

in an excellent chapter entitled "Heart Attacks".

There are some 250 illustrative electrocardiograms (unfortunately not all labelled as to leads), and a number of diagrams, clarifying such mysteries as axis deviation and bundle-branch block amongst others.

This book goes a long way towards simplifying what has become a very complex subject and can be strongly recommended.

Electrical and Drug Treatment in Psychiatry. A. SPENCER PATERSON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.P. Amsterdam, London and New York. Elsevier Publishing Company. 1963. Pp. v+248 Price 110s.

This book is written with thought based on experience; it is concerned with advances in physical treatment of mental illness since the institution of electrical shock therapy in 1938, but excluding brain surgery. The drugs considered are the spate of new chemicals introduced in the past eleven years—i.e., the barbiturates are not discussed. There are five appendices describing 39 of these new drugs, loosely inserted in a folder at the end of the book. This makes it possible easily to refer to the structure and action of these drugs while reading the text; also it may allow for additions and deletions in subsequent editions.

A great deal of first hand experience has gone into the book, particularly concerning the technique of giving E.C.T. and the use of perphenazine (Fentazin), of which the author has best experience, but the other drugs are treated as comprehensively as our present knowledge permits.

No doubt the improved effectiveness of these treatments has contributed largely to the improved outlook for the psychotic patient, and the more humane and tolerant attitude to insanity shown by the community. To a less degree drugs have been helpful in managing the neuroses and facilitating psychotherapy. But the conscientious reader of the book must reflect on the powers of these treatments for harm as well as good, and hesitate to use them without serious consideration. Sometimes, of course, the illness is so severe as to make the taking of risks justifiable. Dr Spencer Paterson puts the pros and cons fairly, and his book has much of interest for the family doctor, though because of its detail it is primarily for the specialist.

The book is well produced, but the proof-reader has allowed a few minor textual inaccuracies to escape him.

Probation and Mental Treatment. MAX GRÜN HUT, M.A., DR. JUR. London. Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. vii + 56. Price 15s.

The Criminal Justice Act of 1948 included a section which provided that offenders might be put on probation with a requirement that they submit to mental treatment for a period not longer than a year. This book is a short and lucid attempt to review what happens to those offenders considered suitable for this course of action. These fall mainly into three

groups; those committing property offences such as theft and fraud, sexual offences, and violence of a non-sexual nature.

Dr Grünhut tries to estimate the measure of success of medical treatment, and makes the point that success is much more likely when the doctor assessing the offender and recommending treatment is also later responsible for that treatment. There is discussion of case work by probation officers, and how it may be integrated with and continue the value of medical treatment.

This short book is so concentrated that it is not easy to summarize. It is most desirable reading for all doctors who have to do with the examination or treatment of offenders, and of great interest to all, medical or lay, who are concerned with the gradual expansion of tolerance and understanding in English social life, and its expression in legal practice.

The History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.

Abstracted from manuscripts and notes of the late CECIL WALL by the late H. CHARLES CAMERON and revised, annotated and edited by E. ASHWORTH UNDERWOOD. Volume I. 1617-1815. London, New York, Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1963. Pp. v + 450. Price 55s.

The evolution of the general practitioner as we know him today owes more to the Society of Apothecaries than to either of the Royal Colleges; yet the origin of the apothecary lay in the grocers' and spicers' companies of the Middle Ages. The word apothecary derives from "a keeper of stores of drugs, spices, perfumes, sweetmeats and the like". In London the society only gained its independent position in 1617, though for many years before they had been recognized as an independent calling and from 1540 were subject to the inspection of their shops by the physicians who had gained their charter in 1518. It is probable that they had begun to give advice and possibly to visit patients in their homes before they received their charter in 1617, for not long after they were in conflict with the physicians on this matter. The book under review gives the fullest account to date of these early quarrels; it is valuable for that alone. It was not until the famous case of Rose in 1704 that the position of the apothecary as a medical practitioner was finally clarified.

This book contains a good account of the Society from its beginnings and in its notes on sources collected by Dr Underwood much previously unpublished and very valuable material is transcribed, in fact the notes and sources occupy more space in the book than does the story itself. This is due no doubt to the unfortunate deaths of Cecil Wall and Charles Cameron who each in turn had worked on it. Such a book must suffer disadvantages, and Dr Underwood is to be congratulated on his successful treatment of the material at his disposal.

The last part of the book deals with the events culminating in the Apothecaries Act of 1815 which handed over to the Society the responsibility for examining and licensing practitioners. These events are better known than the early struggles of the Society and are less comprehensively dealt with. By the end of the eighteenth century the Society had another