

At the present time this collection of papers represents the best distillation of fact and opinion available in the field. No doubt the contributors will share my hope that within a few years this volume will be of historical interest only, having been replaced by a slimmer, definitive monograph describing the aetiology and treatment of this tragic distortion of gender development.

SYDNEY BRANDON.

## Diseases of the Small Bowel

*Modern Trends in Gastroenterology*. Vol. 4. Ed. W. I. Card and B. Creamer. (Pp. 373; 95s.) Butterworths. 1970.

It is some years since the publication of the third volume in the series of *Modern Trends in Gastroenterology*, and it is a pleasure to welcome the fourth. The present volume differs from its predecessors in not selecting from the whole of gastroenterology but in being confined to the small intestine. The editors justify this restriction on the grounds that original work has been specially prolific in relation to the small intestine, and that what is lost by exclusion is balanced by greater depth in what is covered.

The book opens with a chapter on electron microscopy, and this is followed by one on histochemistry and another on the biochemistry of the intestinal epithelial cell. Sidney J. Winawar and Martin Lipkin have written an excellent account of proliferative abnormalities in the gastrointestinal tract. Though most of the work is based on experimental animals, the few observations which have been made in man seem to suggest that the findings apply to human beings. This raises the possibility that we may soon be able to classify conditions such as gastritis and colitis in terms corresponding with those employed by the haematologist when dealing with aplastic, dyshaemopoietic, and haemolytic anaemias. In atrophic gastritis, for example, the turnover of the epithelium is more rapid than normal, which suggests that it may be analogous to a haemolytic anaemia. R. H. Dowling has written an outstanding chapter on the effects of small bowel resection, including the development of compensatory mechanisms and the effect on the enterohepatic circulation of bile, in both of which aspects he himself has made notable contributions. There is an interesting chapter by A. M. Dawson on the absorption of disaccharides, though it might perhaps have been preferable to speak of digestion rather than absorption. Protein-losing gastroenteropathy is described by Thomas A. Waldman who, incidentally, discovered two previously

unrecognized diseases—intestinal lymphangiectasia and allergic gastroenteropathy—in the course of his own pioneer studies into protein loss from the gastrointestinal tract. The role of bacteria in conditions such as stagnant loops and jejunal diverticulosis is covered by Soad Tabaqchali and C. C. Booth. I regret that lack of space prevents any detailed consideration of succeeding chapters.

In effect, this book provides an excellent account of recent advances in small-intestinal disease which every gastroenterologist will want on his shelves, and the general physician will find it a convenient way of getting up to date in a rapidly developing field.

S. C. TRUELOVE.

## Problems in Chest Diseases

*Lectures in Chest Medicine*. John R. Edge. (Pp. 260; 75s.) Staples Press. 1970.

I enjoyed this attractive and very readable small book. As clearly stated by the author, it is not intended as a comprehensive text. Subjects are selected with a view to clarifying the areas of increasing overlap in the fields of general and chest medicine.

The paramount importance of radiography in managing pulmonary patients is recognized by providing a clear summary of the important points in the opening chapter. Bronchial carcinoma, with its attendant problems, is dealt with practically and from a refreshingly humane viewpoint. Tuberculosis, likely to be neglected in the present over-optimistic climate of opinion, receives its due attention with proper emphasis on the often ill-understood problems of drug therapy. There follow most useful summaries of modern views on immunity disturbances, vascular disorders, and emphysema. The last three chapters (and that on radiography) are written by other contributors, but the lucidity and notable readability of the book is maintained. There is a common-sense account of the management of ambulant patients with chronic airways obstruction, a systematized summary of the clinical jungle produced by sarcoidosis, and an outline of the commoner pneumoconioses.

The production is excellent, on good quality paper, and the drawings are clear and immediately informative. Most of the reproductions of radiographs are also very good.

The new resident faced with a ward of miscellaneous patients, a large proportion of whom will have chest problems, would find these essays most helpful in his efforts to gain a proper perspective.

PETER STRADLING.

## Our Verbal Heritage

*The Vocabulary of Science*. Lancelot Hogben. (Pp. 184; 42s.) William Heinemann. 1970.

This book is described in the blurb as a "crash course in the nearest thing to a world-wide auxiliary language." It is intended to help biology students "who have little or no Latin and Greek to gain in a few weeks more than a nodding acquaintance with the overwhelming majority of Latin and Greek words which occur as components of internationally current technical terms."

Like Gaul this book is divided into three parts. Part One describes in full detail the whole history of scientific language from the pre-Christian era to the present time, taking us from the East through the Moslem empire and the different countries of Western Europe—truly a philological *tour de force*—all in 57 pages.

Part Two consists of a long list of words divided into sections covering all aspects of human life from the four elements to parts of buildings. The English words are on the left; it is not clear why the reader who knows little or no Latin and Greek should want to know the classical equivalent, nor why for instance the biology student should want to know the foreign word for *barn*. Part Three continues this process to words of medicine and biological terms. Here Greek and Latin words are in separate lists with curious results. Thus we read the Latin *vulpus* (fox), but the Greek *alopez* which is of greater importance is omitted. An epilogue returns to the philological quest in even greater detail than in Part One, for there are now included Spanish and Welsh words. An appendix consists of Latin and Greek vocabularies. Latin nouns are given in the ablative singular. It is difficult to imagine what a student with "little or no Greek" will make of the Greek vocabulary.

In spite of or perhaps because of its profound erudition this book completely lacks the human touch. It entirely ignores the romance of words; the fact, for instance, that many words are immortal though the ideas they originally connoted are long-since dead. The word *artery* means air carrier and perpetuates the Greek idea of the function of the arteries. *Trachea* is an adjective meaning rough. It followed artery in *arteria trachea*, rough artery. *Melancholia* means black bile.

A defect is that it is not easy to find one's way about. The teeming cross-references are difficult to find. Greater variety in type would have helped. Though its aim is to provide a "crash course" this book seems a singularly roundabout way to initiate a student in a few weeks to "more than a nodding acquaintance" with his verbal heritage.

FFRANGCON ROBERTS.

## Books Received

*Books noticed here may be reviewed later*

*Medical Disorders in Obstetric Practice*: 3rd edn. Cyril G. Barnes, F.R.C.P. (Pp. 482; 80s.) Blackwell. 1970.

*Annual Review of Medicine*: Vol. 21. Ed. Arthur C. DeGraff. (Pp. 501; \$10.50.) Annual Reviews. 1970.

*Experimental Approaches to the Study of Drugs Dependence*. Ed. Harold Kalant and Rosemary D. Hawkins. (Pp. 235; 63s.) Oxford University Press. 1970.

*Surgery Annual 1969*. Ed. P. Cooper. (Pp. 472; 140s.) Butterworth. 1970.

*The Practice of Geriatrics*. 2nd edn. John Agate. (Pp. 589; 60s.) Heinemann. 1970.

*The Home Medical Guide*. David Kellett Carding, M.B. (Pp. 227; 6s.) Pan Books. 1970.

*By Accident or Design?: A Study of Equipment Development in Relation to Basic Nursing Problems*. Doreen Norton, S.R.N. (Pp. 114; 20s.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

*Occupational Contact Dermatitis*. Robert M. Adams, M.D. (Pp. 262; 165s.) Blackwell. 1970.

*Orthopaedic Diagnosis*. Hans P. Debrunner. (Pp. 184; 30s.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1970.

*A Natural History of Man*. J. K. Brierley. (Pp. 184; 35s.) Heinemann. 1970.