

being given also to these aspects particularly in infancy and the pre-school years.

Very few books written for the layman trace the social and emotional development of the child from birth to adolescence and the bird's eye view which the book gives is valuable. The ground covered is wide and the treatment therefore thinly spread but there are good lists for further reading at the end of each chapter.

A number of technical terms are used throughout the book which may cause difficulty if the glossary placed at the end is not noticed early by the reader.

The book aims to increase the general psychological knowledge of parents and teachers and to help them better to understand the children under their care; it admirably achieves its purpose, and can be safely recommended, as sound introduction to the fascinating study of the child's social development, and to the management of the difficult child.

A chapter on children and the war has been added to this second edition of the book first published in 1942.

J. M. O.

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION AS SEEN IN THE FOOT.—By Frederic Wood Jones, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. iv and 330, 150 illustrations. Ballière, Tindall and Cox, London. Price, 25s.

PROFESSOR Jones recently published a book on the 'Principles of anatomy as seen in the hand'. This volume on the foot is in some way a supplement to the one on the hand. These books and the other writings of this author are characterized by a desire to get away from the anatomy of the dead to the structure and function of the living, by an original and interesting approach to the subject, and by lively and interesting presentation. These points are well illustrated in the book under review.

After a lively but brief introduction followed by a discussion of the principles of anatomical terminology in which the author expresses the view that much present terminology is quite irrational, there follow chapters on the foot in phylogeny, in ontogeny, chapters on digital formulæ and metatarsal formulæ. These formulæ relate to relative sizes of the digits and the metatarsal bones; then follow chapters on external characters including flexure lines, cleavage lines, papillary ridges, and hair. In the subsequent chapters are discussed the fasciæ and bones, accessory bones, sesamoid bones, joints, extrinsic and intrinsic muscles and their action, tendons, tendon sheaths and bursæ, the arches of the foot, the innervation of the foot and the vascular channels. The book is illustrated by 150 line drawings. Each chapter is followed by a brief list of suggested references for further reading. Any detailed review of this book is out of the question. The author has succeeded in giving a most interesting and stimulating account of structure and function as seen in the foot. This is a book which can be strongly recommended to students of anatomy and to surgeons.

J. L.

Abstracts from Reports

REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN MENTAL HOSPITAL AT RANCHI, FOR THE PERIOD, 1ST APRIL, 1943, TO 31ST MARCH, 1944

DURING the year the number admitted was 121 (91 males and 30 females), which with the previous year's 'remaining' totalled 390. Of the new admissions, 94 were between 20 and 40 years, and 20 between

40 and 60 years of age. About 30 per cent of the patients had schizophrenia including dementia præcox, next in order came those with paranoid states, mental deficiency, neurosis and psychoneurosis, maniac depression, etc. The predisposing causes were stress of military service, worries, heredity, etc., but in a good many cases the causes could not be ascertained. During the year, electric shock therapy was employed and most encouraging results were obtained in psychoneurotics. 'The method is technically effective, simple and no fear or hostility in the patients.' Formerly chemical methods were employed, but the chief drawback was a feeling of horror and apprehension by the patient during the few seconds between the injection and unconsciousness.

THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE OF SOUTH INDIA, COONOR. ANNUAL REPORT, 1943-44

ANTI-RABIC treatment was given to 13,280 patients at the institute and the subsidiary treatment centres, and in addition, routine laboratory examinations were carried out on a large scale. The study of the parasite, originally found in the mid-brains of guinea-pigs experimentally infected with rabies street virus, was continued; it appears to be a protozoon and may be connected with the aetiology of rabies. The Negri bodies may represent a stage in the life-cycle of the parasite. An investigation is in progress on tropical eosinophilia; the findings so far do not support the existing theories about its aetiology, *i.e.* environmental, allergic or leukæmia, but support the possibility of an infection being responsible for the syndrome.

Work carried out by the Nutritional Research Laboratories included (1) analysis of foods, chiefly with reference to vitamins, (2) animal experiments: massive doses of vitamin C had no effect on fluorine poisoning in rats, thus failing to support the conclusions of Pandit and his colleagues that lack of this vitamin is a contributory factor in the causation of chronic fluorosis in man. Experiment was made to find out whether rats which do not normally require vitamin C synthesize it in their intestine. Sulfasuxidine which destroys intestinal flora was given to rats fed on a diet complete except for vitamin C, but no evidence of its deficiency was found in the animals. (3) Clinical investigations. A type of nutritional diarrhoea marked by glossitis and histamine-fast achlorhydria responded well to the injections of nicotinic acid. Study of the relationship between dental caries and fluorosis, and investigations on infantile beri-beri are proceeding.

Correspondence

COMPLEMENT FIXATION TEST FOR KALA-AZAR

SIR,—I am glad to see, in October 1944 issue of the *I.M.G.*, that Dr. P. C. Sen Gupta, by reporting the results of a very large number of complement fixation tests, carried out according to the technique originally described by Greval, Sen Gupta and Napier (*Indian J. Med. Res.*, 27, 181), confirms the findings of those workers that the reaction is more specific for kala-azar than any other disease. The establishment of the value of the test in the diagnosis of early cases when all other laboratory tests, except sternal puncture, are still negative is particularly significant. Dr. J. Lowe, in the same issue, rightly stresses the value of the test in the early diagnosis of kala-azar. The value of the

test has now been established beyond doubt and must take precedence over all other laboratory tests.

