

BOOK REVIEWS.

Health and the Citizen, by Joseph V. Walker, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Pp. 152. Price 10/6 net. London: Hollis & Carter. 1951.

The author of this interesting book, who is a medical officer of health, has looked through his window 'to see sad pageants of men's miseries,' and from his professional standpoint considers the newer responsibilities of the medical profession in a state of society which has arisen as a result of the profound contemporary changes in the climate of opinion that have taken place. The health and happiness of man as an individual and collectively in his social aggregates form the thread running through his writing and he tries to see things in themselves as they really are, maintaining that to students of the times, the business of living as now conducted warrants much concern.

Dr. Walker begins with a chapter on 'The Dimensions of Health,' proceeds to consider the family in health and sickness with the stresses and strains due to its internal responsibilities especially towards the elderly members, examines it at work and play, discusses its relationship to larger groups and environment, and ends by breaking into the limitless field of the metaphysical with a survey of the spiritual factors in the disturbance of the physical-psychological equilibrium of man which exists today. He has seen that the Western mind has more than a tendency to release itself from the contemplation of the eternal absolute in the solution of immediate contingencies.

This study is a very readable presentation of a modern M.O.H.'s outlook on a sick society, and indicates the danger of unhappiness and worse due to a loss of God-consciousness and to an obvious increase in the manifestations of human stupidity.

Dr. Walker sees the Welfare State clearly and marks its weaknesses, and he is fully aware that social pathology is inseparable from public health and welfare. Science, ethics and religion are all included in his humane philosophy, upon which he discourses purposefully with a strong sense of the urgency for remedial measures in our present discontents.

Serology with Lipid Antigen, by Reuben L. Kahn, M.S., D.Sc. Pp. 327.
Price 46/6 net. London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox. 1951.

This book by the author of the well known Kahn test will be of interest not only to serologists, but also to physicians. The author states that the text is an outgrowth of practical experience in the serology of syphilis for more than a quarter of a century, and of studies of the nature of positive reactions, both in syphilis and in the absence of this disease.

Serological tests for syphilis have been accepted for so long that we are apt to forget that they are based on an observed correlation with clinical conditions and are not specific. Professor Kahn in his writings has gone some way towards explaining the non-specific reactions, and in the first and fourth parts of this book discusses the broad aspects of serology with lipid antigens, particularly what he terms the universal reaction and its potentialities as a tool for serological investigation. Different normal individuals generally give universal precipitation reactions of quantitatively different serologic patterns, but each individual under normal conditions tends to give a universal reaction of a relatively constant serological pattern. These findings are explained on the assumption that in the course of normal tissue wear and tear lipids are liberated which have antigenic properties and are capable of calling forth auto-antibody response. The antibodies in turn react *in vitro* with the homologous lipids present in the tissue extract antigen. In different individuals, the extent of lipid liberation and of subsequent antibody production are likely to differ; hence the different serological patterns.

The Universal Reaction has been studied in five diseases, syphilis, yaws, leprosy, malaria and tuberculosis. These are characterized by different serologic patterns, the most distinctive of which is syphilis. It is possible that it may be of value in assessing improvement or otherwise in the course of diseases such as tuberculosis or leprosy, though a great deal more work requires to be done.

Parts II and III deal with serological techniques, and will be mainly of interest to serologists.

Medical Disorders during Pregnancy, edited by Stanley Clayton, M.D., M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., and Samuel Oram, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P. Pp. 341, 28 illustrations. Price 25/- net. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1951.

In the preface to this new publication, the editors say that they hope that it will provide a review of modern medical practice for obstetricians and that it will assist physicians with medical problems that may arise during pregnancy. Disorders that are the sole concern of obstetricians have been excluded, but some aspects of pre-eclamptic toxæmia have been described because this disease is so closely related to essential hypertension and because the advice of the physician is sometimes sought in diagnosis and late prognosis.

The volume consists of eleven chapters by ten contributors. The various subjects are clearly and systematically discussed and a fairly full bibliography is given at the end of each section. Every aspect of medical conditions associated with pregnancy is covered and particular mention may be made of a full and most interesting chapter on 'Psychiatric Aspects of Pregnancy' by Denis Hill.

A statement is made on page 219 which will be questioned by obstetricians. In the section dealing with gestational polyneuritis, it is said that this condition is most frequent in the second three months, when hyperemesis gravidarum most commonly occurs. On page 225, in discussing cerebral thrombophlebitis, the author says 'It is a complication chiefly seen in the puerperium and its incidence is approximately 1 per cent.' As it stands, this statement is obviously incorrect.

