

# Medicine and Books

## Not sole or whole

*Studies in Law and Health Service Management.* "An Introduction to the Law Relating to the Health Care Professions." P F C Bayliss. (Pp 224; £24.50 hardback, £19.50 paperback.) Beckenham: Ravenswood, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-901812-61-3, paperback 0-901812-64-1.

Despite its ambitious title, the book is concerned mainly with the statutory law controlling the medical profession and other "health care professions" and does not discuss medical (and paramedical) negligence. Part 1 deals with the principles of this legislation and part 2 deals with the law in respect of each profession, from the medical through the dental and pharmaceutical professions to what parliament described in 1960 as "the professions supplementary to medicine." Readers who think that the paramedical professions are steadily increasing and encroaching on traditional medicine will be heartened to read on page 180 that in at least one case a "profession supplementary to medicine" has been wound up by statute: on 1 April 1986 under Order of Counsel SI 1986 No 630 remedial gymnasts were merged with physiotherapists "from which they had become indistinguishable."

Although the book deals helpfully with disciplinary and complaints procedures, doctors may be surprised that despite a chapter on controls and limitation on professional practice there is little or no mention of the role of health authorities, local medical committees, or family practitioner committees.

Some interesting comments are made by way of aside, such as on p 55 in an account of the 1980 case in which a patient persuaded an unqualified friend to remove his tonsils on a kitchen table without anaesthetic: massive bleeding resulted and the patient had to be given orthodox medical treatment. The author states: "because the patient gave consent for the operation no question of battery or criminal damage arose, and, insofar as an amateur surgeon can hardly be expected to have the skill of a trained and qualified person, a case for negligence would be difficult." This statement is not easy to support in law. Criminal damage does not arise, because this was not an offence against property but an offence against the person, although under section 10 of the Criminal Damage Act, 1971, property is stated to include "wild creatures which have been tamed or are ordinarily kept in captivity, such as cats and dogs." Biologists may be interested to learn that it was decided in the case of *McQuaker v Goddard* [1940] IKB 687 that a camel could be seriously described as being domesticated in the British Isles. In *Bravery v Bravery* [1954] 3 All ER 59 Denning LJ expressed the opinion that a surgical operation performed without just cause is unlawful even though the victim consented to it, but Evershed MR and Hodgson LJ expressly dissociated themselves from the application of this principle to a sterilisation operation. Neither is consent a criminal defence where severe blows are given for the purpose of gratifying perverted sexual passion (*R v Donovan* [1934] 2 KB 498). Nor is it clear that in law an amateur surgeon would not be expected to have the skill of a trained and qualified person, as the author confidently asserts. In the case of *Neutleship v Weston* [1971] 2 QB 691 the court decided that a person driving a motorcar on the highway was bound to exercise the skill of a reasonably careful driver and if he failed to do so was not excused by the fact that he was using such care and skill as he possessed: the standard of care is not affected or reduced merely because the driver happens to be a learner driver, since he must comply with the same objective and impersonal standard as must every other driver. By way of legal

curiosity it appears, however, that a question of criminal damage would arise if the tonsils were damaged postoperatively—that is to say if, for example, by virtue of the unusual circumstances of the operation they became exhibits in a pathology museum. The author states that this case was reported but does not help readers by providing a reference.

Doctors are fortunate in having excellent sources of legal advice in the Medical Protection Society and the Medical Defence Union, and any doctors facing an actual or potential legal problem should seek advice in the first instance from one of those organisations. An "amateur" encouraged to contemplate surgery would be advised to consult his solicitor before embarking on the procedure.

RICHARD OUGH

## Unearthing the clues

*Death, Decay and Reconstruction. Approaches to Archaeology and Forensic Science.* Ed A Boddington, A N Garland, R C Janaway. (Pp 264; figs; £27.50.) Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1987. ISBN 0-7190-2303-3.

A collection of papers by well known workers in their respective subjects given at a joint conference of archaeologists and forensic scientists in Leeds during February 1986, the book is divided into four groups, which consider: survival and decay; analytical approaches to decay; approaches to reconstruction; and archaeology and forensic science.

