Professor Lindeboom relates functional pathology to organic processes, and Dr. Stokvis offers some convincing results of psychotherapy applied to a wide variety of psychosomatic diseases.

Dutch physicians are extremely well suited to discuss this subject, since their training includes a broad philosophical background which conditions the mind to see life as a 'gestalt.' Thus their approach to scientific problems has much in common with their teutonic neighbours 'weltanschauung' type of thinking. Because of this, they have a special aptitude for co-ordinating isolated theories into a meaningful picture. For them, psychosomastics is more than a consideration of man as Aristotle's social animal instead of a morbid specimen of complex biology; in this highly original contribution they succeed in integrating into a unified theory such diverse, but nevertheless important, concepts as psychoanalytical 'substitution' and its ethological counterpart 'displacement,' together with anosognosia which is used to explain how insulin therapy helps schizophrenics.

There are many books on psychosomastics; most of them, from slim introductions to corpulent textbooks, comprise an indigestible surfet of physiological data in which Old Tom's gastric fistula appears with monotonous regularity. This is not such a book. It is a dignified discourse by experts who have sat down in a cool hour to review their specialty, and who summarise their deliberations in the impeccable English of the continental. It purports to be neither a manual nor textbook; it is a thoughtful commentary on an increasingly important aspect of medicine.

L.R.C.H.

NON-VENEREAL SYPHILIS
A Sociological and Medical Study of Bejel

The author's study of bejel was incidental to his many years' work as a physician at the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions' clinic at Deir-ez-Zor on the upper Euphrates in Syria. The result is a book giving a comprehensive description of this disease from every aspect. It is written in clear explanatory style, which could in most parts be understood by non-medical as well as medical readers. As well as his own work on the clinical and public health aspects of bejel, he gives sections on serology and microscopic pathology by experts, and a summary of the work of T. B. Turner and D. H. Hollander on the experimental pathology of the disease. This book can be considered a very good account of bejel, except that the author propounds the hypothesis that syphilis, bejel and the other treponemae caused diseases are all one disease whose differing manifestations are the result of the influence of environment, such as personal hygiene, wearing of clothes and way of life of the patient. There is not sufficient evidence for this belief to receive general support. He propounds this theory in spite of the fact that he himself points out the fundamental difference between venereal syphilis and the non-venereal treponematoses. For example, he stresses the point that congenital, cardiovascular or neuro bejel (or yaws, etc.) never occur, and that syphilis and bejel are known to exist side-by-side without one leading to the other or vice versa. It would seem more likely that venereal syphilis and bejel are separate distinct diseases in their own right, possibly descended from some common ancestor of the distant past.

This book of 194 pages is well produced and well printed on good paper. There are tables and graphs and 81 excellent photographs of the lesions of bejel. He gives a list of 74 references, of which no less than 26 refer to his own publications. It may be said to his lasting credit that Hudson's work on bejel was one of the main factors which instigated the highly successful World Health Organisation's campaign against the treponematoses in underdeveloped countries.

F.J.G.J.

CORTISONE THERAPY
Mainly Applied to the Rheumatic Diseases

This book is a comprehensive review of the present position of steroid therapy. The author has great experience of his subject, gained both in England and America. There are chapters on history, pharmacology, administration, side effects, indications and contra-indications, including non-rheumatic diseases. Finally there is a chapter on local injection of hydrocortisone with details of technique for individual joints, tendons, etc.

Dr. Glyn has a clear readable style and has succeeded well in setting out the evidence for and against steroid therapy. Some of his conclusions may be controversial but these and the problems he poses for future research are stimulating.

This book should be read widely by all physicians; not only specialists in rheumatology.

BRITISH MEDICAL BULLETIN

Anaesthesia

In this excellent symposium, an introduction by Dr. John Gillies on Progress in Anaesthesia is followed by 16 articles which cover a wide range of subjects associated with anaesthesia in both the theoretical and practical fields. It is interesting to note that among the authors are two physicists, two physiologists, a pharmacologist and a biochemist, a

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