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(C11)

In the absence of such a scheme, the speaker felt convinced, the literature of scientific research would soon be choked by its own productivity.

Professor Bernal's revolutionary proposal, which aims directly at supplying every scientific worker with his minimum requirements and indirectly at raising the standard of scientific literature, is certain to provoke heated discussion. Vested interests are at stake, and the voice of sentimentality will be heard in the land. For will this not mean the death of many old-established and familiar journals?

HOSPITAL LIBRARY ACCOMMODATION

Mr. C. E. A. Bedwell, formerly chairman of the Guild of Hospital Librarians, in his paper "Hospital Library Accommodation," rightly stressed that the library should be an integral part of hospital work, reading having a definite place in the rehabilitation of patients. At the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, the patients' library occupies a central position. "The spacious room, well lit, where patients' can browse around the shelves or sit down comfortably for a while, would put to shame the poky little hole without proper shelving or furniture which, by an abuse of the English language, is called a library in a great many hospitals here."

On the basis of the average size hospital of 800 to 1,000 beds the library quarters would require three rooms: one to contain the collection of about 5,000 books and microfilms with seating accommodation for some twenty patients at a time; an office for the library staff; and an annexe for

trolleys and microfilm projectors; possibly also a room for book repairing—an admirable form of occupational therapy for patients.

The contribution of the library to the welfare of patients in mental hospitals was a matter upon which the Board of Control had laid emphasis for some years. Mr. Bedwell mentioned that there was one type of hospital which was frequently left out of consideration, although reading would often be a relief to long hours of loneliness, and that was the fever hospital.

MICROFILM SERVICE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Mrs. Lucia Moholy, director of the Aslib Microfilm Service at the Victoria and Albert Museum, gave an interesting account of the U.S.A. type of microfilm projector which throws an image of a book on the ceiling for the convenience of a patient who is forbidden to sit up in bed. Once the film has been fitted into the projector by the librarian or the nurse, the patient can work the machine himself—with his hands, toes, heel, or slight movement of the head, depending upon the nature and extent of his disability. Pages can be turned backwards as well as forwards. The approximate cost of a projector will be 100 dollars, the service being operated by a non-profit organisation in which Aslib is to be represented. Whether, as was suggested in the discussion, this microfilm service will eventually be made available for healthy people addicted to reading in bed or whether its attractions would encourage the *malade imaginaire* are matters for speculation.

W. R. B.

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BOOK REVIEW

DISEASES OF THE CHEST

Described for use of Practitioners by **ROBERT COOPE, M.D.,**
 F.R.C.P. Published by E. & S. Livingstone, Edinburgh.
 1944. Price 25s.

As one who during his student years was taught by Robert Coope the reviewer looked forward to the publication of this manual with considerable interest and excitement. In his teaching Robert Coope always put forward the essentially practical method of diagnosis and coupled this with a sense of the academic value of straightforward thinking such as is not often found in the teaching physician. Therefore, it came as no surprise to be able to read this book and to learn much that was of great interest and value in the study of respiratory disease.

It was only some years after qualification that the reviewer came to realise the significance of simple elementary thinking in terms of the bed-rock facts of anatomy and physiology, and as Lord Horder says in the preface: "this process the author follows with admirable consistency throughout the book." This one feature alone is sufficient commendation for any student or practitioner.

The book itself is well illustrated, not by beautiful radiographs, but more with small practical diagrams, many of which are quite admirable; giving succinctly all the necessary information for the reader, especially for one who has a visual mind. It is a book that may well be read by every post-graduate, whether or not he is interested in chest diseases or whether or not he feels that he knows as much as he wants to about that particular

section of medicine; for it is a textbook, unique in its presentation and admirable in its literary attainments.

It is, of course, possible to pull certain sections of the book to pieces, but it is felt that to do this would serve no really useful purpose. The fact that in diagram 24 the bifurcation of the trachea into the main bronchi suggests that the right and left bronchi come off at equal angles does not in any way belittle the value of the book or even that particular diagram. The fact that the reviewer does not feel that the subject of asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema has received all the attention which this group of economic diseases require, is of very little moment to any but the reviewer or the specialist.

To many readers, the fact that the section on pulmonary tuberculosis is relatively short may be a little tiresome, but the length of any one section does not reflect the value of what is written therein. Sound technical knowledge and good common sense written in the space of a few hundred words is indeed of greater value than thousands written about irrelevancies.

We feel that the author had this very much in mind when he set out to write his *magnum opus* on respiratory diseases and there is nothing but praise to be given to it. In substance sound, in format favourable, in reproduction adequate, in essentials estimable.

Any reader may be able to say to Doctor Cooper when he has read this book diligently, that his mind, at any rate in relationship to respiratory disease, has been able "to grow straight in the strength of thy spirit." This book is highly recommended and should fill a niche in our medical libraries for many years to come.