

and shrewd observation in this field, and, as such, can be read with advantage by all those concerned with the treatment of tuberculosis from whatever point of view they may approach the problem.

CONTEMPORARY PHYSIOLOGY

Annual Review of Physiology. James Murray Luck, Editor; Victor E. Hall, Associate Editor. Vol. 4. (Published by the American Physiological Society and Annual Reviews, Inc.) (Pp. 709. \$5.00.) Stanford University, California: Annual Reviews Inc. 1942.

This volume contains references to nearly four thousand original papers, and to about the same number of authors' names: the task of selecting these from the enormous bulk of contemporary literature must have been enormous, though, of course, there is great variability in the available numbers of papers relating to the different reviews. The largest number no doubt are those that refer to the physiology of reproduction, and this review lists 486 references; in a relatively restricted field such as in the review on the physiological effects of neutron rays only 31 references are given. It is probable that reviews covering more restricted fields, such as the latter one, are able to quote a larger fraction of the published work than are the ones dealing with richer bibliographical resources. Further, the treatment in such reviews has the opportunity to cover its ground in a more leisurely and thorough manner, and so to be more generally instructive than that of the overcrowded branches of the subject.

It would be difficult to pick out any of the reviews for detailed comment, since each is itself a condensation of so much. The following is a list of the reviews. Permeability, by L. R. Blinks; the physiological effects of neutron rays, by P. C. Aebersold and J. H. Lawrence; physiological aspects of genetics, by H. H. Strandskov; developmental physiology, by H. L. Hamilton and B. H. Willier; water metabolism, by J. P. Peters; growth, by G. S. Avery; energy metabolism, by W. H. Chambers, E. Shorr, and S. B. Barker; the physiology of the skin, by P. C. Baird, jun., W. F. Lever, and T. D. Spies; the peripheral circulation, by A. B. Hertzman; the heart, by M. B. Visscher; the blood, by H. P. Smith; the digestive system, by E. J. Van Liere; the kidney, by J. A. Shannon; electrophysiology, by R. W. Gerard; the spinal cord and reflex action, by T. C. Ruch; the central nervous system, by M. Hines; the autonomic nervous system, by K. Hare and J. C. Hinsey; sense organs, by H. K. Hartline; metabolic functions of the endocrine glands, by C. N. H. Long; the physiology of reproduction, by F. L. Hisaw and E. B. Astwood; physiological psychology, by C. P. Richter; applied physiology, by A. R. Behnke and C. S. Stephenson; and the pharmacology of drug addiction, by M. I. Smith.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE

The Modern Treatment of Venereal Diseases. By E. T. Burke, D.S.O., M.B., Ch.B. (Pp. 105. 12s. 6d.) London: John Bale Medical Publications, Ltd. 1942.

Burke's *Modern Treatment of Venereal Diseases* contains essentially the same subject-matter as the treatment section of his larger book, *Venereal Diseases*, published in 1940. Most syphilologists will remember that Burke was a strong advocate of the alternating-continuous method of treating syphilis and of the use of oil-soluble bismuth to the almost complete exclusion of all other preparations of this metal, and that his plan of treatment is worked out according to his "efficiency index." A discussion of this last is not possible within the scope of a short review, but while the theory is ingenious in conception it has not been adopted by any considerable number of syphilologists. Mercury is recommended only in the form of colloidal mercury sulphide, and "mercury pills, mixtures, and inunctions constitute, at the present day, a reprehensible trifling with the future well-being of the patient"; on the other hand, great faith is placed in iodine, especially in late syphilis. The account given of the reactions produced by antisyphilitic agents is good, but more might have been said with advantage about post-arsphenamine jaundice and its treatment.

Nearly three-quarters of this little book are devoted to syphilis, only some 28 pages being allotted to gonorrhoea, chancroid, and other forms of venereal disease. The optimum dosage of sulphonamides in gonorrhoea is not yet settled, but few will agree with a comparatively low one extending over

14 days; a fuller account of the toxic effects of these drugs and their treatment would have added much to the value of this book, as would a section on non-gonococcal urethritis, which appears to be very much on the increase. Many people regarded Burke as a crank, but he was a crank of very wide experience, and a study of this his last publication is recommended to all venereologists, who will be able to sift the grain from the chaff; repeated references in this book to the large volume are not very helpful, since the possessor of the latter will hardly need to read the former. The price appears to be disproportionate to the size, even in these wartime days.

Notes on Books

The fourth edition of Prof. F. J. BROWNE's now famous textbook, *Antenatal and Postnatal Care*, is no "austerity" volume. It has been completely revised and drastic pruning has improved the final product. Pages have been saved by transferring the bibliography to the end of each chapter, and although much new material has been added the edition is a little smaller than its predecessor. As the field it covers becomes ever wider this book will soon be outgrowing its title, indeed there is some evidence to suggest that it has done so already; but whatever its name should be the seven-year-old will be welcomed and generally acclaimed as the best edition yet printed. It is published by J. and A. Churchill at 24s.

The first edition of HOLMES and RUGGLES'S *Roentgen Interpretation* was published in 1919, and it is an index of the popularity of this excellent little handbook that it has now reached its sixth edition (Henry Kimpton; 24s.). The standard has been well maintained in this, and there are few criticisms to offer. Some of the illustrations, in the section on the urinary tract particularly, might with advantage be replaced by more modern ones. Many radiologists will regret to see that the authors recommend the practice of setting fractures and removing foreign bodies under the fluorescent screen. The book makes no pretence of being a complete account of diagnostic radiology, but aims rather to give a condensed survey for students seeking an outline of the subject. In this the authors succeed very well, and the volume is to be recommended for this purpose.

Preparations and Appliances

GONADOTROPHIC HORMONE FROM PREGNANT MARES' SERUM

Messrs. Boots manufacture a gonadotrophic hormone from the serum of pregnant mares called "antostab," which is supplied as a dry powder together with a solvent of saline and 0.3% tricesol. It is standardized in international units, 1 I.U. being the activity of 0.25 mg. of the hormone; usually a course of six injections of 200 I.U. given intramuscularly twice a week is suitable for most cases, though the dose must be adjusted individually. It is recommended for trial in cases of amenorrhoea, sterility of ovarian origin, and selected types of irregular bleeding, but should never be used until a thorough examination has excluded general and pelvic disease. While there is as yet insufficient clinical evidence to evaluate the hormonal treatment of disturbances of menstruation, there is no doubt that the gonadotrophic hormone from the serum of pregnant mares should theoretically be of considerable value, and on the basis of animal experiments it is more potent than the hormone of pregnancy urine.

VITAMIN K ANALOGUES

Menaphthone-Boots and acetomenaphthone-Boots are synthetic vitamin K analogues which have the same physiological properties and are more potent than natural vitamin K. Menaphthone is the approved name for 2-methyl-1:4-naphthaquinone and acetomenaphthone is 1:4-diacetoxy-2-methylnaphthalene. Menaphthone and acetomenaphthone are indicated in the treatment of neonatal haemorrhage and in conditions where digestion of fats is disturbed or inhibited or absorption deranged—e.g., obstructive jaundice, biliary fistula, idiopathic steatorrhoea, and coeliac disease. Menaphthone is supplied in ampoules as an oily solution for intramuscular injection, and acetomenaphthone in tablets for oral administration. Literature and samples will be sent on request to the Medical Department, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Station Street, Nottingham.