

omission is the lack of reference to the importance of the Rh factor in obstetrics.

Major place in this review has been given to criticisms which for the most part are levelled against details in the text. We venture to prophesy that the next edition of this book will be considerably revised and correspondingly improved.

### AUTHORITY IN MEDICINE

*Authority in Medicine: Old and New.* By Major Greenwood, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. The Linacre Lecture, May 6, 1943. (Pp. 32. 1s. 6d.) Cambridge: The University Press, 1943.

Though Linacre's name is venerated his memory is but shadowy. Nevertheless when Prof. Topley said of him in the Linacre Lecture for 1940 that "the only reason he did not do more harm than he did was because the times were too much for him" the audience were mildly shocked; the offence in Prof. Topley's eyes being that Linacre's object was to diffuse accurate knowledge of the ancient treatises, especially of Galen, which would merely put "a brighter polish on the fetters that hold medicine in thrall"; in other words, an authoritarian wished to impose a still older authority on us. Prof. Major Greenwood in his Linacre Lecture for 1943, on "Authority in Medicine: Old and New," questions the justice of this criticism, and starts by going back to Galen himself, who was "almost comically unlike one's idea of an oracle or a prophet," though, like the Hebrew prophets, he had "an extremely low opinion of most of his contemporaries and an immense command of the vocabulary of vituperation . . . he was for ever giving reasons, he was sometimes witty, often abusive, but always arguing." His views on hygiene were sound, his medical psychology was in advance of his age. There was in Linacre's day "a Galenical faith, just as there is now a Marxian faith, and medical students at the end of the fifteenth century were no more familiar with the works of Galen than young English sectaries of Marx with his opinions; probably less." It is not Galen who should be blamed, but the misuse made of his writings in an age when, largely due to ecclesiastical influence, the spirit of authority was supreme. It is the fate of great teachers to start as revolutionaries and to become the idol of reactionaries.

Authority there must be; the medical curriculum, lengthy as it is, would be inordinately prolonged "if every student verified experimentally textbook statements." With us a special authority attaches to the experimental method, but we may overrate its logical value. In one respect there is a change: biologists no longer despise the statistical method, which both these lecturers introduced into epidemiology. This enables Prof. Greenwood to give us an astonishing and rather consoling piece of information—the present loss of young Englishmen between 20 and 25 by military violence is 7,500 less annually than that of a similar age group in peacetime 100 years ago. The lecturer then went on to discuss what he termed "the authority of intention." A few years ago, praise of scientific research for its own sake would have been thought platitudinous, but recently men whose contributions to science, pure and applied, entitle their opinions to respect have maintained that scientific research should be restricted to the betterment materially and morally of mankind; and the satisfaction of intellectual curiosity, having no relevance to this, if not immoral is no better than harmless amusement. They strongly advocate planned research under authority; those who dissent from this faith see danger to scientific freedom. For this, control could be ideal only if we attribute a superhuman prescience to the planners. On such a system "Mendel's interest in peas might have seemed frivolous," though it has provided the scientific basis for genetics. It is indeed a commonplace of scientific history that discoveries made for the satisfaction of pure intellectual curiosity have often proved materially valuable to mankind.

Prof. Greenwood proceeded to a triumphant vindication of Galen's *De Temperamentis* by showing its modern application, among other things, to intelligence testing. "So the wheel has come full circle; temperament is an object of quantitative study. Galen may look down from Elysium . . . with a grim smile of approval." The lecturer concluded an address worthy of the tradition of his office by a glowing and well-deserved tribute to the work of the late Sir Walter Fletcher in organizing medical research unhampered by political considerations.

### RADIOLOGY IN 1942

*The 1942 Year Book of Radiology.* Diagnosis: Edited by C. A. Waters, M.D.; Associate Editor, W. B. Firor, M.D. Therapeutics: Edited by Ira I. Kaplan, M.D. (Pp. 496; illustrated. 27s. 6d.) Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc.

In spite of the difficulties resulting from the war the standard of excellence of previous years has been well maintained in the *1942 Year Book of Radiology* under the joint editorship of Drs. Waters, Kaplan, and Firor. Radiodiagnosis occupies the first 265 pages and radiotherapeutics the remainder.

There are numerous articles of great interest in the diagnostic section. In the section on the osseous system, mention may be made of a method of removal of iodized oil after myelography in cases of protruded intervertebral disks, and of a survey by Thomas of vascular tumours of bone. In the respiratory section an account is given of Kerley's work on pulmonary changes in erythema nodosum, and other articles of interest are on pulmonary coccidioid infection, toxoplasmosis, and mass radiographic surveys of the chest. In the cardiovascular section the attention is caught by the work of Barclay and his co-workers on the foetal circulation, and Nelson's method of abdominal arteriography is given. A number of rare gastro-intestinal lesions are recorded, including haemangioma, syphilis, and Hodgkin's disease of the stomach, annular pancreas constricting the duodenum, and two cases of double gall-bladder. Gutierrez contributes an admirable survey of large solitary cysts of the kidney.

Although no epoch-making discoveries fall to be recorded in radiotherapy the section on that subject continues to give a complete survey of the work done in radiobiology and in radiotherapy of the various systems of the body. Once again the Year Book of 1942 is to be recommended to all radiologists as an abstract of the year's work in both branches of the subject.

### Notes on Books

BALLENGER'S textbook *Diseases of the Nose, Throat, and Ear: Medical and Surgical* has become a well-established institution, which keeps itself alive by the regular issue of well-revised new editions. The eighth retains all the excellent features of its predecessors, and although it contains nearly a thousand pages has the advantage that the new shape and style make it lighter and easier to handle. There is, however, one chapter, which might be called ancillary rather than essential in a medical sense—on the singing voice—wherein such extraordinary views are expressed that they surely require reconsideration by an expert on the subject. The section on the ear remains a brilliant exposition of the subject. Henry Kimpton publishes the book in England at 60s.

*Young Citizen*, by A. E. MORGAN, is published as a ninepenny Penguin Book. Prof. Morgan is an authority on literature and education, and in 1938 he was commissioned by King George's Jubilee Trust to survey the whole field of adolescent activities. His report, *The Needs of Youth* (Oxford), has become a classic, and this Penguin contains much of the material in a shortened form, together with an account of developments which have taken place since the war. Most of its content is fact, but his opinions are founded on long experience and keen observation. The book is a very handy introduction to the larger work, and indeed to the whole social problem of adolescence.

*Denture Base Readjustment*, by H. HIRSEKORN, is published by John Wright and Sons at 10s. 6d. It is the contention of the author of this small book that many worn-out and ill-fitting dentures with vulcanite or plastic bases can be made useful and comfortable again by relining them. There is no doubt that this can be done at times and may save the patient the cost of a new denture, but experience teaches that most dentures which are unsatisfactory are best remade from the beginning. The idea of using the old denture as a tray for a new impression is well known, but the author gives some helpful suggestions for the chairside technique and stresses the use of the old original gutta-percha for the purpose. This book is for the dental surgeon and mechanic; but the general practitioner is asked to advise on most things in heaven and on earth, and it is well for him to know that many ill-fitting dentures can be made comfortable.

The *Proceedings of the Cardiff Medical Society* for the session 1942-3 have been printed for the Society by William Lewis (Printers) Ltd. of Cardiff. The volume opens with Dr. A. W. B. Loudon's presidential address, and there are four other papers, including one on "The Mayos" by Mr. N. L. Barrett; also reports of clinical meetings and discussions.