mental stimulus in pleasurable surroundings is the art of civilization, have much to offer the reader. In the series of Lowell lectures which they gave in Boston in 1966 they covered the wide field of the book's title with wisdom, humanity and humour.

Jerrold R. Zacharias, leading physicist and, one suspects, a superb man with whom to talk and listen, points the basic similarities in the problems of education in all fields. Programmes should be "predicated on bits of educational psychology which are perhaps obvious to anyone who has had experience of working with people".

"I believe that any subject can be taught in a great variety of ways. I think for instance, that I could teach a rip-roaring physics course with an internal combustion engine and a tail light." His thesis, re-echoed by others, is that by better teaching, by learning our trade, we should be able to shorten medical education without losing quality. And so we should.

Other essays deal with the accepted "Need for behavioural science in medicine" and the "Politician views medical education". The president of Western Reserve, John S. Millis, strikes a keynote as one might expect him to do. "But most importantly and particularly in this hospital (Massachusetts General) and in my university, there is concern. There are people who wish to face and who wish to solve problems". Medical education and medical care have to be fitted into the wider university with similar difficulties in Western Reserve, in Boston, or in Manchester.

In the field of medical care the marked differences in the American and British patterns seem to be narrowing but still wide. John H. Knowles can ask a question which is yet appropriate here—"Are the three major enemies of organized medicine—the hospitals, the medical schools and the government—really the enemies, or has the profession met itself? It is not too late for the profession to acquire a broader view based on certain changes in its educational process and thereby to assume new responsibilities? The question remains, will it?"

Will it indeed Dr Knowles? Drop the martinis, start the engines and prepare to repel boarders. But make room for me. There is nothing like the relaxation of a good fight in a good cause.

The dean of Harvard Medical School, Robert H. Ebert, sketches the development of this world-famous institution and its thinking and strikes at the heart of the medical schools' problem. "It must redesign the training of the physician . . . on the basis of function in the modern world and not wishful thinking about the past." Boarders off the port bow now, but Todd is coming in support.

In the final report of a summer conference at M.I.T. Dr Oliver Cope rings his challenge—" our society is in trouble. It is bewildered . . . The world is sick and needs help. So-called culture has failed so far. Medicine perhaps can give the help; if we plan well. The times are urgent. Let's get on with the job". And that, Dr Cope, goes for the U.K. as well. What more can one say. Read for yourself and then we can all "get on with the job".

Diseases of man acquired from his pets. B. BISSERU, M.SC., PH.D., M.B., M.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G. London. William Heinemann Medical Books Limited. 1967. Pp. xiv + 482. Price £4 4s.

The author has held appointments in London, South Africa and Malaya. His detailed and informative book is aimed at practitioners and students of both human and veterinary medicine. Many of the diseases discussed are not likely to be seen in Britain but the variety of infections which pets may be incubating or suffering from will grow rather than diminish, with increasing travel by air.

The range of unusual animals sold in Britain recently as pets includes douroucouli, agoutis, mynahs and caymans, apart from no less than six species of monkeys, four species of squirrels and three species of python.

The chapters are divided broadly into the types of animals kept as pets: carnivores, birds, rodents, non-human primates, ungulates, reptiles and amphibians, fish and other marine animals, and arthropods. Within each chapter are sections on, for example, injuries, allergy, viral diseases, bacterial diseases, fungal diseases, protozoan disease, helminthic diseases and arthropod parasites. Under each group of infections there are usually sections on epidemiology, the disease in man, the disease in animals, pathology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

Chapter 9 is a 42-page table, summarizing each organism, the mode of human infection, where it is recorded and the animals involved. The glossary and index maintain the same high standard of clarity which runs through the whole book.

Plant toxicity and dermatitis. A manual for physicians. K. F. LAMPE, PH.D. Professor of Pharmacology; R. FAGERSTROM, PHARM. DR. Baltimore. The Williams & Wilkins Company. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. x+231. Price £4 5s.

Adverse reactions due to contact with, or ingestion of, plants are not uncommon. Ranging from the extremes of a mild cutaneous eruption to a fatal outcome, the manifestations of plant toxicity are numerous. The authors of this book, although not medically qualified, have produced a work that is essentially clinical in character. Dealing with emergency and supportive care, the first chapter gives treatment guide-lines which are likely to be of most value to the physician inexperienced in the treatment of poisoning. Subsequent chapters deal, in turn, with plants that have specific toxic effects, for example, those that are gastro-enteric irritants, or produce cardiovascular disturbances, central nervous system disturbances, or other actions. Each chapter is illustrated with black and white line drawings of many of the plants concerned and a full description of each plant is given.

Despite the book's title, only the last chapter is concerned with plant dermatitis, which is dealt with in a general and superficial way. However, for the non-dermatologist this chapter gives a good introduction to the subject, and emphasizes the large number and wide variety of plants which are known to be involved in causing cutaneous reactions.

Since it is an American publication, the flora listed do not coincide with those of the United Kingdom although there is a considerable degree of overlap. In addition, American names are given for drugs and to British readers this may cause some irritation and possibly slight confusion.

These small criticisms hardly detract from a book which is well written and produced, and which will be of undoubted value to anyone interested in taking up the study of plant toxicity. For the more experienced physician it offers a useful source of information, as well as a guide to further reading, since each chapter is followed by a comprehensive list of references.

Organisers of voluntary services in hospitals. JAN ROCHA. London. King Edward's Hospital Fund. 1968. Pp. 100. Price 11s. 6d.

The need to harness and organize volunteers in the hospital service has been recognized. Hospitals are now appointing full-time paid organizers of volunteers. King Edwards Hospital Fund commissioned Mrs Jan Rocha, a social worker, to carry out a survey of the ways in which these organizers are appointed and carry out their work. Her report will be useful for hospital administrators.