

## Reviews

### INTERNATIONAL OPHTHALMOLOGY

*A Century of International Ophthalmology (1857-1957):* Written at the request of the International Council of Ophthalmology. By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder. (Pp. 91; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1958.

It is indeed appropriate that the task of writing this interesting historical record should have been undertaken by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, president of the International Council of Ophthalmology, for no one has done more to further the international life of ophthalmology than he. The oldest international medical congress that survives to-day is the International Congress of Ophthalmology, the first meeting of which took place in 1857 in Brussels, the eighteenth meeting being due to take place in the same city in September of this year. If, however, the projected sequence of four-yearly meetings had not been disturbed by wars this year's meeting should have been the twenty-sixth.

This little book of praiseworthy brevity is fascinating to read. The list of chief topics for discussion at each congress shows the trend of ophthalmic thought over the years. The photographs of each successive president add to the attraction. Not the least interesting part of this book is concerned with the reflections of Sir Stewart on international congresses in general. He rightly emphasizes their value, but expresses some dismay at the increasing size of the congresses, which tends to replace the informal give-and-take argument, so valuable from the scientific point of view, by a purely formal discussion or even no discussion at all. He also deplors the increasing cost of the congress, which raises the subscriptions and thus tends to exclude the young ophthalmologist—indeed, the very man who will probably profit most from such meetings.

In Part II of the book Sir Stewart describes the activities of the International Council of Ophthalmology (formed in 1927) and its relation to other sponsored international ophthalmological bodies, and refers briefly to some of its future problems.

This book (as its author suggests) should inspire future generations to maintain the unity and brotherhood of ophthalmologists throughout the world.

T. KEITH LYLE.

### INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

*Introduction to Psychology.* By Ernest R. Hilgard. Under the general editorship of Claude E. Buxton. Second edition. (Pp. 653 + xv; illustrated. 55s.) New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. London: Methuen and Co., Ltd. 1958.

This is the second edition of a very well known and widely used introduction to psychology. There can be no doubt about its excellence, and, though one may upon occasion disagree on points of detail, Hilgard has certainly succeeded in the main in his endeavour to present a fair and widely acceptable review of modern psychology. The new edition has been completely rewritten, and is an improvement on the first in that it sheds to a large extent the slight traces of dogmatism which were so characteristic of the earlier work.

The book is well produced and extremely well illustrated by photographs and diagrams. Indeed, if one were to make a criticism one might say that it is too well produced. The constant changes in size of type, cross-headings, etc., while obviously meant to help the reader, may be found rather distracting. Furthermore, many of the pictures seem quite unnecessary; the fact that Mozart revealed his talent for music at the age of 3 can surely be put over without including a badly reproduced picture of the infant prodigy. This American habit of making learning painless by "visual aids" assumes a level of willingness to learn rather lower than is likely to be found in Great Britain. If half the pictures had been omitted the volume could have been produced much more cheaply; it would also have gained in

dignity. However, these criticisms do not alter the fact that this is among the three best introductions to psychology available at the present moment. It will undoubtedly have a wide sale in Britain also.

H. J. EYSENCK.

### MEDICAL ANNUAL

*The Medical Annual, 1958. A Year Book of Treatment and Practitioners' Index.* Edited by Sir Henry Tidy, K.B.E., M.A., M.D.(Oxon.), F.R.C.P., and R. Milnes Walker, M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Pp. 580 + xl; illustrated. 42s.) Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd. 1958.

Slight changes have been made in this 76th issue of the *Medical Annual*. Hitherto the articles have been arranged in alphabetical order. Now the year's work is reviewed in subsections complete in themselves, which run from Alimentary Diseases to Vital Statistics. This method encourages browsing, which is the attraction of a work of this kind, and there is an excellent index which makes it easy to look up a particular topic. The special articles at the beginning of the review deal with intersexuality, wound infection in operating theatres, dangers arising from the medical use of x rays, and the changing emphasis in paediatrics. There are the usual indexes of pharmaceutical and dietetic preparations, surgical appliances, and books of the year. The contributors all seem to be reporting from the active front of medical progress, and the reader of this volume will have a sound idea of recent advances in medicine. The *Medical Annual* is designed to appeal to medical practitioners throughout the Commonwealth, and it seems likely to continue to do so. It is not afraid of describing not merely the useful, as in the reagent strips for urine testing, but the dramatic, as in the extracorporeal circulation whereby the heart can be arrested and laid open for cardiac surgery, and also the bizarre, as in the series of lesions of the male urinary tract. It is something to have learnt that the erythroplasia of Queyrat is not a blood disorder but a lesion of the penis.

L. J. WITTS.

### CORONARY HEART DISEASE

*Coronary Heart Disease: Angina Pectoris; Myocardial Infarction.* By Milton Plotz, M.D., F.A.C.P. Foreword by William Dock, M.D. (Pp. 353 + x; illustrated. 90s.) London, Toronto, Melbourne, Sydney, and Wellington: Cassell and Co., Ltd. 1957.

Coronary heart disease, in spite of the intensity of clinical and metabolic and other investigations into its aetiology and natural history, remains one of the obdurate challenges in clinical medicine to-day. As the last important study of these diseases was published eight years ago, the appearance of *Coronary Heart Disease* by Dr. Milton Plotz is of particular interest. He approaches this problem with the concept that this disease is not an inevitable part of senescence, but a malady in which pathogenesis and treatment and prevention have to be studied. The author's interest is so great and his scope so wide that it is hard to find any aspect of coronary heart disease not touched upon and illuminated. The aim of presenting conflicting views in a fair and impartial way has been achieved, but Dr. Plotz has rightly stated his own opinions and practices, which are obviously founded upon a very great experience. To indicate the diversity of themes dealt with in these pages the following among the chapter headings are quoted: geographic and ethnic factors, lipid metabolism, tobacco, ballistocardiography, differential diagnosis, anticoagulant therapy, and surgical and preventive and medico-legal aspects, though this last relates to American law, which differs in material respects from the English.

Any physician who wishes to know the current outlook on any problem relating to coronary disease would be well advised to look herein and, if need be, amplify by study of the bibliography, which is well chosen but derived very largely from North American and British sources.

K. SHIRLEY SMITH.