You, Sir, in your leader say that 'so far no person's name has yet been attached to this test, and it would appear better not to attach a person's name'. I do not agree with you. The value of the test is now fully established and it would be graceful to give credit to the original workers who described the technique and indicated its value in the diagnosis of kala-azar. The matter of precedence in this case is easily established. The first paper to be published which described a technique and definitely showed that the test was more specific for kala-azar than for leprosy or any other disease, was by S. D. S. Greval, P. C. Sen Gupta and L. E. Napier—*Indian J. Med. Res.*, **27**, 181 (received for publication on 17th February, 1939). Before this two papers had appeared, first by S. D. S. Greval, J. Lowe and R. Bose, *Indian J. Med. Res.*, **26**, 843 (received for publication on 8th September, 1938), the second by J. Lowe and S. D. S. Greval in the same issue of *Indian J. Med. Res.*, but received for publication on 12th September, 1938. But both these papers were concerned with the use of the complement fixation test in the diagnosis of leprosy and both sets of authors merely observed kala-azar as an interfering disease making the test non-specific for leprosy. Thus it was only after Greval, Sen Gupta and Napier published the paper referred to above that the value of the test in kala-azar was brought out in a definite manner, and a suitable technique for this test was described.

Therefore, Sir, in the best traditions of science the test should be named as Greval, Sen Gupta and Napier test.

Your obedient servant,

S. S. SOKHEY,

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL, I.M.S.

HAFFKINE INSTITUTE,
BOMBAY,
15th January, 1945.

Editorial note.—It is good to have Colonel Sokhey's generous acknowledgment of the value of this work done in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta; as one of the workers involved, the editor comments on this letter with diffidence, but the letter does appear in some ways misleading.

The editorial note quoted by Colonel Sokhey was written partly because it had been suggested that the editor's name should be attached to the test. To this the editor objected on the grounds stated below, although he personally did initiate this work on com-

plement fixation in Indian kala-azar with W.K.K. antigen.

The basis of the test was and is the work reported by Greval, Lowe and Bose, and by Lowe and Greval mentioned by Colonel Sokhey. This work, which was planned to include a check of Bier's report of positive findings in kala-azar, was initiated in the Leprosy Department and carried out in collaboration with Colonel Greval. The work clearly indicated that with W.K.K. antigen, complement fixation by the technique described was seen more constantly and in higher titre in kala-azar than in any other disease tested; also that positive results were seen early in the disease while in leprosy this was not so. Moreover, these findings in kala-azar were not incidental as Colonel Sokhey's letter would imply. The work was planned to cover kala-azar.

The later paper of Greval, Sen Gupta and Napier reported modifications of technique designed to increase specificity by diluting the serum, and later papers still, notably those of Sen Gupta, established firmly its diagnostic value. Actually, in most recent tests, the technique described by Greval, Sen Gupta and Napier has been used, but the antigen has been prepared by the W.K.K. method in the Leprosy Department of the School from the Stefansky bacillus and not the tubercle bacillus, as reported by Dharmendra and Bose of that department. Moreover, recently experiments have been made with a modified technique and a paper on this subject by Sen Gupta will shortly appear in our pages.

Thus the test is the outcome of the original work of Bier in South America, and of the later work of several workers in three different departments of the School.

Rather curiously, Napier was always critical of the work and even in his latest writing on kala-azar does not even mention it.

Of the three persons whose names Colonel Sokhey proposes to attach to the test, only one (Colonel Greval) had anything to do with the earliest phases of the work and with the first publications on technique and results. It is, however, correct to attach these three names to their particular technique they described later. We still have the Widal, Weil-Felix and Wassermann tests, although the technique of these workers is no longer used; we have the Kolmer technique and so on.

The editor still thinks that to attach the name of any one person or one group of persons to the basic test would be misleading. It is however correct to apply the three names mentioned to the particular technique described in their paper. The technique however may and almost certainly will change but we need not rename the test every time this happens.—*EDITOR, I.M.G.]*

Service Notes

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

MAJOR-GENERAL J. B. HANCE, C.I.E., O.B.E., is granted the local rank of Lieutenant-General, without effect on pay and pension. Dated 4th October, 1943.

The Viceroy and Governor-General has been pleased to make the following appointment on His Excellency's personal staff:—

To be Honorary Surgeon

Colonel (Tempy. Brigadier) D. V. O'Malley, O.B.E., 17th July, 1944, vice Colonel J. W. Vanreenen, O.B.E., vacated.

Lieutenant-Colonel K. S. Fitch, O.B.E., is appointed Assistant Director-General, Indian Medical Service (Personnel), with effect from the 8th January, 1945.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Gorman, I.A.M.C., has been relieved of his duties as Director of Inspection in the Department of Food, Division III, with effect from the afternoon of the 15th February, 1945, for employment as Director of Public Health, Madras.

Major C. V. Ramchandani, I.A.M.C., Assistant Inspector of Hygiene in the Directorate of Inspection, Department of Food, Division III, has been appointed to officiate as Director of Inspection, with effect from the afternoon of the 15th February, 1945.

Captain M. D. Black, assumed charge as Professor of Midwifery in the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, and Medical Superintendent, Lady Willingdon Hospital, Lahore, on the forenoon of the 2nd February, 1945, vice Lieutenant-Colonel S. N. Hayes.