overseas have been encouraged to take the course leading to the DTM&H, it has reached a much wider audience. Students whose medical education has paid scant attention to the subject use it. This applies not only to doctors in Europe and North America but also to many doctors in the tropics where the medical schools so often follow too closely the medical curricula of the advanced countries. The first edition was published in 1966 and there have been few changes in the present edition—for

example, new information on the life cycles of parasites such as *Toxoplasma* or newer diagnostic methods such as the fluorescent antibody test have not been included. This might have unfortunate consequences for students taking the DTM&H if they rely on the atlas too closely.

G S NELSON

The Radiology of Emergency Medicine

J H Harris, jr, and W H Harris. (Pp 499; \$32.50.) Williams and Wilkins. 1975.

Two brothers, one a radiologist and the other an orthopaedic surgeon, have written this book. It represents their experience and is a very personal book—for that reason all the more interesting. They set out to expose many of the pitfalls in the diagnosis of acutely ill or injured patients, but they make no claim to provide a comprehensive textbook on emergency radiology.

The work is divided into regions and has a fairly strong orthopaedic bias. However, there are good chapters on the chest, abdomen, and urinary tract. The illustrations are profuse, of high quality, and depict the lesions that they are meant to show.

The authors have used the term "emergency medicine" in a broad sense. There are descriptions of such lesions as adamantinomas, dentigerous cysts, and carcinoma of the frontal sinus, to quote from only one chapter. Many other conditions are described which hardly ever give rise to emergency admissions. Nevertheless, the book is valuable and it would be an arrogant radiologist who could say that he would not learn anything from it. The real trouble is to know to whom the book would appeal. It is not really complete enough to replace standard works on orthopaedic radiology, the acute abdomen, or the urinary tract, and the authors have made this clear in the preface. There is no doubt that if it were available where casualties are frequently seen a trainee would be constantly learning something valuable from it. In spite of its limitations this is a really useful book containing much important information, some of it not readily available elsewhere, and it deserves to have many readers.

F R BERRIDGE

Principles of Thyroid Surgery

John M Beaugie. (Pp 225; £7.) Pitman Medical. 1975.

This slim volume with its colourful cover embodies a great deal of material of use to surgeons concerned with thyroid disease. It starts off with a brief but attractive historical account and then dips into physiology. However, it does not dive deep enough, and this chapter is really so clipped that it might be better in a future edition to exclude it altogether or else deal with this fundamental aspect of the subject in greater depth. The anatomical account is traditional, but under the heading of ectopic thyroid tissue there is no mention of the unfused thyroid nodule, which gives so much worry to the surgeon when he first encounters it.

The chapter on toxic and non-toxic goitre is well done, but thyroiditis, an important and indeed fascinating problem for the thyroid surgeon, gets scant attention. As this is meant to be an essentially practical guide book, the treatment of thyroid storm should be brought more up to date and propranolol mentioned as the most important and first drug to be used. Hyperpyrexia is far better treated with cold sponging and a fan than with salicylates and promazine.

The chapter on thyroidectomy, which might well have been more detailed, describes sound and safe techniques for all the standard thyroid operations, but the drawings, as so often, do not do full justice to the subject.

This little book, which is reminiscent of Crile's thyroid disease book published 30 years ago, can be recommended to any surgeon embarking on the thyroid field and will be a boon to the surgical registrar. Not least it is most attractively printed and generously illustrated.

SELWYN TAYLOR

Hospital Ships and Ambulance Trains

J H Plumridge. (Pp 203; £6.95.) Seeley Service. 1975.

From the time that Wellington rebuked Surgeon-General McGrigor for using military transport to carry away the wounded in the Peninsular wars the special problems created by the removal of casualties on land and sea have worried those concerned with logistics. This valuable record of the gradual improvement in the long-distance transport of the sick and wounded will appeal especially to "vintage enthusiasts," for it deals with a time when the helicopter snatch, the low-profile jeep, and the airbus were things of the future. The author describes in detail transcontinental trains such as those from Brindisi to Calais, problems of how to pack the maximum number into the smallest possible space, the appalling numbers dealt with daily during the Western offensives of the first world war, and the employment of ocean giants, now no more. He recalls the part played by charities such as the Red Cross and by long forgotten royalties such as Princess Christian and emphasises man's inhumanity to man in the submarine sink-without-trace warfare from 1916 onwards. Clearly marked and brilliantly lit hospital ships sank by the dozen. The depth of infamy was surely reached when the *Llandoverly Castle* was sunk and her lifeboats rammed and shelled. The numerous illustrations are most striking, including those of hospital ships going down.

The founding of the Grenfell mission to seamen in Labrador and the history of the Dreadnought Hospital in Greenwich find their way into this fascinating and haunting reminder of things past. The appendices, listing in detail the composition of hospital trains and the names and often the sad fate of hospital ships, form a most useful part of this work, which is a welcome addendum to the many published histories of past wars. The bibliography will be invaluable to future historians. Colonel Plumridge is to be congratulated on his book.

GEORGE R McROBERT