

three which are relevant to their particular fields of work. Much is happening in an increasing number of laboratories in this and in other countries.

HERBERT SEDDON.

Surgical Practice

Surgery. A Concise Guide to Clinical Practice. 2nd edition. Edited by George L. Nardi, M.D., and George D. Zuidema, M.D. (Pp. 1,038+xix; illustrated. 70s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1965.

Twentieth-century surgery, as Professor E. D. Churchill reminds us in the first chapter of this American textbook, is based firmly on the biological sciences and on the experimental laboratory. The surgeon is no longer in "sterile isolation at the operating table" but travels in company with the physician, the physiologist, and the chemist in a common quest to heal patients and to conquer disease. This approach to surgery sets the tone of the whole book and is its most attractive feature. There are, for instance, excellent and up-to-date accounts of nutritional care, of electrolyte, acid-base, and fluid balance, of antibiotic therapy, of cancer chemotherapy, and of the biology of tissue transplantation.

The book is written by 37 authors, and its quality varies considerably from one chapter to another. Its main drawback is that it is intended for the student, the resident, and the practising surgeon, none of whom is likely to be entirely satisfied. For example, in the chapter on amputations the resident and the surgeon will find helpful guidance on the prescription of prostheses and their costs, but the student will search in vain for simple descriptions of the sites of amputation in the Syme's and Gritti-Stokes operations, though both are discussed. Again, it may be sufficient for the student to know that a pilonidal sinus is treated by excision and "marsupialization or primary closure," but the

resident and the surgeon need guidance about the relative merits of the two procedures.

The relative space devoted to different topics is open to question. Thus the psychological aspects of surgical practice are discussed in a discursive manner in 20 pages; and cardiac surgery, which is presented in a lucid and masterly fashion in 66 pages, occupies as much space as cold orthopaedics, the stomach and duodenum, the gall-bladder, the breast, the spleen, and hernia combined.

There are separate chapters on anaesthesia, gynaecology, the special senses, radio-diagnosis, radiotherapy, and laboratory tests, which provide the surgeon with concise and modern reviews and with many practical details not readily available elsewhere.

The book is inexpensive, has a limp cloth binding, and is easy to handle. It is clearly popular, since a second edition has been published within four years of the first. It is well worth a place in the library, but it cannot be recommended as a standard textbook to be bought by students or graduates.

R. B. WELBOURN.

Sexual Conduct

Sexual Morality. By Ronald Atkinson, B.A., B.Phil.(Oxon.). (Pp. 191. 30s. 12s. 6d. paperback.) London: Hutchinson. 1965.

This book is one of a series designed to show the practical relevance of philosophy to contemporary social life. The author is senior lecturer in the department of political and moral philosophy in the University of Keele. He describes himself as a species of utilitarian who holds that a mode of conduct should be judged by the contribution it makes to the welfare of the people affected by it. He regards departures from the accepted code of behaviour as justifiable if "the balance of advantage is with them." In expressing

personal views about these matters he claims to accord great weight to consideration of prudence, beneficence, justice, and responsibility, and dissociates himself from other moral principles not reducible to these. He proceeds to examine, with strict regard to philosophical principles and with impeccable logic, the arguments for and against accepted codes of sexual conduct based, in the main, on Christian thought and teaching. The arguments are presented in language which is comprehensible to those without special training, and his exposition of the processes of philosophical thought is, at times, quite fascinating.

