tambour is used for volume changes. The kymograph is the principal recording medium. The experimental methods are not always sufficiently detailed, and some of the methods used are open to criticism. The results on the whole are well presented and summarized; a bibliography in which Russian references predominate is appended to each paper.

The translation is good and the text easily read. The publishers are to be congratulated in presenting this book and the reviewer's only regret is that the original publication was in 1955. A 1960 edition, if such were available, would be even more interesting to read.

Controlled Clinical Trials

Symposium by the Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences. Pp. vii + 177. Oxford: Blackwell. 1960. 20s.

This is a most valuable collection of papers and I would advise without hesitation anyone contemplating carrying out controlled trials to study their contents in detail.

Every contributor brings out some fresh point of special value in his aspect. It is well that Professor Bradford Hill should emphasize that clinical trials are fundamentally for the advancement of knowledge.

Professor L. J. Witts touches a vital factor when he says that the physician should never complicate the position by taking payment for controlled therapeutic trials, though manufacturers should be expected to supply drugs free of charge.

Many interesting controlled trials are described, as, for example, the antihistaminic drugs in the treatment of the common cold, the treatment of sore throats in young adults, treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, pulmonary tuberculosis, coronary thrombosis, certain forms of malignant disease and so on.

In all cases special reference is made to the difficulties encountered. Pulmonary tuberculosis is a disease which lends itself to controlled clinical trials. An adequate number of patients and random allocation of treatment are stressed. The double blind trial is best, for it eliminates the doctor bias.

Dr. Doll aptly describes how in certain diseases, e.g. leukemia, a concurrent assessment of several treatments can be carried out, thereby reducing the time and making the fullest use of the number of patients.

The general principles governing controlled clinical trials are effectively applied to the study of malignant disease.

The would-be worker in clinical trials will find everything he needs in these pages and the book is well worth buying.

Atlas and Manual of Dermatology and Venereology

PROF. DR. W. BURKHARDT. Translated and edited by STEPHAN EPSTEIN, M.D. Pp. xii + 276, with 73 illustrations and 99 coloured plates. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Co. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1960. 112s.

To those really interested in dermatology and venereology here is a moderately priced, splendidly illustrated, informative book.

The subject has been adequately covered, apart from the chapter on allergic skin diseases, where the writer leaves the reader with some doubt as to his concept of eczema and dermatitis, especially when he uses such terms as occupational eczema.

Treatment could have been more detailed to advantage, with less emphasis on so many proprietary remedies, some of which are not known as such in this

country. Arsenic may be a time-honoured drug, but should have no place in treating lichen planus today.

The advent of griseofulvin just missed inclusion and would have resulted in the rewriting of much of the treatment of dermatomycoses.

The inclusion of references for further reading should be useful to the non-dermatological specialist and others, but I fear the work may prove too comprehensive for the average busy general practitioner, who, for example, has little opportunity to know about the deep mycoses.

Biochemistry

Abstracts of Sectional Papers and Analytical Index to Symposia and Colloquia of the Fourth International Congress of Biochemistry, Vienna. General Editor: O. HOFFMAN-OSTENHOF. Compiled by the editorial staff of the 'International Abstracts of Biological Sciences'. Pp. 293. Vienna: F. Wewalka. London: Pergamon Press. 1960. 100s.

This is the fifteenth volume of the Complete Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress of Biochemistry, which was held in Vienna in 1958. It consists of abstracts of the papers presented at the Congress, and printed in full in the previous volumes, together with complete subject and author indices. Since approximately 2,000 papers were read at the Conference, the abstracts in this volume will help those interested in any aspect of biochemistry to sort out the wheat from the chaff, and to find in the overwhelming mass of material those papers of special interest to themselves. However, at the price of £5, few private readers are likely to buy this book, and the editors might have been well advised to bring out a cheaper, paperbacked edition. As a reference source for larger specialized libraries, this is an essential adjunct to the previous 14 volumes.

St. Peter's Hospital for Stone, 1860-1960

Editor: CLIFFORD MORSON, O.B.E., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 64, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960. 21s.

The year 1960 is the centenary of St. Peter's Hospital for the Stone. After some discussion it was decided that the best way to commemorate 100 years of work was to publish a history of the hospital and the people who worked in it. For many years St. Peter's was the only special hospital for the treatment of genito-urinary disease in Great Britain. It was founded much later than the 46 other specialist hospitals already in London at that time. One of the main reasons for establishing yet another specialist hospital was for the better treatment of stones. The incidence of stone was increasing and it was hoped to replace the older methods of cutting for stone by crushing or dissolving them.

In a chapter on the history of the hospital, Cuthbert Dukes tells us how the hospital was moved from Marylebone to Berners Street before being established in Covent Garden, and of the bitter opposition to its foundation by the medical profession and the British Medical Association. (Indeed, some of the earlier surgeons were obliged to resign their appointments because of pressure brought upon them by their colleagues.) He tells us the fascinating story of the anonymous gift to the hospital of £10,000 in 1873 and the sequel 45 years later.