An alternative title might well have been "Recent advances in forensic science and palaeopathology," and in a short review it is not possible to do justice to every paper. There are no startling claims to hit the headlines, and notes of caution occur throughout, warning of the dangers of reading too much into findings.

The first section deals with Sutton Hoo, York Jewbury, the Raunds excavations, and forensic examination of burials in Germany following on wartime happenings. Other papers discuss factors affecting the state of preservation of human skeletal remains.

In the analytical section cremation "slag" is given a proper, more down to earth, origin than human hair and for the histologically minded there is a new method for estimating age at death and assessing histological changes as a contrast to macroscopic impressions. The preservative action of metals on organic materials is described with a discussion on the value of trace metals from chemical analysis.

The third section discusses skeletal evidence of disease and the problems of trying to estimate numbers of populations from cemeteries. While the fourth is primarily of interest to forensic scientists. In this there is an excellent summary of present knowledge based on experience from North America.

Considering a few of the papers in more detail, I must admit to a bias of interest. Professor A K Mant's paper on the experience gained from exhuming war graves in Germany after the war gives much evidence on the factors influencing preservation especially in the short term of a few years. The effects of organic material buried with the body are illustrated in a poignant account of the difference in preservation between a comparatively well nourished kitchen worker, shot in her nightdress, and ordinary inmates of a concentration camp.

From the Raunds experience the importance of photography of the cleaned skeleton before removal is emphasised. There is a discussion on bone "tumble" and also parallel and non-parallel burial. What is the cause of this tumble? The internal variety suggests a coffin or shroud.

Dr C Samson's work opens up a new method of assessing age at death even in fragmentary and weathered bone, provided the Haversian canals are preserved; but though an accuracy of within six years is claimed for males it still is difficult to estimate the age of females within 16 years.

The section on reconstruction contains much to interest medical readers specialising in bone disease, but there is a warning of errors that can occur from analysing a set of graves because of the uncertainty as to whether this is a representative selection or not. Finally there is an excellent summary of current knowledge by W M Bass, derived from his extensive experience in the United States.

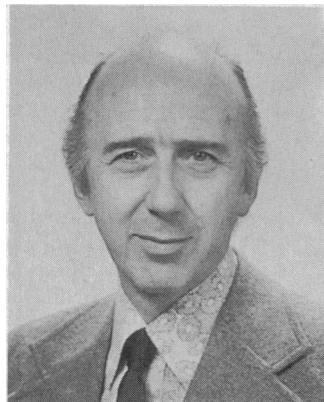
The book is well designed and illustrated, and I recommend it to those in the "trade" as well as to readers who have an interest in the past and the lessons it can offer for the present.

JOHN L COLE

## Riding the roller coaster

*Not Always on the Level.* E J Moran Campbell. (Pp viii+246; figs; £14.95, overseas £18.50 (\$30) including postage, airmail overseas. BMA members £13.95, overseas £17.50 (\$28), including postage.) London: The Memoir Club, British Medical Journal, 1988. ISBN 0-7279-0184-2.

Though Professor Campbell is well known as a clinical scientist who has made several contributions to respiratory physiology and chest



E J Moran Campbell.

medicine, less specialised readers of the *BMJ* may be more familiar with his occasional reminiscences of his early years and his career. Five of these pieces are reprinted in the 34 short chapters that make up his "patchwork autobiography," published in the Memoir Club series. Written in a direct, rough hewn style that carries conviction, they constitute a self portrait of a man who is patently (and at times painfully) honest in his attempt to come to terms with the "romance and earthiness" of his life and his work. There

are descriptions of his father, a dominating man and a country practitioner of the old school; of the rigours and joys of clinical research; of controversial views on such topics as intensive care units and medical education—and from these vignettes emerges a picture of the not unfamiliar combination of professional success and personal stresses.

