

Book Reviews

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN MALAYSIA. Edited by K. Ramathan *et al.* *Stud. Inst. Med. Res. Malaysia.* No. 32. pp. 372. 1976

THIS VOLUME brought out in connection with the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Institute for Medical Research, Malaysia, is the work mainly of the present staff. Forty-three contributors have tried to cover the work of the I.M.R. over the last 75 years and they necessarily repeat some of the ground covered in the "Fifty Years of Medical Research in Malaya" edited by J.W. Field *et al* in 1951. The new material, however, brings out the changing emphasis in the work of the I.M.R. in recent years in keeping with the changing pattern of diseases and the need for undertaking training of technicians and others.

The volume is dedicated to Dr. Ungku Omar-Ahmad, the Director of the Institute from 1965 to 1969 who was strongly convinced that "the role of the I.M.R. should be expanded to be viable enough to accommodate not only medical research but also teaching and other activities to meet national needs".

In addition to chapters devoted to different research fields there is a section which spells out the services rendered by I.M.R. so that the maximum use could be made of them by the people. There is also a very interesting section devoted to Personal Glimpses and Reminiscences. The volume is well illustrated with pencil sketches by Yap Loy Fong and colour photos by Seow Chin Loong including those of the three Commemorative Stamps issued in connection with the I.M.R. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

This book is said to have been brought forth at short notice and doubtless accounts for some of the minor errors which will be corrected in a revised version. It is regrettable that there are no references in the book to published work which would have greatly enhanced its scientific value. Perhaps an appendix containing a list of publications emanating from the I.M.R. during the last 25 years might help. Nevertheless, the I.M.R. is to be congratulated for issuing a publication of great historical interest and importance which should find its way into all medical libraries and the shelves of all doctors interested in Tropical Medicine.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ORTHODONTIC CONGRESS. Edited by J.T. Cook. *Crosby Lockwood Staples, London.* 1975 pp. 594. \$16.00 net.

THIS BOOK records the proceedings of the third international orthodontic congress held in London in 1973 with more than 1600 delegates from 50 countries. That this represents a ten-fold increase in the number of delegates and twice the number of participating countries over those at the second congress held in 1931 gives some idea of the growth of this speciality over the years. This book condenses in 56 well-illustrated chapters the material presented in more than a hundred papers and makes stimulating reading. This is an authoritative account of the development of new techniques, the rapid advances in functional prosthesis and the fascinating variety of materials from which these can now be made and should find a place on the shelves of every orthodontist in the world.

HEALTH AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. *Associated Scientific Publishers, P.O. Box 211, Amsterdam.* 1975. pp. 267.

THE PUBLICATION of this book is opportune and is of special interest to development planners, health care workers, industrial sociologists and psychologists and all those concerned with the problems of industrialisation in developing countries. The majority of developing countries are determined to industrialise and upgrade their overall economy as rapidly as possible with a view to securing a higher standard of living, and Malaysia is no exception. The expanding industrialisation inevitably brings on the migration of people from the country to the urban areas resulting in problems of overcrowding, pollution, etc.

The book records the papers and the discussions at the Ciba Foundation Symposium on Health and Industrial Growth held in London in September 1974. It begins with problems of the directly harmful side-effects of industrial growth, the 'growing pains' of developing countries and how they might avoid repeating mistakes made in 19th century Europe and the impact of industrialisation on health of the working people and on society in developing countries.

HUMAN MALFORMATIONS. Edited by C.L. Berry. British Medical Bulletin Vol. 32 No. 1. Jan. 1976. British Council 65 Davies St., London W1Y 2AA pp. 98. \$3.50.

"IT IS a sobering thought," says Professor T. McKeown in his Introduction, "that, after several decades of research the problem of human malformations remain essentially unchanged Yet the outlook is not so gloomy as this appraisal

may suggest, and the papers assembled in this issue of the Bulletin show the range and prospects of current research." Four papers outline experimental work that is advancing understanding of malformations – infection, mechanical factors operating within the uterus and various environmental agents. Two papers are concerned broadly with epidemiological approach while the others deal with matters that have a direct bearing on clinical practice.

