

leads Selye to conclude that they cannot depend on the action of a single corticotrophic hormone, but that other factors at present unidentified are probably also largely involved.

This is essentially a monograph for the specialist, and workers in this field will find much that is stimulating and of value.

C. L. COPE.

INCONTINENCE

Incontinence in Old People. By John C. Brocklehurst, M.D. With foreword by Stanley Alstead, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 191; 62 figures. £1 10s.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1951.

The author of this volume presents a careful and detailed discussion of a difficult and distressing subject. A full and clear description of the mechanism of control of both urinary and intestinal tracts is followed by a discussion of the conditions under which this control may fail. Unfortunately, in spite of elaborate research, the author has found no means by which control can be restored or its loss in any way relieved. He reaches the conclusion that the only way to prevent incontinence is to prevent confinement to bed, and he can point to many cases where a patient's incontinence was abolished by getting him on his feet. The book is well worth the consideration of those who have to care for the aged.

HENRY SOUTTAR.

DAY HOSPITALS

The Day Hospital. An Experiment in Social Psychiatry and Syntho-Analytic Psychotherapy. By Joshua Bierer, M.D., D.Econ. (Pp. 56. 6s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1951.

In 1947 Professor Ewen Cameron, of the Allan Memorial Institute of Psychiatry, Montreal, described an experimental form of hospitalization for psychiatric patients which he called the day hospital. No building programme, he stated, however ambitious, can hope to meet the increasing demands for treatment in hospital. "If, however, we take as our guiding principle that, as far as is possible, treatment should be provided at the hospital rather than in the hospital, we can reasonably expect a series of adaptations and inventions . . . which will permit all hospital centres to give intensive medical care to considerable numbers of patients without the necessity of providing the most expensive form of hospitalization, in-bed care."

Every attempt to examine the principles and assumptions on which our hospital services are based is important, and especially so if it suggests new types of institution which will lower the cost of these services. Dr. Bierer and his colleagues are to be congratulated on their appreciation of the need to experiment with the day hospital, and their initiative is all the more praiseworthy when their slender resources are kept in mind. In an account of the early stages of a practical development of this kind there should be a concise statement of the guiding ideas, with a clear picture of the important points brought out by initial experience. There should, in fact, be sufficient to convince others of the importance of the practical problems involved and to help them to start experimental models themselves. It is disconcerting, however, to find that Dr. Bierer has to relate his work to vaguely conceived principles of "social psychiatry and syntho-analytical psychotherapy," and that he has to drag in quite irrelevant pleas for a greater recognition of Adler's

work. It is unfortunate, too, that he has to make statements like the following: "About 500 adults and 150 children have been treated per year by the equivalent of one junior and one and a half senior psychiatrists. This represents about 1/8-1/10 of the psychiatric sessions used in other clinics for treatment of the same number of cases." Psychiatric disorders are as diverse as physical ones, and to imply, as this does, that any of these disorders—for example, psychoneurotic conflicts in the more intelligent sections of the population—can be helped adequately by a doctor who is responsible for 250 new cases per annum is to make a claim that is of little help to psychiatry.

Lastly, it must be seldom that any book has appeared with so many verbal errors. On p. 47 alone, Stekel appears as Steckell and Steckel; Freud's adherence to a causal attitude and to an instinctual basis appears as his *casual* attitude and his *instructional* basis. (It is an unchecked impression, but it seemed that the errors were more frequent in reference to psycho-analysis.) The day hospital is an important idea, for general as well as psychiatric hospitals, and it is to be hoped that the author and others will develop this work; but Dr. Bierer would be well advised to be more careful and more critical about any future publication.

J. D. SUTHERLAND.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received

Science News, No. 20. Edited by A. W. Haslett. (Pp. 128. 2s.) Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. 1951.

A Dictionary of Science. By E. B. Uvarov, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., A.R.I.C., D.I.C., and D. R. Chapman, B.A. (Pp. 240. 2s.) Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. 1951.

Control of Life. By Halliday Sutherland, M.D. (Pp. 282. 15s.) London: Burns, Oates. 1951.

Pioneer Doctor. By M. K. Hughes. (Pp. 163. 10s. 6d.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1950.

Serology with Lipid Antigen. By R. L. Kahn, M.S., D.Sc. (Pp. 327. 46s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1950.

Yellow Fever. Edited by G. K. Strode, M.D. (Pp. 710. 81s.) London: McGraw-Hill Book Company. 1951.

Schizophrenic Art: Its Meaning in Psychotherapy. By M. Naumberg. (Pp. 247. 70s.) London: William Heinemann. 1950.

The Medical Register. Published by the General Medical Council. (Pp. 2,433. 42s.) London: Constable. 1951.

The Burden of Diseases in the United States. By A. E. Cohn and C. Lingg. (Pp. 129; 5 coloured charts. 80s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1950.

Annotated Bibliography of Vitamin E, 1940-50. Compiled by P. L. Harris and W. Kujawski. (Pp. 184. \$3.) New York: The National Vitamin Foundation. 1951.

La Médecine d'Assurance sur la Vie: Facteurs Biologiques, Médicaux, et Sociaux de la Mortalité et de la Longévité. By H. Stévenin. (Pp. 509. 2,000 francs.) Paris: Masson. 1951.

Confrontations Radio-Anatomo-Cliniques. Edited by M. Chiray and others. Part 4. (Pp. 68. 1,250 francs.) Paris: Masson. 1951.

Fortschritte der Serologie. By Dr. H. Schmidt. Part 5. (Pp. 67. M. 6.) Darmstadt: Dietrich Steinkopff. 1951.

Ärzt und Laboratorium. By Dr. H. Marx. 7th ed. (Pp. 192. M. 8.70.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1951.