Following a short chapter on the management committee, there follows a biography of the past surgeons together with the references of their selected publications, which take up the major part of the book. It would have been of great value if some of these had

been printed in detail or abstracted. Most readers are perhaps more interested in the work and writings of former surgeons than in a short biography of their lives, especially as urology is a speciality which has changed remarkably with the modern aids of endoscopy and radiography. However, we read of Harry Fenwick's introduction of the cystoscope to Britain in 1888 and of his radio-opaque bougie in 1905. Sir Peter Freyer's first prostatectomy in 1900 is mentioned in some detail, together with some other fascinating titbits of his life. Other well-known figures in urology appear only in outline.

After a short chapter on the non-surgical members of the staff and the clinical assistants, there follows another by Harkness on the V.D. department, which owes so much to his work there.

The final chapter on the nursing staff reminds the reader with force of the changes in nursing care since 1860 when the Nightingale training school opened. The first woman with hospital training was appointed to St. Peter's in 1876. Until that date the matron earned about £30 per annum plus £3 15s. od. beer money. In 1919 a Sister worked from 8.30 a.m. until about 12 midnight, with a salary of £44 per annum, and a Nurse from 7 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. with one hour off duty. In 1960 the first bath for nurses and residents was installed (and is still in use).

This is a short account of the history of St. Peter's Hospital for the Stone, including biographies of the staff. It makes fascinating reading, especially for those interested in urology and in particular those who have trained and worked at St. Peter's. Clifford Morson and the editorial committee are to be congratulated.

CIBA Foundation Colloquia on Endocrinology

Vol. 13. *Human Pituitary Hormones*. Editors: G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME; CELIA M. O'CONNOR. Pp. 336, with 86 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1960. 50s.

The papers presented in this volume are those which were read at a Colloquium held in the Argentine in honour of Professor B. A. Houssay. As usual the full text of each paper is included, with illustrations, and the discussion which ensued is also printed. This method enables those interested in the subject but unable to spare either the time or money to travel to South America to benefit from the proceedings: it also enables those who were present to read the papers at leisure. There are 16 communications in all, of which seven deal with growth hormone in various aspects, two with urinary hormone assays, and only one with thyrotropic hormone: there are also two papers on the chemical structure of human Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone. From the clinician's point of view, the first communication by Dr. Joplin and Professor Russell Fraser on the Radiological Anatomy of the Human Pituitary is probably the most interesting. This deals with the implantation of radioactive seeds in the gland. The standard of papers is high and the work can be recommended to all those interested in the pituitary gland and more particularly to research workers.

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Pathology for Postgraduate Students

R. E. REWELL, M.(LOND.), M.R.C.P. P. xii + 435, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1960. 50s.

This book is written for the specialist. The author devotes the first ten chapters to gynaecological pathology, and gives excellent accounts of the histological appearances of the various lesions. His approach to the subject is not the standard textbook one but instead he

presents his interpretation of each condition on the basis of his own experience, and then describes the views of other workers, quoting a prolific number of references. In this section his reviews of the menstrual cycle and of malignant diseases of the uterus are first class, but his presentation of vulval diseases is inadequate. His descriptions of relevant dermatological states and leukoplakia are incomplete, whilst kraurosis vulvae is barely mentioned and does not even appear in the index. Hidradenoma is omitted entirely.

In Chapter 11 a good account is given of vaginal cytology and smear techniques. Chapters 12 to 19 concern obstetrical conditions and it is evident that the author is not so expert with this subject; his frequent excursions into obstetric physiology and clinical pathology show the work of the practitioner rather than the touch of the master. However, he again quotes many references and these are a useful guide to the serious reader.

The book contains 150 illustrations, most of them microscopic sections. In general, however, these lack clarity because they are too small. Despite some spelling mistakes the author's style is eminently readable, and his opinions are obviously sincerely based on the sections he has personally examined. The book is beautifully produced and can be recommended to post-graduate students and pathologists.

The Practice of Medicine

Editor: SIR JOHN RICHARDSON, M.V.O. Second edition. Pp. viii + 973, illustrated. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1960. 37s. 6d.

The second edition of this book is shorter than the first and this must be considered quite an achievement. The editor makes it quite clear that the book is for undergraduates and possibly general practitioners, and there is no doubt that it contains a vast amount of factual material in a small space; whether sufficient emphasis is placed on clinical signs and symptoms is doubtful, and the apparent lack of controversy or difficulties in the diagnosis, aetiology and management may lead the undiscerning student astray if he wishes to be aware of some of the problems which will confront him. It is for this reason that a guide to further reading is welcomed at the end of each chapter although there are some notable omissions; thus, after the completely inadequate chapter on bone disease which consists of seven pages of oversimplified fact, interesting references are not considered necessary, and this gives the impression that there is no more to be said on the subject. Similarly reading of larger works should have been recommended in the subjects of immunity and collagen diseases at the end of these chapters.

Further difficulties in producing such a concise and factual book are shown by the somewhat incongruous balance of information allotted to various subjects; for who could doubt that the approximately equal amount of space taken up in discussing essential hypertension and phaeochromocytoma bears any relation to the cases that any doctor will see. On the other hand, the chapters on endocrine diseases, chest diseases and some others are excellent. There are one or two errors in proof-reading such as the spelling of tonsillitis and hypoglycaemia; an X-ray is reproduced upside down (page 239), and there are occasional terms of doubtful meaning such as 'coronary infarction'.

However, these points must not detract from the fact that this is an excellent book of its type and must take its place amongst the textbooks of medicine preferred by students and general practitioners at very reasonable cost.

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