

formation has been used in individual countries. The chapters on data collection in England and Scotland, and the classic work of Wade, McDevitt and others in Northern Ireland remind us that the NHS has provided a unique data base for such studies which is, however, not without its problems. An interesting contribution by Patterson describes the use of prescribing data, analysis, and feedback as an operational research test in general practice.

Drug utilization is defined in the introduction to the book as follows: "The marketing, distribution, prescription and use of drugs in a society, with special emphasis on the resulting medical, social and economic consequences." To those in the profession (and they are rapidly increasing) who are concerned about these problems, this collection of papers will provide much useful background material and stimulus for the future. To those leaders of pressure groups who are ever ready to condemn what they believe to be the professionals' lack of interest in the darker aspects of the tools of their trade, this book may serve, should they ever read it, as some slight corrective.

M. J. LINNETT

WALES AND MEDICINE

A source list for printed books and papers showing the history of medicine in relation to Wales and Welshmen

John Cule

National Library of Wales
Aberystwyth (1980)

229 pages. Price £7.50
(£4.00 paperback)

John Cule's first book bearing the same title, which he edited and published in 1975, consisted of a miscellany of medico-historical essays based on papers read by delegates at the ninth British Congress on the History of Medicine held at Swansea and Cardiff (1973).

The new volume is a comprehensive and valuable source list comprising nearly 3,000 entries of medical works with Welsh connections dating from earliest times. Catalogued with copious cross-references are the scientific and literary writings of Welsh medical men, books about medicine in Wales and the Border, and books on medicine in Welsh. Although items by Welshmen and their descendants predominate, the scope of the book is such that important works by Englishmen are also included for completeness. References to veteri-

ary medicine, pharmacy, domestic, and folk medicine are given rightful recognition. Literary pieces with medical content are also noted. An appendix updates and complements the whole with books and papers on Welsh medical history, philosophy, biography, and other kindred topics.

John Cule's publication serves primarily, and succeeds admirably, as a medico-historical source book, but the diversity of doctors' activities embraces a wider canvas than that of medical science. The mystical poetry of Henry Vaughan, the geology of Henry Hicks, the linguistic investigations of Siôn Dafydd Rees, Whitlock Nicholl, and James Cowles Prichard offer a sharp contrast to the actuarial enquiries of William Morgan, the pharmaceutical researches of William Lewis, the pioneer cardiology of Sir Thomas Lewis, and the inventive orthopaedics of Huw Owen Thomas and Sir Robert Jones. The Welsh American references include John Jones, John Morgan, and Thomas Cadwalader. Apart from popular farriery books, veterinary science gains stature through the writings of the namesake professors, William Williams—father and son. Latin, Italian, and French works also appear in the source list.

An eminent medical historian, the author is Lecturer in the History of Medicine at the Welsh National School of Medicine. His source-book, which must be regarded as a classic, is a 'must' for MA and MD aspirants, and for consultants and general practitioners who are frequently invited to write articles, teach, and deliver lectures and orations.

PETER H. THOMAS

A COLOUR ATLAS OF DIABETES

Arnold Bloom and John Ireland

Wolfe Medical Publications
London (1980)

119 pages. Price £15

Two very distinguished physicians, both with an enviable reputation in the field of diabetes, have collaborated to produce this excellent book.

Dr Arnold Bloom has recently retired from the Whittington Hospital but happily remains Chairman of the British Diabetic Association, and Dr John Ireland has long been active in the Scientific Section of the Association and has worked extensively on the effect of diabetes on the kidney.

In their preface the authors rightly point out that the book is not intended

as a manual of instruction on the management of diabetes but claim to provide a graphic account of the histological and clinical manifestations of the disease. In this, they have most certainly succeeded.

In 10 chapters they deal with the history and aetiology of the disease and of its effect on the pancreas, the liver, pregnancy, and offspring, the vascular system and the feet, skin, the nervous system, the eye, and the renal system.

Each chapter begins with a brief but pertinent text and is followed by a comprehensive series of histological and clinical photographs each bearing a suitable description.

The Wolfe Medical Texts have deservedly gained a high reputation for the standard of their illustrations and this work is no exception.

The surveillance of chronic disease is assuming an ever-increasing importance in general practice and diabetes with its multitude of complications provides a formidable challenge. This book with its wealth of clinical material will help the general practitioner meet the challenge. That it does not deal with treatment in no way detracts from its merit for there are many suitable and complementary works which do this.

The book should certainly be in every postgraduate centre library and I think it would be a worthwhile investment for those practices with teaching responsibilities and for those who prefer to manage their own diabetic patients.

