inhibitors in limiting the area of infarction following experimental coronary obstruction and the reversion of ventricular tachycardia; and Inder Singh and his colleagues present an informative account of their use of tolbutamide in angina and peripheral arterial disease.

Personally the part of the book that I enjoyed most was the concluding panel discussion. It makes very interesting reading when the so-called international experts meet face to face over problems of common management. When one reads the formal papers concerning the diet to be advised in coronary artery disease and the use of anticoagulants everything seems so clear cut (at least to the authors), but the real position only seems to come out in the cut and thrust of free discussion. To the simple reporter of ECGs it comes as a welcome surprise that even the panel find it difficult to assess the significance of flattened T waves in the precordial leads. This is exciting reading and the editors of international proceedings should bring us more of this type of material.

Having dealt with the bare bones of this symposium one wonders whether it carries a deeper message. I think it does and in two respects. Firstly, it was Benamio who writing in 1916 first described atheroma as "a degenerative process associated with advancing years which in one way seems as natural as the greying of the hair. It is a constitutional weakness which is part and parcel of the bioplastic of the individual from the moment of conception. It is the end of a song that is sung in the cradle." The message of this symposium is to rebel against the hopelessness of this definition, and to quote Daty states in his opening address concerning the prevention of heart disease "a glimmer of light has appeared on the far horizon." The second message lies in the setting of this symposium in India. For too long the passage of ideas has been from West to East, and we have witnessed the long procession of Indian doctors to this country to gain post-doctoral knowledge, to reluctantly crowd the examination halls, and to staff our depleted health service. The introduction of Serpin to the modern world by Rustom Vakil was a portent of things to come, the endeavour recorded in this symposium is further evidence of the awakening of modern Indian Medicine. We may now look forward to the full flowering of the plant which we have done something to nurture.

**NEW EDITIONS**

**Medical Surveys and Clinical Trials**


The appearance of a second edition of this book, five years after its first publication, is most welcome. It provides an up-to-date introduction to the mystique of group-studies, well worthy of assimilation by clinicians first venturing into the field. The first part of the book deals with the basic principles of the methods employed and it will be found clear exposition of topics such as the design of surveys and trials, sequential analysis, selection of controls, and the use of dummy tablets (which we should not call placebos). It is good to see emphasis (by Dr. True-love) on the necessity for follow-up rates in excess of 80%, and (by Prof. Knowelden and Dr. Glaser) on the moral and ethical considerations involved in clinical trials.

The second part of the book deals with applications of the techniques in particular spheres of research. The value of these sections, which cover nutrition and development assessment in addition to studies of disease, is greatly enhanced by the provision of extensive lists of references at the end of most chapters. The necessity for the use of group-studies in the definition of a disease such as hypertension is nicely pointed in the section on cardiovascular diseases (by Professor Pickering and Dr. Bronte-Stewart) and the same authors remind us how failure to use satisfactory techniques may permanently deprive us of knowledge of the natural history of disease or the effects of an outmoded form of treatment. The rewritten chapter on tropical diseases (by Professor Woodruff) deals principally with malaria and its complications while the new section on joint diseases is concerned chiefly with rheumatoid arthritis and allied disorders.

Perhaps there are more doctors who lack acquaintance with concepts such as "controls" and "degrees of significance" than Professor Wits likes to think. To such deprivates, and to those many others whose knowledge of group-studies proves particularly inadequate from time to time, this book may be earnestly recommended.

**The Practical Management of Head Injuries**

John M. Potter. 2nd Edition. Pp. vii + 92, illustrated. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books). The author is well known for his ability to explain the problems of head injuries in simple terms and for the zeal with which he spreads knowledge of correct management of patients suffering from the effects of head trauma. Readers will appreciate the inclusion in this second edition of sections on positional vertigo, recent work on traumatic epilepsy and accident neurosis. As a short, practical manual of treatment it is absolutely first-class. Nothing important has been omitted and nothing irrelevant has been included. Special investigations are put in true perspective.

Not the least interesting section is the preface in which Mr. Potter gives his views on the organisation of an accident service and emphasises the danger that teamwork may become committee management if each patient does not have one doctor who is particularly responsible for him.

**Parsons' Disease of the Eye**


This edition has been extensively revised to include such advances of the last five years as electroretinography, electro-oculography, the changing pattern of infections, and of uveitis; rucking techniques for retinal detachment; alpha-chymotrypsin in cataract extraction; necrotising diseases of the sclera; and the implications of status dysraphicus. To incorporate so much new material and yet produce a text 15 pages less than its predecessor is a great tribute to the author's sagacity and understanding of the requirements of the student, the general practitioner and the junior ophthalmic surgeon.

The only criticism of this otherwise excellent book is that it has been written without the eye of revision of a physician. This is recommended in order to keep the fifteenth edition amongst the top ten of internationally-used postgraduate texts. It is perhaps a pity that a St. George's Hospital Consultant should prefer to perpetuate the eponym of Reiter's Syndrome rather than give credit to the more accurate earlier account of St. George's own Sir Benjamin Brodie. But, careful purchasing at a bargain price, the publishers have also contributed to make this volume a proud reminder of the best British standards.