diagnosis was strangulated omental hernia with abscess formation and early peritonitis. Operation was immediately performed under local analgesia. Pus was found under the skin around and in the hernial sac, which was gregarious, through the omentum, the only contents of the sac, was viable. There was no rupture of the internal incision, but on displacing the omentum pus welled out from within the abdominal cavity. The case was diagnosed as omental hernia and the visibility of the abdominal cavity at the internal incision closed. The skin was loosely sutured, with drainage to the peritoneum. He was given morphine, and an intravenous drip was inserted, and he survived some 27 hours later.

Necropsy showed diffuse suppuration in the left inguinal canal and acute diffuse peritonitis, starting from the region of the left inguinal hernia. No cause for the lesion was found, as the gut and omentum were viable and the gregarious sac had been excised at operation.

I wish to thank Dr. Rennie, M.O.H., and Dr. Clark, medical superintendent, for permission to publish this case.

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A Case of D.D.T. Poisoning in Man

Extensive studies on the toxicity to mammals of the new insecticide, 4,4'-dichloro-diphenyl-trichloethane, commonly known as D.D.T., have shown that this substance is primarily a nerve poison, producing excitability, muscular tremors, clonic convulsions, and eventually death. The mechanism of poisoning is a leucocytosis, anaemia, changes in blood calcium, and fatty degeneration in the liver and kidneys. It is absorbed readily through the skin, particularly when dissolved in kerosene (Cameron, 1945; D.D.T., 1944; D.D.T., 1944; Drace, et al., 1944; and Smith and Stohlman, 1944; Neil et al., 1944; Nelson et al., 1944; Smith and Stohlman, 1944; Woodard et al., 1944). In spite of a careful search among persons who have handled D.D.T. over long periods, and of poisonous conditions in which it is used, noAMA

Lord Moran served as medical officer with one of our finest infantry battalions in the war, and kept a diary in which he wrote of the minds and behaviour of men under stress of battle—studies which reveal his remarkable powers of observation and description. Exports from the diary are interwoven in this book with present reflections enriched by the author's contacts during this war with statesmen and officers of high rank in the fighting services—men who are interested in the vital problem of morale. Wars are won, Lord Moran reminds us, by the courage and endurance of the few who are like riffs to which all the rest of humanity clings for support and for life. It is they who set the standard for victory. Fear is the enemy in himself with which a man must ever contend, and must vanquish if he is to play his part in the issue of success. This secret battle the author watched in the officers and men of his battalion, and in himself, through the vicissitudes of three years from the high-spirited days of 1914 to the last weary trench winter of 1917. He writes of the discovery of fear in men of all sorts, appearing in ways which are as many and various as their personalities, of fearlessness, of the ebb and flow of racial, national, and personal morale, and of the pages are alive with vivid intimate sketches of men seen at their critical moments of opportunity for success or failure in the venture which, as he says, is now not as of old the trade of the mercenary or the lot of the unimaginative, but the ordeal which every citizen must expect, whatever the stuff he is made of and whatever may be his attitude towards war. It is an ordeal which has borne hard upon some of those brought up between the two wars to regard war as a senseless folly which solves nothing.

This book makes good reading, but critically regarded it lacks order and aim, and the reader who looks for deep and original thought may be disappointed. The distinction between war neurosis and concussion is dealt with in a way which might lead the uncritical to suppose that the blast effect of a shell may be responsible for the former—the hypothesis of shell shock abandoned in the last war—and the unconscious is made that a man may become an epileptic as the result of emotional strain. These are minor blemishes in a volume which is full of good stories and crisp thought, but are none the less unfortunate. The final chapter, on leadership, shows the author at his best and reveals his wide knowledge of military history. The book, one hopes, will be read by all medical and commanding officers of combatant units, for it cannot fail to excite thought and advance inquiry into the means of keeping the soldier's mind fit for his job—a task which is now widely recognized as the joint responsibility of commander and doctor.

A PRIMER OF SOCIAL MEDICINE


Dr. Grundy has written this book on social medicine to help midwives in their studies as hospital pupils, and in their practice. The matter it contains is an expansion of his own lectures to pupil midwives. As an aid to study and practice it ought to be useful not only to midwives but also to other nurses in the social services.

The subjects dealt with cover many wide fields of knowledge and practice, but of course they are handled very briefly for the special needs of the readers. The sections deal in turn with the administrative structure of the socio-medical services, central and local; with the individuals concerned, women and children, in their environment; with the relevant problems of infection; with social biology and vital statistics; and provide a historical sketch of midwifery, an account of the Midwives Acts, and a useful extract from the Rushcliffe Committee report.

There can be no question that if the midwife is to be really competent and interested in her clinical practice she requires...
a great deal of the information abstracted and compiled by Dr. Grundy. A condensation of the vast miscellaneous knowledge which swells out the ordinary textbooks of public health into a small handbook suitable for the needs of midwives and other nurses is a difficult task. In places the result is somewhat rough, untidy, and scrappy; but the main purpose is achieved in giving the midwife, both as a student and as a practitioner, a manual of reference of essential information about the laws and regulations, the administrative framework, and the wider purposes that underlie the daily clinical routine of her work. The sections on maternal and infant diet are too short; and the linking of the work of the midwife and the health visitor needs expansion. A good deal is said about the child welfare services, and this inclusion is well justified. Dr. Grundy is persuaded and enthusiastic about the great potential of service the midwife can render. He also stresses the value of the informal education given by the midwife in the intimate personal contacts of her work; and he has done well to emphasise the value and importance of this part of the work of the midwife as teacher as well as practitioner.