There is, however, another dimension to the life history, for the ambiguous title of the volume refers to the author's mood. "I am a manic depressive," he announces on page 1, and in retrospect it seems he had displayed evidence of the disorder for some 25 years before it was recognised, even though he was working in a medical milieu. Unlike Stuart Sutherland in his account of a similar affliction,<sup>1</sup> however, Campbell is content to present the facts without commenting on their wider implications, and the later part of the book is darkened by the ravages of the illness and its consequences. The final chapters courageously convey a vivid impression of what it can mean to live with "a roller coaster mind," as the following passage illustrates:

I have looked over precipices, tasted cyanide, toyed with a bare bodkin, and dared myself to crash the bicycle or car. I just cannot be bothered. Passive

suicide thoughts are much easier. Thus I was quite at ease, almost enthusiastic, when I had a heart attack which threatened my life and was tranquil when stacked and buffeted over New York in a winter storm for an hour. No effort was demanded of me and my end would bring sympathy to the family and not disgrace.

Commenting on his own memoirs Geoffrey Keynes remarks, with a touch of complacency, that "the writer of an autobiography must try to believe that other people will like to read what he himself has tried to achieve, however imperfectly, and what people and things have engaged his interest."<sup>2</sup> Professor Campbell is clearly more concerned with putting the record straight than with whether his readers like what he has to say.

MICHAEL SHEPHERD

1 Sutherland S. *Breakdown*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1976.  
2 Keynes G. *The gates of memory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983.

## Words fail

*Elsevier's Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Medicine.* Part A-General Medicine, in five languages. Compiled by A F Dorian. (Pp 1175; £168.90.) Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1987. ISBN 0-444-42823-2.

The need was great. The idea was sound. The effort of compilation must have been tremendous. And yet the result is disappointing, for many reasons. (1) Scope: nearly 12 000 terms is fine—but finite. Terms that could (and should) have been there—for example, modern imaging techniques—have been squeezed out by anatomy (for which there will be a separate volume) and too much detail on some aspects (phobias, fetal presentations). (2) Selection of entries: the premise seems to be that medical terms must be Greek or Latin. The growing trend towards simpler medical English is ignored. Some of the terms—and concepts—are described as "obsolete" by the author; others might have been relevant years ago. The overall impression is that "hard" words have been picked from other dictionaries, rather than currently used terms from current publications. (3) The definitions: they are the *raison d'être* of this dictionary. They could have been useful. They are not. They range from the copied and correct to the home made and hilarious. Where a term has several meanings, definitions are often poorly structured; and the translations may cover more, or less, or something totally different. Even with definitions, many faux amis (words that look, but do not mean, the same in different languages) have not been resolved. In fact, lots more are added in the *Franglais* of some definitions. (4) The translations: here, too, the author's unfamiliarity with medical publications has led to many important terms being left out. Also, the quality of the German is unacceptable. (5) Access to terms can be difficult. Some English synonyms occur only in the definitions; synonyms in other languages may not be separately indexed; and the more commonly accepted terms seem to be referred to, and defined under, the less (if at all) usual ones. (6) Printer's errors and misspellings occur everywhere, from main entries to indexes. I wonder why, with a project of this size, the publishers have not provided for proper proof reading, as well as checking the scope, definitions, and linguistic adequacy of the entries. What should ideally have been done by a panel of experts seems to have been left to one author—well meaning but out of his depth.

Verdict: it is difficult to imagine a modern medical text that could be adequately translated, or understood, by using this dictionary.

KARIN R M BAND

## In brief . . .

Written for the doctor who initially treats an injury sustained at sport, *Sports Injuries and Their Management* by A P Millar (£19.50 paperback. Sydney: Williams and Wilkins, 1987. ISBN 0-86433-028-6) gives a systematic review of the problems that might be encountered and aims at assisting diagnosis and advising on primary

treatment. It is well laid out, clearly written, and illustrated with simple drawings. The author is an advocate of the virtues of rest, simple physiotherapy, and careful rehabilitation.

