THE BRITISH ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MEDICAL PRACTICE
Cumulative Supplement, 1955
Pp. 195. 258.

Medical Progress, 1955
Edited by the late LORD HORDER, G.C.V.O., M.D.,
Co. Ltd. 1955.

All who have access to the 'Encyclopaedia of
Medical Practice' welcome the annual appearance
of the thin red volumes of Cumulative Supplement
and Medical Progress.

The supplement should be regarded as an addi-
tional and essential volume of the Encyclopaedia
proper. This succinct volume enables the reader
quickly to refer to recent advances in any subject and
to correlate this by means of convenient key numbers
with the main account of the subject in the major
work.

As in the last three years since the appearance of
the second edition of the Encyclopaedia, Medical
Progress offers the reader a series of articles by
recognized authorities on recent research in the
principal fields of medicine and surgery. This useful
synopsis, which is well written and documented,
will appeal to the general reader who wishes to keep
up to date. It may be read pleasurably and easily
without reference to the Encyclopaedia and is par-
ticularly recommended to postgraduate students.

D.S.L.

THIOPENTONE AND OTHER
THIOBARBITURATES
312, with 59 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S.
Livingstone Ltd. 1956. 228. 6d.

This monograph on thiobarbiturates should
occupy an important position on every anaesthetist's
bookshelf. It is packed throughout with important
information, presented in a well-balanced and
pleasing manner.

The author precedes his description of the
physical and chemical properties of the drugs with
historical reviews of barbiturates and this barbi-
turate and of intravenous injection.

The basic principles for the practical administra-
tion are found in four masterly chapters. These deal
with the pharmacology of the drugs, the hazards
associated with their use, and factors to be con-
sidered when dealing with various pathological
conditions. These facts are summarized in a later
chapter, which also contains the methods of ad-
ministration of thiopentone and contraindication
to its use. Another chapter is devoted to descriptions
of the newer thiobarbiturates.

In the appendices are included descriptions of
apparatus with photographs, compatibilities of this
barbiturate and methods of detection and estimation.

There are printers' errors: on page 140, line 7,
the word hypertoncity should read hypertonicity,
and on page 184, line 3, unusual premedication
should read usual premedication.

STRESS
Fifth Annual Report, 1955-56
Edited by HANS SELYE, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc.(Hon.),
F.R.S., F.I.C.S.(Hon.), and GUNNAR HEINER,
Encyclopaedia Inc. 1956.

This volume contains a very useful list of
references to the medical literature on all aspects of
the reaction to 'stress' as understood by Dr.
Hans Selye and his collaborators. Here are also some
useful special articles by internationally known
authors on certain aspects of this subject.

RECENT ADVANCES IN PHARMACOLOGY
By J. M. ROBSON and C. A. KEELE. Second
40s.

This is the second edition of a book which, first
published in 1950, has achieved an established
place as a most valuable member of the 'Recent
Advances' series. Very few of these volumes can
deal with a subject that is advancing so quickly as
this one, and the reader is left with a sense of
gratitude that the authors have accomplished their
task so brilliantly.

They apologize for their omissions, but it is
difficult to believe that there can be many important
ones, considering the number of references (why the
asterisks, by the way—are these meant to indicate
the more general review articles?). The book has
been almost entirely rewritten. There are many
new sections and include ones on the catechol
amines, chlorpromazine, aldosterone and drugs
used in rheumatism, gout and anaemia.

The writing is clear and succinct, and there is a
good index. This is a remarkable and invaluable
book.