SULPHONAMIDES AND THE RETICULO-ENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM


This is a monograph describing work carried out for a Ph.D. degree. The author has sought to demonstrate the part played by the reticulo-endothelial system in the defeat of bacterial infections treated by sulphonamides. He has used rabbits as his experimental animals, and he infected them with a strain of Staphylococcus aureus, which in sufficient dose was uniformly fatal in the absence of treatment. To determine the part played by the reticulo-endothelial system, thorotrast was injected intravenously, after which the liver, spleen, lungs, and kidneys were found to be impregnated with granules of thorium dioxide. In the dose used (3 c.c.m. per kg.) thorotrast had no toxic effect. The injection of thorotrast was believed by the author to have depressed the reticulo-endothelial system for about 48 hours, because during this period the conjugation of sulphanilamide and of sulphanthiazole to form the corresponding acetyl derivatives was depressed. Doses of the staphylococcal culture which were not lethal for all normal rabbits were lethal for a greater proportion of rabbits treated with thorotrast.

Sulphathiazole, given in suspension in olive oil by subcutaneous injection, protected rabbits against the staphylococcal infection, though this protection was not complete. Sulphathiazole, however, failed entirely to afford protection against the infection in rabbits treated with thorotrast during the period in which the liver, spleen, lungs and kidneys were impregnated with granules of thorium dioxide. After recovery—e.g., 4 days after thorotrast administration—sulphathiazole once more assisted in overcoming the infection.

The author recognizes that the staphylococcus was not the best organism to use for this work, but he failed to obtain a culture of Streptococcus haemolyticus which was uniformly virulent. Perhaps the most interesting part of the monograph is that which suggests that the reticulo-endothelial system is responsible for the chemical reaction of conjugating sulphonamides with acetic acid.

COLORIMETRIC METHODS OF ANALYSIS


To those who have occasion to perform colorimetric determinations a vast array of methods is available in the technical literature, and it is often difficult to choose the most suitable one. In the book under review the author has successfully presented a detailed account of the more useful colorimetric methods of analysis and their advantages and limitations; only those which have proved satisfactory in his own experience are included.

The book is divided into five sections. Sections I and II deal with the determination of metallic and acrid radicals; Section III with substances of medical or biochemical significance; Section IV with alkaloids, hormones, and vitamins; and Section V with miscellaneous substances. In Sections I and II the sub-sections on the determinations of poisonous metals in food and biological material are of interest to the toxicologist; a bibliography of references to the original papers is given at the end of each monograph. Section III will prove instructive to the medical student, and of value to the clinical pathologist, who may wish to perform colorimetric analyses. Determinations of therapeutic substances in biological materials without an extensive search through original literature, or preliminary trials on standard materials to test the suitability of a given method. We think the discussion in each section on the limitations of the various methods should prove useful as an indication of possible sources of error when modifications are undertaken. It has undertaken the heavy task of revision so that Black's Medical Dictionary (Adam and Charles Black; 18s.) can continue to take its high place among books of this type. Looking first for recent advances the reviewer finds these adequately and comprehensively covered; indeed, on such matters as the Rh factor the brief type of summary possible is excellently done. Two pages of "special suggestions" at the beginning of the volume give a valuable guide for the use of its contents, especially in an emergency. As a wartime production the whole book is excellently printed and firmly bound, all for a modest price for just short of a thousand pages. Dr. Clegg was a fortunate choice for a successor to Dr. Comrie, and the wide public—medical and lay—who use this dictionary must be grateful for his competent revision.

The 1944 Year Book of Pediatrics (H. K. Lewis and Co.; 18s.) once again brings an excellent choice of abstracts, skilfully edited, with occasional editorial comments, by Prof. I. A. Abt and Prof. A. F. Abt. About 400 names of authors are listed to account for over the same number of pages of text. A special review of the literature on the Rh factor has been contributed by Dr. I. Davidson, and in this, as elsewhere in the book, there are numerous references to British literature. The work of the British Paediatric Association in recent years is ably illustrated in the introduction by Dr. I. Davidson, and the British Paediatric Association on the care of rheumatic children receives welcome recognition by long annotations. The editors sadly record after an abstract of an article on intestinal obstruction in childhood that it is "regrettable that the last book of this kind of the long-suffered Andrew Johnson."

Plenty of space is given to the many uses of the sulphonamides in childhood; penicillin, on the other hand, has barely crept in this year, though undoubtedly it will be prominent in the next volume. Allogether the standard of this valuable reference book is well maintained despite present-day difficulties.

The appearance of a sixth edition of the Clinical Atlas of Blood Diseases (J. and A. Churchill; 16s.) by A. Piney and S. Wyard testifies to the continued popularity of this little book. It is essentially an illustrated textbook of blood diseases and in its revised form it is considerably enlarged. It provides an invaluable service in the intercalation of myelosclerosis, and Albers-Schönberg disease between alimentary anaemia and chlorosis.

The Department of Health for Palestine has issued A Nutritional Economic Survey of Wartime Palestine 1942-3, by Dr. W. J. Vickers, senior medical officer. This document runs to 116 printed pages (see this issue, p. 511), and 26 graphs. It shows that the work of the Medical Services, Government of Palestine, contributes a foreword. The price of the report, which has been printed at Jerusalem by the Government printers, is 250 mls. The copy that has reached here may be consulted in the Library of the British Medical Association.