As an intellectual exercise the book is to be commended; but as a guide to personal and social behaviour it will have little impact. It would have been much more valuable if the author had attempted to exclude his own personal bias, which, of course, is asking a great deal of any writer. As it stands, those who try to base their conduct on Christian belief will continue to prefer the weight of 2,000 years of authority and experience; and many of those who have rejected the old standards are likely to find some justification here for continuing to do what pleases them. The author writes in his preamble that it is not very important to try to produce agreed *explicit* definitions, but it is just the failure to do this that leaves us in some confusion at the end. To take one instance, in his arguments for and against artificial insemination with the semen of a donor (A.I.D.) he makes no mention of a point which might occur to most of us—namely, that the donor dissociates himself from responsibility for his own child, thus lowering himself from the human order of conduct, and failing to satisfy the criteria by which Dr. Atkinson claims to justify departures from the accepted code. The author has a point of view and puts it skilfully, but fails in his declared purpose of showing how moral philosophy can have a bearing on the problems of practical life.

A. J. KING.

Books Received

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Syndromes of Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation. With Special Reference to Shock and Hemorrhage. By Robert M. Hardaway, III, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.A., F.A.A.S.T. (Pp. 466+xvi; illustrated. \$17.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

Correlative Neurosciences. Part A: Fundamental Mechanisms. Progress in Brain Research. Vol. 21A. Edited by T. Tokizane and J. P. Schädé. (Pp. 363+xi; illustrated. £5 15s.) Amsterdam, London, and New York: Elsevier. 1966.

De la Cause au Traitement des Rheumatismes. 2nd edition. By Dr. Henry Picard. (Pp. 196; illustrated. 16 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1966.

Les Déficiences Sexuelles Masculins et la Frigidité. By Dr. M. Landry. (Pp. 172. 18 F.) Paris: Librairie Maloine. 1966.

Die Obstruktiven Atemwegserkrankungen. By Prof. Wolfgang T. Ulmer. (Pp. 107; illustrated. DM 24.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1966.

Art for Spastics. By Zaidee Lindsay. (Pp. 71; illustrated. 21s.) London: Mills & Boon. 1966.

Preventive Medicine for the Doctor in His Community. An Epidemiologic Approach. 3rd edition. By Hugh Rodman Leavell, M.D., Dr.P.H., and E. Gurney Clark, M.D., Dr.P.H. (Pp. 684+xvi. £5.) New York, Toronto, Sydney, and London: McGraw-Hill. 1965.

Breathlessness. Symposium, Manchester, 1965. Edited by J. B. L. Howell, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.B., M.R.C.P., and E. J. M. Campbell, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 243+xiv; illustrated. 63s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

An Introduction to Medical Laboratory Technology. 4th edition. By F. J. Baker, F.I.M.L.T., F.I.S.T., F.R.M.S., R. E. Silvertown, F.I.M.L.T., F.R.M.S., and Eveline D. Luckcock, F.I.M.L.T. (Pp. 656+xiv; illustrated. 62s. 6d.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

Radiological Examination of the Lung and Examination of the Lung and Mediastinum with the Aid of Posterior Oblique Tomography at an Angle of 55°. By Gérard Faves and Omar Soliman. (Pp. 187; illustrated. DM. 45.) Basel: S. Karger. 1966.

Towards Earlier Diagnosis. A Family Doctor's Approach. 2nd edition. By Keith Hodgkin, B.M., B.Ch.(Oxon.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). (Pp. 459+xvi. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Reproductive Physiology of the Post-partum Period. By Albert Sharman, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.(Glasg.). (Pp. 127+xvii; illustrated. 25s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

Don't Smoke. Discovery Programmes. By R. W. Kind, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., and John Leedham, M.Ed. (Illustrated questionnaire. 3s. 6d.) London: Longmans. 1966.

Lehrbuch der Hämatologie. Edited by Prof. W. Grunke. (Pp. 638; illustrated. £7 14s. 10d.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1966.

Die Nieren. Physiologie, Klinische Physiologie und Klinik. By Dr. Jan Brod. (Pp. 1,096+xxvii; illustrated. £16 12s. 2d.) Berlin: Volk und Gesundheit. 1964.

Fifth National Cancer Conference. Philadelphia, 1964. American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute. (Pp. 764+xii; illustrated. 85s.) Philadelphia and Montreal: J. B. Lippincott. 1965.