

## Hormones and Tumours

**Dyshormonal Tumours.** The Theory of Prophylaxis and Treatment. By Nikolai Ivanovich Lazarev. Translated from the Russian by Basil Haigh. (Pp. 136+ix; illustrated. No price given.) New York: Consultants Bureau, 1966.

Professor Nikolai Lazarev, who is head of the Hormone Therapy Institute of Experimental and Chemical Cytology in Moscow, has worked for many years on the relation between hormones and tumours, and this book is the fruit of this experience and of his wide knowledge of all aspects of the subject.

It is divided into four parts. In the first part the author deals with basic biology and the physiology of the regulation of hormone secretion, particularly in respect to cell growth, differentiation, and dedifferentiation. He holds somewhat individual views about these matters, and these are expressed at the end of this section in a chapter entitled "A Hypothesis of the Causes of Tumor Development in Evolution."

Part two deals with the carcinogenic action of hormones and the role played by oestrogens in the development of the breast and uterus. Parts three and four describe the methods employed by the author in the treatment of benign or "precancerous" lesions and of malignant lesions respectively. Inevitably the major part of these sections concerns the breast and to a less extent the prostate.

The book is in the form of a monograph with paper covers. It is well printed and adequately illustrated with line drawings and diagrams. A serious defect is the absence of an index, which makes it impossible to determine readily what the author's views are in regard, for instance, to the hormone therapy of melanotic carcinoma, or indeed without reading the book through whether he expresses any.

It is important that there should be available in English a work such as this which is stimulating in its ideas, not all of which will be universally accepted, but which faces squarely the many puzzling anomalies of the relation of hormones to therapy—for example, the mechanism of the beneficial effect of oestrogens in breast cancer. It is to be recommended to all those interested in the basic and applied problem of oncology.

HEDLEY ATKINS.

## E.N.T. Diseases

**Common Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.** 4th edition. By Philip Reading. M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 270+x; illustrated. 36s.) London: J. & A. Churchill, 1966.

That this book has appealed to "the student and newly qualified practitioner," its prefaced aim, is not surprising, for it is written clearly and simply and with no fuss. The underlying pathology of a disease is of course the foundation of the clinical picture and of rational therapy. The author has successfully endeavoured to construct the book in this way. There are numerous clear line diagrams, including helpful ones of some instruments not normally encountered in general work but

invaluable to the specialist. Colour plates are very expensive and it is doubtful whether coloured illustrations of faucial diphtheria or retropharyngeal abscess are nowadays worth their place. The anatomical descriptions are very good, though the author's use of "mallear" for "malleolar" is somewhat unusual. There are also a number of printer's errors which should by now have disappeared. These minor defects do not detract from the virtues of a simple manual, well recognized by those whose appreciation has called for these repeated editions.

MAXWELL ELLIS.

## Treatment of Club Foot

**Congenital Clubfoot.** By Emil D. W. Hauser, M.S., M.D. (Pp. 94+vii; illustrated. No price given.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1966.

This is a short and simple monograph essentially directed towards the popularization of the author's method of treatment, but it gives a satisfactory résumé of other methods. The treatment described is limited largely to manipulative procedures, and the treatment of the "failed" club foot is only briefly mentioned. It is limited in the main to the discussion of talipes equino-varus, although talipes calcaneo-valgus is mentioned. The rarer varieties such as congenital vertical talus and talipes equinus are not mentioned. "Club foot" apparently has a more specific connotation in America than here.

From the practical point of view club foot is divided into the uncomplicated (postural), in which the neuromuscular mechanism is normal, and the complicated (idiopathic), in which there is an underlying tissue defect. This defect is one of loss of muscle bulk rather than a neuromuscular abnormality, so that muscle biopsy is normal. Similarly, the examination of contracted soft tissues shows no abnormality. Bony defects, primary or secondary, are rare, and barely mentioned. Club feet are correctable or become uncorrectable. The treatment of the uncorrectable complicated club foot is not discussed apart from some soft-tissue operations—for example, lengthening the tendo Achillis and plantar fasciotomy. No attempt is made to resolve the argument between those who believe prolonged stretching and fixation of the foot may lead to a normal-looking foot but to a foot so rigid as to be an embarrassment, and those who believe that the uncorrectable complicated case should have an early bone operation to restore the plantigrade foot as soon as possible and retain full mobility of the unaffected joints. It is remarkable in a condition which is so frequently encountered that so many unresolved difficulties remain and there is so little agreement on aetiology and treatment.

The author's method is essentially that of Robert Jones, but a strapping which adheres to itself and not to the skin is employed. No attempt is made to compare the results of this method with other methods, the author being entirely satisfied with his own results. These are reviewed briefly and inadequately

in two pages of appendix, where 272 club feet are recorded in 172 patients.

Within its limitations this little book is an excellent introduction to the subject, but it skirts all controversy and the rationale of any treatment more radical than manipulation, bandaging, and splinting.

J. G. BONNIN.

## Pavlovian Psychiatry

**Conditioning and Psychiatry.** By Thomas A. Ban, M.D. (Pp. 244+ix. 40s.) London: George Allen & Unwin, 1966.

This is a concise exposition of the Pavlovian contribution to psychiatry. It is a mainly historical introduction to what might be called the patristic period of this school. The most serious criticism that can be made of the whole approach is given at the end of the book as follows: "The major handicap of Pavlovian general and clinical psychopathology lies in the fact that it was based solely on animal experiments, applied schematically but analogously and lacking verification in humans." From this book one does not get much sense of the way in which many of the more mechanistic and outdated ideas of Pavlov himself have been modified and fruitfully integrated into current psychological theory. There is an extensive bibliography of 51 pages. It appears to bear little relationship to the text, as many papers in the bibliography are not referred to in the text, and many names in the text are not in the bibliography.

D. A. POND.

## Amoebiasis

**L'Amibiase et L'Amibe Dysentérique.** By Robert Deschiens. (Pp. 697. 70 F.) Paris: Masson, 1965.

The author, a distinguished protozoologist and chef de service at the Pasteur Institute, is to be congratulated on this exhaustive monograph. It is divided into six sections, dealing successively with history, epidemiology, morbid anatomy, clinical features, therapeutics, and prophylaxis. The longest section is that on epidemiology, which includes a really excellent chapter on *Entamoeba histolytica* containing much valuable detail on cultural and experimental methods. The clinical section suffers from an unnecessarily elaborate classification of the clinical types which the infection may adopt, thus obscuring the fundamental simplicity of the disease process and tending to confuse rather than to instruct the reader. A full account is given of the numerous individual amoebicides, and this is followed by five different schemes recommended by five different authors (all French) for the treatment of intestinal amoebiasis. These are all polypharmaceutical, comprising an initial treatment leading to a maintenance treatment extending over many months, which in most countries would be regarded as needlessly prolonged. The work concludes with a useful list of 1,325 papers to which reference is made in the text. It will be a valuable addi-