

Administrative Medicine

Transactions of the Fifth Conference, October 29, 30, and 31, 1956, Princeton, N.J. Edited by George S. Stevenson. Pp. 197. (New York: Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, 1958.) 3.75 dollars.

THE Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation has organized more than twenty conference groups of experts in different fields during the past fifteen years, each group meeting for a few days annually over a period of five years or more. Discussions, limited to twenty-five participants, are quite informal; one member introduces a topic and is subjected to frequent interruptions by way of questions or comment. Discussions are reported verbatim in the Transactions and the interruptions too often distract the reader's attention from the main issue. There are no formal conclusions and no recommendations are made. Three topics are presented in this volume: "Mental Health Elements in Administration of General Health", by Dr. Paul V. Lemkau; "The Administrative Role in the Management of a Mental Hospital", by Dr. Alfred P. Bay; and "Co-ordination of Local Resources: Techniques and Devices for Communication and Cross-fertilization", by Dr. T. P. Rees. Discussion on all three subjects dealt mainly with the means of integrating problems of mental health with other organized medical services and securing the active co-operation of the community in this integration. This appears to be a more difficult task in the United States than in Great Britain and the description by Dr. Rees of his 'open door' policy at Warlingham Park Hospital and his organized mental health service in Croydon aroused great interest. The selection, training and qualifications of hospital superintendents were also discussed, particularly in relation to geographically isolated hospitals, hospitals closely integrated with the community and hospitals of different sizes and types. G. A. CLARK

Amphetamine Psychosis

By P. H. Connell. (Maudsley Monographs, No. 5.) Pp. 133. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1958. Published for the Institute of Psychiatry.) 21s. net.

CONSIDERING the number of years that the amphetamines have been available on the market and the wide range of their therapeutic usefulness, addiction to these drugs had always been regarded as rare and limited to psychopathic personalities who might have become addicted to anything. This latest Maudsley Monograph is calculated to shake the complacency of pharmacologists, psychiatrists, medical practitioners and manufacturers, and is therefore deserving of careful study. Dr. P. H. Connell, in a study of the literature, has found only six authenticated cases of amphetamine psychosis from Britain in the past twenty years, but he goes on to report another forty-two cases, of which twenty-eight were seen by him personally and the rest were discovered by inquiry among his colleagues. He emphasizes the remarkably close resemblance between the mental symptoms of amphetamine addicts and of those with paranoid schizophrenia, and points out that a single large dose of the drug may cause psychotic symptoms. The author's tabulation of the findings in the various cases is interesting and revealing, particularly when he touches on the relationship between the psychosis and the previous personality of the patient. Unfortunately, certain parts of this book must have been written some time ago, for we are told that no fewer than seventeen patients

obtained their drug supply from the contents of amphetamine inhalers. An addendum mentions that amphetamine inhalers have been withdrawn from the market.

The second part of the monograph deals with the search for, and validation and use of, a biochemical test for detecting that a patient has been taking amphetamine. There is a bibliography occupying two and a half pages. W. R. BERT

Bibliography on the Effects of Ionizing Radiations on Plants, 1896-1955

By Arnold H. Sparrow, John P. Binnington and Virginia Pond. Pp. v+222. (Upton, New York: Brookhaven National Laboratory, 1958. Obtainable from Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.) 2.25 dollars.

THIS list of nearly 2,600 titles is arranged alphabetically by first authors with cross-references to include others. The articles are from 496 journals, 54 of them originating in the U.S.S.R. or countries of the Eastern bloc, as well as a number of books, symposium reports, etc. There is an excellent subject index occupying 90 pages. The volume is paper bound, but printing is clear and uncrowded on heavy paper.

The usefulness of this publication will be obvious to all who have experienced the difficulty of tracking down papers dealing with the biological effects of radiation in the large number of journals through which they are scattered. Although the list may not be complete, its coverage is comprehensive enough to make it invaluable to research workers in many phases of radiation biology, botany and agriculture. It is unfortunate that at the time of release it is nearly three years out of date: a supplementary list would already be useful and will soon, in this fast-moving field, be overdue. One hopes that the success of this publication will encourage the authors to prepare a second before very long. ALMA HOWARD

Nuclear Scattering

By K. B. Mather and Dr. P. Swan. (Cambridge Monographs on Physics.) Pp. ix+469. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1958.) 80s. net.

THE authors set out to describe the physics of nuclear scattering in a volume of 469 pages, the early chapters of which provide an introduction to the relation of nuclear scattering to nuclear forces and to the kind of apparatus which is used. The main body of the book is devoted to nucleon-nucleon scattering at both low and high energies, nuclear scattering and nuclear models and resonance. In this field, in which there is so much current literature, it is not possible within the confines of a single volume to be exhaustive and up to date at the instant of publication. However, the authors do present significant results available in mid-1957 and their interpretation in terms of nuclear forces and structure. At a few places the description of apparatus appears to be too detailed. Nevertheless, the selection from the information available has been carefully made. Although to an expert in any particular aspect of nuclear scattering, the treatment may appear rather sketchy, the book as a whole is a balanced representation. For this reason it will be welcomed by experimentalists and should provide valuable reading for the graduate student starting research as well as for those already actively engaged in this field.