beginners, and its informative introduction, glossary, overall accuracy, and general arrangement, it is suitable for use as a text or supplementary text for courses in weed identification, field botany, or local flora.

The professional weed specialist will regret the scarcity of seed drawings and descriptions; the lack of emphasis on the economically significant, primary noxious or prohibited weeds; and the author's failure to consult the standardized list of common names for weeds occurring in the United States and Canada, published by the Weed Society of America (1962).

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"Whither Medicine"

In the first chapter of this excellent book, **Medicine in Transition** (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1965. 232 pp., $5.95), the author, Iago Galdston, states that "Whither Medicine" is the goal of its exploration; however the book contains much material that is concerned with "whence" and "where." There are excellent presentations of the historical background of the socioeconomic aspects of medicine as well as of the background of professional, scientific, and educational problems. The discussions are balanced, temperate, and well documented. The sections on the cost of medical care, the pharmaceutical industry, various methods of prepayment, and the role of the modern hospital show thoughtful study and excellent comprehension of the complexities that make dogmatism inappropriate.

The dangers inherent in the British National Health Service of the "conversion of medical practise into the pursuit of a vocation rather than that of a profession" are convincingly explained. Nevertheless the author is clearly aware of the need for some solutions that will increase the availability of good medical care for those who cannot afford it. He quite properly urges that alterations in the methods of distributing medical services be evolutionary rather than abrupt and radical as was true in England. This warning is based on recognition of the rapid changes occurring in our socioeconomic environment, changes that might make extrapolation tend to be erroneous. Soundly, he advises us to "work toward change by short range trials . . . successive steps, trial and experiments," avoiding the dangers of impatience. Furthermore, constant new approaches to diagnosis and treatment plus changing patterns of practice are unpredictable in their effect, good or bad, on costs and methods of distribution of patient care.

As the author describes the slow transition from "Hippocratic medicine" to what he designates as "physiological medicine," there is slight overemphasis on the influence of changing ecology and relatively inadequate recognition of the fact that the basic change in clinical medicine is that, at last, it has become a science. Observation is now enlightened by understanding with the application of the philosophy of science to human biology. For example, psychosomatic medicine is essentially a scientific rather than a humanistic development, and it thereby gives the necessary solid foundation for the expression of compassion. It is disappointing, even shocking, to find the author quoting a statement suggesting that it would be a happy thing "to find the top man in a medical school class yearning to be the best physician *rather than* the best scientist"; shades of the horse and buggy.

No one would deny the influence of increasing affluence on community health, but, with respect to the care of patients, the outstanding component responsible for its extraordinary improvement is derived from the fact that the physician has become scientifically oriented rather than remaining merely a bedside comforter. This change in his intellectual attitude is even more important than his new tools and knowledge, indeed the latter would be useless, even dangerous, in the absence of a scientifically trained mind.

The chapter on reorientation in medical education evokes more negative responses than any other section. It is surprising in its lack of quotations from teachers of internal medicine, which is the keystone of medical education. The best of many quotations is Wolf's statement that what we need is not curriculum change as much as a "complete reorientation of our ideas of what constitutes medical education." It is not content, not facts, that are deficient in medical education, it is lack of training in disciplined intellectual power that would permit the physician to integrate his facts so that he can use them with maximum critique.

There is no space to refute the suggestion that there should be two kinds of medical training—one for practitioners, the other for these who will pursue a research or academic career. This idea is wholly unacceptable to me, and I have spent a lifetime teaching internal medicine. Increase in well-trained paramedical personnel may be necessary, but the quality of the training must be as high for a physician who will be a practitioner as that for the one who will be an investigator, never forgetting that diagnosis is research and treatment is experiment.

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Ecology of the Seashore

It is difficult to write still another book about life on British shores without sounding too much like others that have gone before, but in **Life on the Sea-Shore** (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1965. 163 pp., $3) A. J. Southward has succeeded by approaching the subject with a strong seasoning of ecology. The book is not a guidebook to our little friends of the shore, but a handbook of procedures for studying what is going on at the seashore, as well as an introduction to shore ecology. There are numerous hints and suggestions, many of them with practical advice on procedures, about the problems that may be studied by beginning students and class groups on trips to the seaside. The book is intended for the various levels of the British sixth form, that elusive entity which combines the terminal and preparatory phases of our better junior colleges with the final year of high schools. Many of our instructors at these levels are unaware of the procedures described, and this book will be useful to them as well as to their students; it should inspire more meaningful study of the seashore. The problems and principles are universal to all shores (the book treats the environments of rocky, sandy and muddy shores, and estuaries as well as general adaptations to shore life), and the book will therefore be useful as a basic introduction to any shore.

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