

Book Reviews

Manson's Tropical Diseases. A manual of the diseases of warm climates. Philip Manson-Bahr, Ed. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, ed. 14, 1954. xiv + 1144 pp. Illus. + plates. \$12.50.

The new 14th edition of Manson's classic volume on tropical medicine is an extensive revision of the last edition, published in 1950, although the pagination remains essentially unchanged. Like its predecessors, the primary orientation of this edition is to the interests and needs of the clinician, in spite of the fact that 200 pages are devoted to brief expositions of medical protozoology, helminthology, entomology, and relevant laboratory procedures. A short chapter is devoted to DDT, gammexane, and certain other insecticides.

The sections on treatment have been brought up to date to include recent information concerning the treatment of leprosy by the sulfones, the newer antimalarial drugs, and the fields of usefulness of the antibiotics. With regard to the antibiotics, I have the impression that greater caution and conservatism might have been advised and that more emphasis might have been placed on the occurrence of undesirable side effects. In this connection, there is not sufficient emphasis on the potential danger of administering hetrazan to cases of onchocerciasis complicated by ocular pathology.

There are certain omissions that might well have been included in a volume of this authority. There is no mention of the extension of yellow fever into Central America north of the Panama Canal. In the chapter on epidemic louse-borne typhus, it is surprising to find no reference to the possibility of transmitting the infection by dust containing louse feces, no description of the technique of DDT dusting a population for epidemic control, and no reference to DDT-resistant strains of lice. There would not be complete agreement on the fact that aerial photographs can accurately identify and delineate the areas in which scrub typhus may be a hazard. The intradermal test is included among the procedures for the diagnosis of brucellosis without the necessary qualification that a positive reaction merely indicates sensitization and not necessarily active infection. Similarly, in discussions of the complement fixation reaction and the agglutination reaction, the significance of a rising titer rather than an absolute titer is not mentioned. Likewise, in the chapter on schistosomiasis, there is no reference to the usefulness of superficial rectal mucosal biopsy for the diagnosis of especially schistosomiasis mansoni.

In his preface, the editor states that the addition of new material required the omission of certain sections included in previous editions. Prominent among these deletions are many paragraphs dealing with historical backgrounds. This seems particularly regrettable since Scott's classic two-volume *History*

of *Tropical Medicine* is no longer obtainable. This new edition contains an immense amount of valuable and useful information. The index is detailed and permits easy reference. No library on tropical medicine can be complete without this volume.

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The Nation Looks at Its Resources. Report of the Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future. Henry Jarrett, Ed. Resources for the Future, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1954. xii + 418 pp. Paper, \$5.

On 2-4 December 1953, a Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future was held in Washington, D.C., under the sponsorship of Resources for the Future, a nonprofit corporation financed by the Ford Foundation. Attended by some 1600 persons, it constituted the first attempt since the Conference of Governors, called by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, to take stock of the national situation with respect to natural resources of all kinds and to explore the problems that their utilization and conservation will pose for the next 25 years and more. This substantial volume presents the record of this conference.

Prior to the conference, a steering committee for each of the eight sections into which it was divided selected the topics to be discussed, together with discussion leaders, and prepared a working paper that was sent to all prospective participants. This careful preliminary organization contributed greatly to the success of the conference. The printed record contains skillfully edited excerpts from the discussions and the chairmen's complete summaries of the major points developed. Included also are an interpretative introduction by R. G. Gustavson, president and executive director of Resources for the Future; key addresses by President Dwight W. Eisenhower and Lewis W. Douglas, chairman of the conference; a panel discussion of an over-all view of the situation prepared by the Brookings Institution; and addresses presenting different points of view on two broad current issues: "The public lands—who should control them?" and "How much should we depend on foreign resources?"

The conference was held primarily for the purpose of enlisting interest, exchanging views, identifying problems, considering possible solutions, and establishing a better understanding among diverse groups. It took no votes, passed no resolutions, and proposed no programs. It did not, in Douglas' words, "draft any pious and awesome encyclical," but it did make known facts and opinions that will help to guide the thinking and the actions of the people of the United States for years to come.