The range of injuries described is comprehensive, but, in a volume of 110 pages, the information given is necessarily brief. Advice concerning the management of lesser injuries is adequate, but more serious problems are sketchily described. The sections dealing with injuries of the menisci and ligaments of the knee are superficial, and injuries to the cervical and lumbar spine receive only brief mention. Considering the frequency of low back pain in sport, a more comprehensive account of the potential diagnoses would be welcome. The belief that diazepam is a "muscle relaxant" in the usual therapeutic dose is surely a delusion.

There is, however, much information in the book, and it provides a useful summary of the more common sports injuries; but £20 seems expensive for a thin paperback.

Modern multicolour graphics, colour photography, and a substantial text combine to provide an admirable summary of modern endocrinological practice in *Clinical Endocrinology. An Illustrated Text* edited by G M Besser and A G Cudworth (£49.50. London: Chapman and Hall, 1987. ISBN 0-412-29900-3). A multi-author book, written mostly by experts from the United Kingdom with some distinguished contributions from the United States, it illustrates the way in which clinical observation has often initiated new studies that have led to a better understanding of the physiology of the endocrine glands. Chapters are based on individual endocrine glands, and for each gland there is a clear enunciation of modern knowledge concerning its physiological regulation followed by an account of the relevant clinical syndromes.

## Contributors

RICHARD OUGH is a medically qualified barrister with chambers in London and Leeds.

JOHN L COLE, now retired, was a consultant radiologist at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham.

Professor MICHAEL SHEPHERD is editor of *Psychological Medicine*.

KARIN R M BAND is a freelance medical translator and interpreter.

The sections on treatment are succinct, which inevitably means that discussion of controversy concerning the best form of treatment is often avoided, and it is a pity that further reading lists have not been provided. The tendency to use examples of severe disease to emphasise important clinical features of each syndrome is irresistible, and all endocrine teachers do it. In clinical practice, however, the real skills are in detecting the disease in its earliest stages, when the clinical findings are much more subtle. Nevertheless, the book will be of great importance to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Is it too much to hope that a cheaper edition can be marketed eventually?

## Some new titles

### Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

*Discussion Series 9.* "The Implications of AIDS for Children in Care." Ed D Batty. (Pp 84; £4.50 paperback.) Available from British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, 11 Southwark Street, London SE1 1RQ. 1987. ISBN 0-903534-72-X.

*The Search for the Virus. The Scientific Discovery of AIDS and the Quest for a Cure.* S Connor, S Kingman. (Pp 240; figs; £3.95 paperback.) Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1988. ISBN 0-14-010909-9.

### Anaesthesia

*Praenesthetic Assessment 1.* Ed E A M Frost. (Pp 320; Sw frs 58.) Boston: Birkhauser, 1988. ISBN 3-7643-3376-6.

### Anatomy

*Development of the Human Foetal Brain. An Anatomical Atlas.* A Feess-Higgins, J-C Larroche. (Pp 204; figs; Frs 350.) Paris: INSERM/Masson, 1988. ISBN 2-85598-337-1.

### Biology

*Modern Cell Biology.* Vol 6. Volume and series editor B H Satir. (Pp 168; figs; \$39.50.) New York: Liss, 1987. Distributed by John Wiley and Sons. ISBN 0-8451-3305-5.

### Cardiology

*Diastolic Relaxation of the Heart. Basic Research and Current Applications for Clinical Cardiology.* Ed W Grossman, B H Lorell. (Pp 320; figs; £52.95.) Boston: Nijhoff, 1987. Distributed by MTP Press. ISBN 0-89838-951-8.

### Dentistry

*Dental Practitioner Handbook.* No 37. "Appearance and Aesthetics in Denture Practice." D J Lamb. Series editor D D Derrick. (Pp 118; figs; £12.50 paperback.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. Distributed by Butterworth. ISBN 0-7236-0753-2.

### General practice

*International Classification of Primary Care.* Ed H Lamberts,

M Wood. (Pp 224; figs; £15 paperback.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987. ISBN 0-19-261633-1

*Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease and Stroke. A Workbook for Primary Care Teams.* J T Hart, B Stilwell. (Pp 256; figs; £5.95 paperback.) London: Faber and Faber, 1988. ISBN 0-571-14504-3.

