

Book Reviews

"ANAESTHESIA IN JAMAICA" — Report of a Conference. Edited by Drs. M. Hedden, J.W. Sandison, J. Homi.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF Anaesthesia in developing countries has always lagged behind the development of surgical facilities. The choice to specialise in this discipline has not been particularly encouraging and a developing country like Jamaica is no exception. In a carefully organised study by the editors, assisted by two internationally known authorities in Education in Anaesthesiology, M.H. Son Holmdahl and W.D. Wylie, the problems revolving around the development of the speciality were identified. Starting off by doing a "Jamaica Anaesthetic Survey" the major investigation into facilities, personnel and practices of anaesthesia in the island was conducted for a period of six months in 1969-1970. The computerised results showed that non-medical personnel gave more than 50% of the total anaesthetics, a situation that could have existed in this country only a decade ago. Many details have been gone into and the conclusion reached, which could have been arrived at, without computerisation was that help outside Jamaica was essential to maintain or improve the anaesthetic services.

While it can be said that we face a similar situation in this country, the methodology used is unique, in evaluation the actual situation for the need of specialists and trained personnel in the less 'popular' disciplines.

This book is not only highly recommended but I consider it essential for the planners in our own Ministry of Health to grasp the integrated and scientific way studies should be made to evaluate the needs of doctors in specialities. The Jamaica Anaesthetic Survey had provided factual information which should help any government in the planning of future health services. It is available from the Chief Editor, M.H. from the University of Pittsburgh.

(PROF. A. GANENDRAN)
M.B., Ch.B.; F.F.A.R.C.S.; M.R.C.P.;
F.F.A.R.A.C.S.; F.I.C.S.

THE MECHANISM AND MANAGEMENT OF HEADACHE by James W. Lance, Butterworths, Lond. 1969, pp 167 £2.25

THIS BOOK is the result of an intensive study of the problems of tension headache and migraine. Other forms of headache such as those which arise

from eye-strain or sinusitis as well as those which cause serious intracranial conditions are described.

The descriptions are designed to assist in diagnosis, and the treatment of these conditions is emphasised.

The book is meant for easy reading by general practitioners, senior medical students and others who may be interested in the mechanism of headache or be concerned with the practical management of headache problems.

RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY IN LEPROSY by Ernest P. Fritsch, John Wright & Sons, Bristol. 240 pp. 200 illus - \$3.25

IN MANY TROPICAL COUNTRIES LEPROSY has left more deformity and disability than any other disease. This is a practical text on reconstructive surgery in leprosy to which a surgeon in a leprosy institution could refer for guidance. It is emphasized that these cases need preparation and post-operative care and the surgeon should link himself to a team consisting of an experienced physician and physiotherapist.

This book will be useful not only to surgeons in a leprosy hospital but will be of interest to ortho-orthopaedic and plastic surgeons as well as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and nurses.

CATAPRES IN HYPERTENSION. Edited by Mathew E. Conolly, Butterworths, Lond. 1970 pp. 245

DR. CONOLLY has done good service to the medical profession by bringing together under one cover the papers and discussions that took place at a symposium held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1969.

Catapres is the name under which the drug 2-(2, 6-dichlorophenylamino) - 2 - imidazoline hydrochloride is known in UK and USA. It is also referred to as Catapresan and Clonidine in other countries.

The pharmacology, clinical pharmacology and clinical experiences are dealt with by some 60 participants. It is felt that Catapres is an effective hypotensive agent in many patients but sedation and dry mouth may limit its usefulness in some. Its final role in the treatment of hypertension cannot be settled until larger numbers of patients are treated over longer periods.