in BCG vaccination in this country after a distinctly sluggish beginning.

Not only is there increasing evidence of the effectiveness of the vaccination as shown by the Medical Research Council's Progress Report on the first 2½ years of their trial, but there is also reassuring evidence of its safety, and only four deaths out of at least 145 million vaccinations have been reported in the world literature, none of these being in this country.

The new section on the treatment of the normal vaccination reaction and complications will be exceedingly useful to all those engaged in BCG vaccination and to the general practitioner.

The book gives an excellent summary of the present situation in this important field together with much practical advice. It is strongly recommended.

MEDICAL ETHICS

A Guide to Students and Practitioners

Edited by MAURICE DAVIDSON, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. 165. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1957. 20s.

The time is ripe for a new statement of medicine's oldest principles. The National Health Service has brought in its train many new problems; every year there are more and more practitioners without knowledge of medical practice before the Service; an increasing number of younger men are finding that the State now provides all but a very small fraction of their income; litigation is increasing annually and, in the few cases where an action against a medical man has been successful, very large damages have often been awarded. Research is being carried out on patients, and the Medical Research Council have joined forces with the National Health Service to bring clinical research to many hospitals. Many older men feel that the times are out of joint and that the principles which guided their professional conduct and relationships are being undermined. All medical men therefore owe a debt of gratitude to the Editor of this admirable book, who has brought together the views of eleven other distinguished authors and has infused the whole with his own humane, liberal and generous philosophy. At this critical juncture an experienced clinician has stated unequivocally what medical practice has meant in the past and the guiding principles to be carried over into the future. He and his collaborators have not only asserted their belief in certain moral standards, but have implicitly pledged their faith in certain human values, their belief in the reality of continuity in human affairs. And it is for a younger, rising generation of medical men to see that this is maintained.

Dr. Maurice Davidson has contributed an introductory chapter, together with one on the doctor's responsibility to his family, and one on what to tell the gravely ill patient. Other chapters are: "The Structure and Functions of the General

Medical Council" (by Mr. Pyke-Lees, Registrar to the G.M.C.), "Professional Ethics" (Dr. Hugh Clegg), "The Doctor-Patient Relationship" (Lord Cohen), "The Doctor's Relationship to his Professional Colleagues" (Sir Heneage Ogilvie), "Medicine and the Church" (the Bishop of Durham), "The Doctor, the Law and the Police" (Dr. Neville Stafford), "Contraception, Therapeutic Abortion, Sterilization and Artificial Insemination" (Mr. F. W. Roques), "The Management of the Hopeless Case" (Dr. Lindsey Batten), "The Care of the Dying" (Dr. Clifford Hoyle), "The Practice of Experimental Medicine" (Prof. R. A. McCance), and "The Hippocratic Oath" (Dr. Douglas Guthrie). One or two of these essays have appeared before. All of them are practical, authoritative, and helpful, and the inclusion of Professor McCance's superlative address on the Practice of Experimental Medicine (with the Medical Research Council's Memorandum on Clinical Research) is particularly to be commended.

No medical man can fail to benefit from reading this book; the younger ones will find it a practical and sincerely thoughtful guide; many older men will appreciate both the wisdom and the writing of the contributors; all will find that it does "preserve and extend those human values" that make it true to say that it is "as a triumph of the spirit that medicine has gained its unique influence over mankind."

THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

By CHARLES NEWMAN, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. x + 340. London: Oxford University Press. 1957. 30s.

Anyone who is involved in the problems of medical teaching and examination would do well to read this interesting account of the development of the present system. The first 70 years of the nineteenth century saw a complete revolution in medicine due to the application of scientific principles and, always lagging somewhat behind, the growth of medical education from a stage when Cambridge graduates, at any rate, needed to attend neither lectures in medicine nor hospital practice, to an organisation and curriculum almost as we see it today.

Dr. Newman takes his reader through the struggles of the Corporations to preserve their ancient dominance, the virulent campaigns against them of Wakley and the almost interminable wrangles which finally led to the Medical Act of 1858. Yet always, as a good College of Physicians man, he has a kind word for the obsolete system and its defenders.