C. WAINE

NURSING IN THE COMMUNITY

The Queen's Nursing Institute
57 Lower Belgrave Street, London
SW1W 0LR (Revised 1979)

32 pages.

Although the Queen's Nursing Institute has produced this booklet primarily for the guidance of nurses working in the community, much of the information it contains is of interest to members of other disciplines.

Short chapters discuss topics which include the essentials of district nursing care, the control of infection, injection procedures, equipment, care of the dying and bereaved, records, and the nurse and the law.

It is written in plain English with an uncluttered text. There are few general practitioners who, after reading it, would not have a better understanding of the role and activities of the community nurses attached to their practices. Highly recommended for the prac-

tice library, it is available from the Queen's Nursing Institute.

R. V. H. JONES

**PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS.
3RD EDITION**

Harold Merskey

Ballière Tindall
London (1980)

434 pages. Price £7.50

An important textbook of psychiatry, such as this, has to be used bearing in mind the aims of its authors. Unlike most textbooks on this subject it starts with clinical situations, or with symptoms, and discusses diagnosis and management after defining the problem. It suggests treatment through understanding the complaint, the patient, and, equally important, the practitioner.

The effect on the doctor of psychiatric illness in patients is considered in

all aspects of diagnosis and treatment. In consequence, the text offers a refreshing approach for those who wish to stimulate and improve their practice of psychiatry in family medicine. It serves too as an interesting reference book on a wide selection of specific areas in psychological medicine.

No book can be all things to all men. The principal weakness of this book lies in the attempt by the author to include a conventional textbook approach to the subject. For example, a casual glance in the index at depression will leave the reader with a considerable number of page references. Unless the ethos of the book is appreciated, following up these references will give a disjointed view of the subject, which might well be misunderstood in consequence.

The authors' intention of teaching psychiatry in the context of patients that doctors meet in clinical practice obviously makes the book useful to those in vocational training (trainees or trainers) and to doctors whose tech-

niques of self-audit are open to improvement.

The book is not suitable as the only textbook of psychiatry on a doctor's bookshelf. In places it is unreasonably opinionated and there are omissions of fact and detail. Certain subjects are treated with seemingly biased emphasis.

The new section on children and adolescents is rather superficial and has not been presented in quite the same perspective as the original text, and the chapter on old age needs considerable expansion.

This is the third edition of a book which was originally written in 1965 by Professor Merskey with the late Dr Lawton Tonge, who died in 1976. Some of the theories of psychiatry which are given continued credence suggest that the revision could be more thorough. The pronoun 'we', apart from being sadly inappropriate, should be eliminated to improve the readability of the text.

CLIVE FROGGATT

REPORTS

The Regulations for vocational training

THE passage earlier this year of the final legal stages of the National Health Service (Vocational Training) Regulations has set the scene for a unique occasion: the implementation next February of a statute remarkable both for its special provisions and for the very wide scope of its application. For the first time in the history of general practice in the United Kingdom, entry to our branch of the profession is to be regulated by reference to special postgraduate educational criteria, and all doctors applying to become principals in NHS general medical practice, whether single-handed or in partnership, will first have to show either that they have undertaken the requisite preparation or that they are exempt from the provisions of the Regulations.

To take the exemptions first. Doctors who are already principals on the appointed day—16 February 1981—will remain exempt should they subsequently resign and then wish to return. A doctor previously on the medical list of a family practitioner committee (or of its predecessor, the executive council) will also have protected status, but only up to 15 February 1990. If return to general medical practice as a principal is further postponed, then the requirements of the Regulations will have to be satisfied. Doctors in the Armed Services

engaged in duties comparable to general medical practice will also be exempt.

The Regulations will not apply in the case of those wanting to give only restricted services, such as contraception and maternity. However, if a doctor wishes to give unrestricted services (albeit to a limited list, for example as part of a student health service) then he will have to comply with the Regulations.

The Regulations stipulate or 'prescribe' the medical experience to be acquired before an application for principalship may be considered by the Medical Practices Committee. Because the Regulations are being implemented in two stages, the definition of prescribed experience depends on whether one is considering the period up to August 1982 or afterwards. Between 16 February 1981 and 15 August 1982 prescribed experience will consist merely of 12 months as a full-time trainee general practitioner (or two years if the training is undertaken half time). From 16 August 1982 onwards prescribed experience will be taken to mean three years' training: one year at least must be spent as a trainee general practitioner; another year at least must be spent in no fewer than two hospital appointments occupied for at least six months each in specialties drawn from a restricted list (accident and emergency medicine, or general surgery; general medicine; geriatric medicine;

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