The book is well printed on good paper, and typographical errors are infrequent. It contains much that will be of interest to the obstetrician, the physician attached to a maternity unit and the candidate for a higher diploma in obstetrics.

The Apologie and Treatise of Ambrose Paré: containing the Voyages made into Divers Places, edited by Geoffrey Keynes, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. 227. Price 15/-. London: Falcon Educational Books. 1951.

This is the first reprint of Paré's works since the selections of Dowther Singer in 1924. It contains the autobiographical details of the *Apologie* and certain selections of his other surgical works. There is a short biographical introduction by Keynes, and four portraits.

The importance of the *Apologie* is in its striking picture of the life of a military surgeon in the sixteenth century and its almost Homeric descriptions of the wounds suffered in medieval warfare. The curious mixture of common sense with superstition is unstable.

We are indebted to Dr. Keynes for making the work of this great surgeon again easily available to the English-speaking reader. If it sends even a few back to the surgical works, so much the better.

Bacterial and Virus Diseases, by H. J. Parish, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. Pp. 204. Price 10/6. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1951.

The second edition of this little book following in less than three years after the first is proof of its value and popularity. It contains much new information, though the general format remains substantially the same. There is a fresh chapter on B.C.G. and the vole bacillus vaccine, and the section on active immunization against virus diseases has been expanded, to cover the new advances made in this field.

While the incorporation of further advances has resulted in some enlargement of the book, it is still a book for the pocket and will appeal to the busy practitioner and the senior student, for here they will find up to date information on measures for specific control and treatment of acute infections. The production is of the high standard of Messrs. Livingstone and it is still moderately priced. There is no doubt that this edition will be in demand.

Pharmacopoeia Internationalis. Editio Prima. Vol. I. Geneva: World Health Organization. Pp. 406. Price 35/-. Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office or from Pharmaceutical Press, 17, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1. 1951.

This is an important book, and, one hopes, a portent of more intimate co-operation between nations in medical matters. Its publication by the World Health Organization is the culmination of a series of attempts by various organizations, since as long ago as 1874, to produce an international pharmacopoeia. There are certain advantages to be derived from such a book. An obvious instance is that prescriptions based on it will be capable of being dispensed in different countries, a great advantage to the traveller; at present drug standards differ from one country to another and the availability of the drugs themselves cannot always be assured. More important, perhaps, is the effect that international agreement on standard preparations of drugs will have on the work of doctors and pharmacists, especially where research is concerned. At the same time the mere existence of such a pharmacopoeia as this is not a solution in itself. It must be known and used, and, of course, taught. If the traveller's prescription is to be absolutely unequivocal the official names, in some cases different from those of the B.P., must be used, e.g., *Kalii Iodidum*, *Natrii Salicylas* and *Coffeinum*. Barbiturates end, as is the custom in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia, in *-alum*. The names, it will be noticed, are in Latin, the text being in English. A French text is also available. and a Spanish version is in preparation.

The monographs are in the form familiar in the B.P.; bio-assay, dosage, toxicity tests and other matters are dealt with in a series of forty-three appendices.

Oral and Dental Diseases, by Professor Hubert H. Stones, M.D., M.D.S., F.D.S., R.C.S. Pp. 970. Price £5. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1951.

The reviewer feels it is superfluous to add superlatives to this excellent book by Professor Stones. The first edition was acclaimed by the dental world as one of the most useful books on oral and dental diseases produced for the undergraduate dental student as well as a splendid reference book for dental and medical practitioners.

The main difference in this new edition, apart from the increase in the illustrations which are incidentally an excellent feature of the book, is the revision and re-writing of all the chapters, especially those on etiology of dental caries and the chapters on stomatitis and allied diseases of the oral mucosa. Mention must be made of the excellence of these latter chapters as a reference for the dental and medical practitioner and particularly those medical practitioners in isolated areas who may be called upon to diagnose an oral condition. They have in Professor Stone's book the complete clinical and pathological picture of practically all the lesions which produce symptoms in the oral cavity. These may be the first signs of a general disease of rare occurrence.

The chapter in the previous edition on Oral Tumours has now been divided into a section on Tumours of the Jaw Bones of non-odontogenic origin and a section on tumours arising from the gingivae, palate and soft tissues.

Lastly a chapter on Disease of the Nervous System and Muscles has been added which is of considerable assistance in diagnosing some of these neuralgic conditions which can be so troublesome to the average practitioner.

The new edition, which has been increased to roughly 1,000 pages with an additional number of illustrations, some in colour, is compiled and presented by the publishers in the same clear, concise manner as previously, making reading an easy matter.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Warwick's & Tunstall's First Aid to the Injured and Sick, by A. P. Gorham, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., Pp. 278. Price 6/6. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1952.