### Genetics

*The Inherited Metabolic Diseases.* Ed J B Holton. (Pp 472; figs; £50.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. ISBN 0-443-03195-9.

### Health care issues

*Health for All Series.* No 10. "Eighth General Programme of Work Covering the Period 1990-1995." World Health Organisation. (Pp 212; £10.80 paperback.) Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1987. ISBN 92-4-180010-0.

*Old and Ill. Private Nursing Homes for Elderly People.* L Challis, H Bartlett. (Pp 208; £10 paperback, including post and packing.) Mitcham: Age Concern, 1988. ISBN 0-86242-059-8.

### History of medicine

*The Charitable Infirmary Jervis Street 1718-1987. A Farewell Tribute.* Compiled and edited by E O'Brien. (Pp 304; figs; IRE120 limited edition, IRE25 cased edition.) Monkstown, Co Dublin: The Anniversary Press, 1987. ISBN limited edition 1-870940-00-8, cased edition 1-870940-01-6.

*First Ladies of Medicine.* The Origins, Education and Destination of Early Women Medical Graduates of Glasgow University. W Alexander. (Pp 94; figs; £4.50 paperback.) Available from The Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Glasgow, 5 University Gardens, Glasgow G12. ISBN 0-9511765-1-X.

*The Heberden Society: History, Portraits and Biographies.* J M H Moll. (Pp 416; figs; £35.) London: Chapman and Hall, 1987, for The British Society for Rheumatology. ISBN 0-412-27980-0.

### Immunology

*Immunology Series.* Vol 38. "Differentiation Antigens in Lymphohemopoietic Tissues." Ed M Miyasaka, Z Trnka. Editor-in-Chief N R Rose. (Pp 560; figs; \$162.) New York: Dekker, 1988. ISBN 0-8247-7805-7.

### Medical education

*MCQs on Diagnostic Imaging.* J E Dacie. (Pp 360; £14.95 paperback.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1988. ISBN 0-433-03075-8.

### Neurology

*Clinical Management of Dysarthric Speakers.* K M Yorkston, D R Beukelman, K R Bell. (Pp 400; figs; £25.) London: Taylor and Francis, 1987. ISBN 0-85066-676-7.

*Contemporary Neuroscience.* "Neurotransmitters and Epilepsy." Ed P C Jobe, H E Laird II. (Pp 396; figs; \$79.50.) New Jersey: Humana Press, 1987. ISBN 0-89603-101-2.

*Migraine: Clinical, Therapeutic, Conceptual and Research Aspects.* Ed J N Blau. (Pp 712; figs; £50.) London: Chapman and Hall, 1987. ISBN 0-412-27890-1.

*Studies in Neuroscience.* Vol 6. "Aims and Methods in Neuroethology." Ed D M Guthrie. Series editor W Winlow. (Pp 320; figs; £37.50.) Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-7190-2213-4.

### Nuclear medicine

*Practical NMR Imaging.* Ed M A Foster, J M S Hutchison. (Pp 328; figs; £36.) Oxford: IRL Press, 1987. ISBN 1-85221-011-7.

### Nutrition

*Additives: a Guide for Everyone.* E Millstone, J Abraham. (Pp 224; £3.95 paperback.) Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1988. ISBN 0-14-051223-3.

*Food and Nutrition in History and Anthropology.* Vol 6. "The Effects of Undernutrition on Children's Behavior." D E Barrett, D A Frank. Series editor S H Katz. (Pp 376; figs; £51.) New York: Gordon and Breach, 1987. ISBN 2-88124-190-5.

### Obstetrics and gynaecology

*Caesareans: an Explanation and Preparation.* E Philipp. (Pp 176; figs; £12.95.) London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 1988. ISBN 0-283-99523-8.

*Premenstrual Syndrome.* P M S O'Brien. (Pp 232; figs; £24.50.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1987. ISBN 0-632-01343-5.