

Scultetus. What is included is of great interest and will remain a favourite reference book for many years to come. The time and trouble which Mr Thornton must have put into this work has resulted in a most readable account of medical literature.

Stedman's medical dictionary. Twenty-first edition. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. xlix + 1,836. Price £5 5s.

This illustrated dictionary is a standard work which has long been noted for its authoritative definitions and its wide coverage. This new edition has added since 1961, 9,183 new entries; as the American publishers remark in their delightful preface to this edition, "The language of medicine is a living, growing language. It gives birth to prematures and abortions, to monstrosities and cover girls, to drop-outs and Rhodes scholars". Readers should be careful to note Americanisms in terminology and in spelling, but they should not be put off on this account, for there are features in this dictionary which are most attractive. One of these is the inclusion of many tables bringing together all the words associated with certain subjects; not only are there Tables of Bones, of Joints and of Arteries, but there are Tables of eponyms related to such subjects as Operations, Stains, Methods, Signs and so forth.

Some words seem to have a quite different meaning on the other side of the Atlantic, for example 'Sinter' with us is a noun denoting a hard incrustation or deposit formed upon rocks, etc., by precipitation from mineral waters (Shorter Oxford Dictionary), whilst in America it is a verb 'to heat a powdered substance without thoroughly melting it, causing it to fuse into a solid but porous mass' (sure, it was Lot's wife who sintered).

This is a heavy book with its 1,836 pages but in spite of this it is easy to handle, well printed and illustrated with well-chosen plates and diagrams.

Antenatal illustrated. GRANTLY DICK-READ, M.A., M.D. London. Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1966. Pp. viii + 53. Price 6s. 0d.

Relaxation and exercises for natural childbirth. HELEN HEARDMAN. London and Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1966. Pp. 31. Price 1s. 0d.

Both these books are third editions edited after the deaths of the original authors, Dick-Read's by his wife who learned antenatal care from her association with him, Helen Heardman's by Maria Ebner, a qualified physiotherapist.

Dick-Read gives four essentials, education, correct breathing, relaxation and exercises in that order of importance, but he gives almost as many pages to relaxation as to education. Eleven pages on education in the processes of pregnancy and labour together with four on hygiene of pregnancy tells the expectant mother, only a fraction of what she needs to

know of these matters. The book should be regarded as an introduction to Dick-Read's principles which she will need to follow up by reading more of his works if she intends to put them into practice.

Helen Heardman's book covers much the same ground but in reverse order, 18 pages of exercises and relaxation followed by eight giving a description of labour, but unlike Dick-Read she has nothing to say about the physiology of pregnancy. As in her earlier book *A way to natural childbirth* (1948) from which some of the material presented here is extracted, she draws attention to the similarity of muscular effort in defaecation and parturition without, however, recognizing it as the only active exercise likely to be useful in labour.

Neither book is a suitable guide for the expectant mother who needs a great deal of information that they do not provide. If she has acquired this elsewhere she might benefit from reading one of these books, but only if her attendants have read it also, and believe in, and practise, the particular brand of "natural childbirth".

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

- Prevention of rheumatic fever.** Report of a WHO Expert Committee. No. 342. 1966. Geneva. World Health Organization. Pp. 28. Price 3s. 6d.
- WHO Expert committee on dependence-producing drugs.** Fifteenth Report. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 343. Geneva. 1966. Pp. 20. Price 3s. 6d.
- Immunotherapy of cancer.** Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 344. Geneva. 1966. Pp. 38. Price 3s. 6d.
- Research on genetics in psychiatry.** Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 346. Geneva. 1966. Pp. 20. Price 3s. 6d.
- Trends in cancer research.** Geneva World Health Organization. 1966. Pp. 84. Price 3s. 6d.
- Intra-uterine contraception 1966.** London. International Planned Parenthood Federation. 1966. Pp. 22. Price 3s. 6d.
- British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association (1948) Eighteenth annual report 1965-66.** Pp. 16.
- A manual for hospital central medical and surgical supply services.** Washington. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Price 70 cents.
- Administrative aspects of hospital central medical and surgical supply services.** Washington. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Price 30 cents.
- A study of hospital central medical and surgical supply services.** Washington. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Price 30 cents.
- Hospital central services—A survey of current literature.** Washington. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Volume 1. Price 25 cents.
- Publications of the division of hospital and medical facilities.** Washington. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. 1966. Price 20 cents.
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