

Reviews

A TEXTBOOK OF PATHOLOGY

A Textbook of Pathology. Pathologic Anatomy in its Relation to the Causes, Pathogenesis, and Clinical Manifestations of Disease. By Robert Allan Moore, Edward Mallinckrodt Professor of Pathology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. (Pp. 1,338; 513 illustrations, 34 in colour. 60s.) London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company.

This textbook is an important addition to pathological literature. The author has made a determined and successful effort to correlate the aetiology of disease and its structural accompaniments with recent developments in physiology and biochemistry on the one hand, and with clinical signs and symptoms on the other. In spite of this, the basic facts of morbid anatomy and histology are generously and faithfully recorded. The style is crisp and direct, the book is packed with information, and covers a remarkably wide field; it is bulky but far from unwieldy, and is well documented. The large majority of references are to articles written in English. This, the author explains, is "a frank and practical acknowledgment that few Americans read any other language except their own." The illustrations are superb; many are in colour and well reproduced. They are not limited to photomicrographs and morbid changes in organs; many of them are clinical, and there are several excellent radiographs; a few are historical, these being well chosen and skilfully scattered through the text.

To the advanced student who has grasped the general principles of pathology and has some knowledge of the problems of infection and immunity this book will undoubtedly prove to be of great service, as well as being stimulating and refreshing. It may be "strong meat" for the elementary student in this country just beginning his crowded and top-heavy clinical curriculum.

The attempt made in this book to correlate abnormality of structure with basic biological science and clinical observation is a sign of the times which future authors of British textbooks cannot afford to disregard.

RESEARCH ON SCABIES

Human Guinea Pigs. By Kenneth Mellanby. (Pp. 96. 4s. 6d.) London: Victor Gollancz. 1945.

It is uncommon to find romance and science wedded together, but Major Kenneth Mellanby seems to have succeeded in his very readable book *Human Guinea Pigs*, in which he records the story of the work at the Sorby Research Institute in Sheffield.

During and some time after the war of 1914-18 scabies assumed epidemic proportions, and it seemed likely that history would repeat itself. In the checking and (as it may seem) in the control of the epidemic the Sorby Institute and its human guinea-pigs, who were all conscientious objectors, can claim an honourable part. Major Mellanby's investigations are so well known to medical readers that no more need here be said than to recall that he showed the relative unimportance of bedding and clothing as a source of infection to others—which must have saved the public health authorities both time and money—and that he set the seal of official approval on benzyl benzoate as a sarcopticide. This was not everything, for as a sort of scientific by-product dietetic experiments were also carried out, providing valuable information on, for example, calcium metabolism.

Human Guinea Pigs is written for the layman, successfully avoiding the so-called scientific jargon which, because it is not always understood, often misleads. The author also discusses the problem of the conscientious objectors, to whom he pays tribute for their zeal and co-operation in an environment where they were encouraged and sympathetically treated.

In this account of the Sorby Research Institute Major Mellanby has provided a very human document, quite apart from its professional interest and its record of a considerable achievement.

THE HOSPITAL AT WORK

The Hospital in Modern Society. Edited by Arthur C. Bachmeyer, M.D., and Gerhard Hartman, Ph.D. (Pp. 768. \$5.00 or 28s.) New York: The Commonwealth Fund; London: Oxford University Press.

This is an unusual kind of book. It might claim to be an encyclopaedia of all matters affecting hospitals, but its information is conveyed in articles chosen from various publications, and their style is much less formal than one expects to find in an encyclopaedia. It would be difficult to mention any aspect of hospital life which is not dealt with here by a well-known authority. The compilers of the book say that it is intended for (1) hospital administrators, (2) the department head, (3) the student of hospital administration; and they go on to say that each article was "chosen for its judicious analysis of a problem, and because it stimulated thought on that problem regardless of the view of the editors, and at times in contradiction with opinions expressed in other articles." There are 145 articles by 98 authors. The book's claim to be encyclopaedic is strengthened by the fact that each chapter ends with copious "references for further reading."

It is impossible in the space at the reviewer's disposal even to mention all the subjects dealt with, but a good example of the book's quality and variety may be found in the first chapter, on "The History of Hospitals." This begins with an article by Dr. S. Goldwater, who deals in an attractive way with the motives underlying the establishment of some of the earlier hospitals. The second part, by Dr. Faxon, is learned and full of interesting detail. For example, it mentions an inquiry into the hospitals of Paris in 1788 which showed a yearly mortality of 6 to 12% among the surgeons and attendants, whereas, the reporter says, "it should not ordinarily exceed 3%." The chapter on "The Hospital, the Family Doctor, and the Patient," by Dr. Goldwater, though dealing mainly with American problems, shows once more that these are the same all the world over. The author protests against the too-prevalent idea that the United States is a country where everybody is well off and therefore able to pay for his medical care. As a proof that this is not so he shows the steady growth of group practice attached to hospitals, many of them now including domiciliary attendance. He is a firm believer in keeping the family doctor in association with hospitals, because not only would this be of benefit to the patient but "the physician who enjoys a proper institutional association avoids the danger of being careless and superficial in his clinical methods." Dr. W. H. Spencer in "Hospital Organization and Management" thinks that all privately supported institutions in the United States, including hospitals, will have much more financial difficulty in the future owing to a decrease in the benefactions they have had from wealthy people, whose numbers and incomes are steadily declining. Among the urgent financial difficulties of the hospital is the question of the proper payment of its administrative staff. Hitherto there has been a tacit assumption that the personnel, like the doctors, are partly paid by a feeling of satisfaction in participating in the relief of suffering humanity. He thinks this assumption unfair, and that in any case it is steadily being undermined by vocational organization among the hospital subordinate staffs.

There are contributions on "Medical Staff Organization and Relationships," "Pharmacy," "Medical Records," "Admitting and Discharge," "Legal Aspects," "Construction of Hospitals," "Hospital Purchasing," "Laundry Management," to mention only a few; and the book ends with chapters on "Group Hospital and Health Insurance" and "Public Health."

This brief review of a readable and important book will, it is hoped, induce many hospitals to put a copy on their shelves. Nobody interested in hospital work could fail to find in it stimulus, instruction, parallels, and ideas as worthy of consideration here as in the U.S.A.

EMBRYOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

A Class Book of Practical Embryology for Medical Students. By P. N. B. Odgers. (Pp. 63; illustrated. 7s. 6d.) London: Oxford University Press.

The study of serial sections of embryos at different stages of development is greatly helped by explanatory drawings and diagrams, such as have been assembled by Dr. P. N. B. Odgers, Reader in Human Anatomy in the University of Oxford, and published under the title *A Class Book of Practical Embryology*