A most important lesson for modern reformers is his analysis of the goal which came to dominate the Victorian medical schools and which we have inherited: 'To produce a doctor who, on the day he was registered, would be a safe man to let loose on the public, competent to practise in all branches of

his profession.' If this ideal is now plainly impracticable, Dr. Newman reminds the educational theorists that, even in this field, an experiment is worthless if it can produce no discernible answer.

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES, 1957

Pp. 582. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.; London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd. 30s.

This year's edition of N.N.R. contains 42 new monographs, essentially 38 new substances being described. These include Acetazolamide, Meprobramate, Poliomyelitis vaccine, Promethazine Hydrochloride, and Phenoxymethyl Penicillin. Those familiar with previous editions will know the very high standard that is maintained in this one. Others will find these annual volumes a mine of authoritative, practical and very up-to-date information. The arrangement is convenient, and so devised that each book in itself forms a reference manual of practical therapeutics (for example, "Agents used in Allergy," "Analgesics," "Depressants and Stimulants," "Diuretics," and "Skeletal Muscle Relaxants" are a few of the admirably compressed monographs). Thirty shillings is very little to have to pay for 570 pages of closely-written information classified in this way and followed by a very complete index.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

By D. RUSSELL DAVIS, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., M.B.B.Ch., M.D. Pp. vii + 388. London: Oxford University Press. 1957. 30s.

A book on psychopathology is a very *rara avis* indeed. Of books on psychiatry we have a surfeit, and our choice is by no means limited in books on abnormal psychology; these are not the same thing, however much confusion exists about these subjects. Psychiatrists write from the medical standpoint for the doctor who has to treat the patients described by the text-book, psychologists write in order to highlight psychological theories by reflecting abnormal states as exaggerations of the normal. Both approaches have their uses, but neither helps in bringing about a fusion of concept and theory. Like the underground railway and the pedestrian highway, they both serve the same area but only meet at isolated points. Dr. Russell Davis is one of the few men today whose grasp is wide enough to encompass both levels and provide such a comprehensive overview in one volume.

In two parts, the book deals with development and disorders. After an introductory chapter, and a survey of psycho-analysis, the author deals with aetiology, ecology, genetic and environmental factors, intellectual and emotional development, and developmental disorders. Part II covers experimental neurosis, applications of behaviour theory, mental disorder, organic states, and psychotherapy.

The list of contents alone indicates the author's bias towards psycho-dynamic explanations, and Freudian hypotheses find their way into most chapters. Other schools of thought are allowed their say, however, and learning theory is given a fair hearing. Readers with physiological or neurological interests will feel that the book has a disbalance in their disfavour. Experimental neuroses, for example, with their psychological explanations, cover 12 pages, experimental psychoses, requiring a biochemical explanation, cover two. There are few references to ethological concepts, although this is a field of rapidly growing importance, and no mention is made of the work of Konrad Lorenz in this connection. Occasionally a striking example which would form an ideal illustration of the subject matter is overlooked, as, for instance, the concept of protophrenia in discussing acquired mental defect in infancy (p. 121).

These criticisms are those of selection only, which must always be present in a personal and creative work. They do not detract from the obvious merits of the book, which will readily fertilize the seeds of "personal medicine" which Woodger and Balint have recently sown. It will prove an excellent text-book for D.P.M. students and should be read by all psychiatrists and clinical psychologists. The best book on the subject in print today, it is likely to remain a standard University text for a long time to come.

L.R.C.H.

THE BRITISH ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

Medical Progress and Cumulative Supplement, 1956

Edited by SIR HENRY COHEN, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. Second edition. Pp. xiv + 364, index pp. 14. London: Butterworth & Co. Ltd. 1956.

The medical profession as a whole, and readers of the 'Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice' in particular, will have regretted the passing of Lord Horder, generally regarded as the most outstanding clinician of his time. Under his editorship the tremendous task of piloting the encyclopaedia through its second edition was completed and the new work is a landmark not only in a brilliant career, but also in medical publication.

No more appropriate choice of a successor to the editorship could have been made than Lord Cohen, whose reputation as a clinician and a diagnostician is no less brilliant than that of his predecessor's. Although the foreword of the current edition of 'Medical Progress' has been written by the new editor, the choice of subjects for discussion was Lord Horder's. This reflects, as always, as wise a catholic selection.

Part I consists of critical surveys in general medicine and surgery and in their principal specialities. The section on medicine and the law by the acknowledged expert, Dr. Robert Forbes,