

the translation of the word sought may be obtained easily.

This is an invaluable book even for those who are familiar with the language that they are reading, for medical terms are even today not common parlance except amongst doctors.

**New Ideas on Rehabilitation.** Report of a Study Day on Facilities for Education, Rehabilitation and Care Services held in London, June 1963. The Chest and Heart Association, London. Pp. i + 102. Price 10s. 6d.

This small booklet makes interesting reading. Sixteen experts in various fields have contributed on such varied subjects as "Accepting Disability", "Return to Industry", "Special Schools", and "The Vesper Club"—this latter being a Luton organization for helping the house-bound and disabled. The final section is devoted to a question-and-answer session with a panel of the contributors.

Although directed at a lay audience—patients and their relatives, and social workers—the general practitioner will find much useful information here, applicable to fields of rehabilitation well beyond the bounds of heart and chest disease.

**Understanding Epilepsy.** ROBERT KEMP, T.D., M.D., M.R.C.P. London. Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. v + 93. Price 15s.

This small book written for parents or patients is a most useful contribution to the subject. A volume of this kind must be easy to read, and it must err on the side of optimism, to counter the ever-present pessimism of the reader for whom it is intended. This book is in fact easy to read, and the first four chapters are excellent and full of sound advice such as, "The patient must become a student of his own particular case". "The fewer attacks the patient experiences the less liable he is to have them." "They rarely occur when the patient is actively engaged in work or play." However, the reviewer questions the place of a whole chapter on childhood convulsions in a book of this nature. Here he feels the orientation is all wrong and will promote anxiety rather than reassure. It is suggested that a true childhood convulsion may mean organic brain disease, or true epilepsy, or it may be of no significance. Surely it would be more tactful and more accurate the other way round, as most infantile fits are benign. The problems of taking alcohol and of driving a car are dealt with in detail. A suggestion for future editions is that the young epileptic should be told bluntly he will never drive a car long before he is old enough to apply for a license. The chapters on the hereditary factors, and epilepsy and the family have a great deal in common and could perhaps be combined. In his summing up the author takes the very narrow view that expert advice from a specialized clinic should *always* be sought. Surely the general practitioner has a place in the diagnosis and the treatment of epilepsy. If the control is inadequate then specialist advice is a *sine qua*

*non*, but for many cases, surely the easily accessible family doctor is the expert on the spot. These are small criticisms of a little book which will be most useful to the intelligent patient or his near relatives.

**Understanding Bronchitis and Asthma.** ROBERT KEMP, T.D., M.D., M.R.C.P.  
London. Tavistock Publications. 1963. Pp. vii + 109. 17s. 6d.

In this small book Dr Kemp offers instruction and advice to those with enough education and intelligence to understand and enough humility and insight to accept and profit by them.

The nature and interrelation of chronic bronchitis and asthma are described in good plain English, with a minimum of technical terms, but no 'writing down', and their causes are considered and assessed.

Dr Kemp thinks little of medicines, skin tests, desensitizers, aerosols, blame fixing, passivity and despair and thinks well of avoiding irritating smokes, postural drainage, education in breathing—with practising of what is learnt, exercise and active occupation and especially of full recognition of the frequent and potent emotional factors in asthma and honest search for them, chiefly by the patient himself.

A book to recommend to intelligent patients with a genuine desire to be well and the will to help themselves towards health.

**Broken Long Bone. Its Bionomics and Man.** ROBERT T. MCELVENNY,  
M.D. Illinois, U.S.A. Charles C. Thomas. 1963. Pp. vii + 292.  
Price \$11.50.

This book contains much that is of great value. It is obvious that the writer is a teacher of considerable experience who has developed a dogmatic style and has very decided views on treatment and surgical procedure. He enjoys creating axioms, and has included a large number in this book. Unfortunately, he has drowned many of them in so much circumlocution that the book is difficult to read. It is definitely not a bedside story.

It is stated that the intention of this work is to give guidance to the beginners, and food for thought to the experienced individual who is largely concerned with traumatic surgery. It is agreed that some of the contents are quite elementary, and put forward in a refreshing manner, but it is the reviewer's opinion that the controversial nature of the book makes it more suited to the surgeon of mature judgment. His arguments for and against the closed or open method of treatment of fractures are worth the attention of all teachers of orthopaedic surgery, as are his views on healing and the treatment of wounds.

It is a stimulating book but of doubtful practical value to the family doctor of this country. The doctor who takes an intelligent interest in the follow-up of all his cases of trauma should find it an interesting philosophical study.