

BOOK REVIEW

HUMAN RIGHTS IN HEALTH: Ciba Foundation Symposium 23 (New series) 1974. pp. Viii & 304. Elsevier. Excerpta Medica, North Holland. Edited by Katherine Elliott and Julie Knight. U.S. \$15.00

Twenty eight contributors from twelve countries attempt to explore the practical implications – in terms of funding, human and materials resources, and management needs – of adopting four determinants of health as universal human rights. The determinants are safer water to drink, sufficient food, protection against communicable disease and access to the means of controlling fertility. All are interlinked, and they lead to a fifth – the right to have within reach some form of health care covering all the others.

The contributors attempt to estimate the necessary costs, the social changes involved and the likely effects on the pattern of world development of converting these rights into realities. Ways in which limited financial resources for health can be supplemented by tapping new resources within developing countries and by extending and rethinking the aid policies of outside countries, are stressed. A recurring theme is the need to use existing local resources, both material and human, and to integrate traditional technology and practice with newer methods.

The symposium should interest those working in the fields of tropical medicine, epidemiology, hygiene and nutrition and all thinking people.

THE POISONED PATIENT: THE ROLE OF THE LABORATORY

Ciba Foundation Symposium 26 (new series) pp. Viii & 325. Elsevier. Excerpta Medica. North Holland. Edited by Ruth Porter and Maeve O' Connor. US \$21.20.

In this symposium an international group of clinicians, laboratory workers and pathologists discuss the role of the laboratory in the treatment of patients and the control of addicts who have abused barbiturates, tranquilizers, amphetamines, cannabis, LSD (lysergide), heroin and others.

The care of acutely poisoned patients and of narcotics is surveyed. Different laboratory techniques are evaluated, including immunological methods for detecting drugs. Drug analysis in overdosed patients – alive or dead – and the likelihood of iatrogenic disease being noticed are discussed. The limitations of haemodialysis and forced diuresis are debated and the share clinical pharmacology and toxicology should have in medical education is examined.

These papers and discussions should interest all clinicians, laboratory workers and pathologists.

SYMPOSIUM: PUBERTY AND ADOLESCENCE.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Publication No. 45. Edited by A. T. Proudfoot, paper cover, pp. 95. £1.50

In this symposium, the following aspects are dealt with authoritatively: physical changes at puberty; adreno-cortical function in normal, delayed and precocious puberty; gonadal problems at puberty, clinical disorders of puberty; emotional changes of puberty and adolescence; medical services for adolescents and social services for the adolescent.

RESEARCH IN MEDICAL CARE, edited by W.W. Holland. Brit. Med. Bulletin Vol. 30 No. 3. Sept. 1974. Published by the British Council, 65 Davies street, London W1Y 2AA. £2.50

In the 26 years since the foundation of the National Health Service in the United Kingdom various problems have emerged. After much discussion plans for reorganising the health services were drawn up and agreed, and these were put into effect on 1st April, 1974.

This number of the British Medical Bulletin is a timely one and contains papers from some of the researchers involved representing the broad spectrum of medical care activities. It should be of value to all those involved in health care planning in other parts of the world.

PROGRESS IN QUALITY CONTROL IN CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Editors: G.Anido, E.J.Van Kampen, S.B.Rosalki,
Publishers: Hans Huber, Berne 9. *Transactions of the Vth International Symposium: Geneva April 10-11 1973.* p.401, 104 illustrations, 120 tables, Price US. \$20.00.

This is an impressive presentation by 15 nations on the problems of Quality Control, Six working groups dealt on selected topics in depth,

The American group concentrated on protein fractions and lipoprotein studies. Synthesized protein mixtures as protein controls were found to be suitable. Changes in lipoprotein during storage were also noted and discussed.

The presentation by the British Group touched on the problems of accuracy from absolute methods and from using patient data. The accuracy assessment in enzyme determination was most interesting with two-point and kinetic assay systems being discussed. Problem associated with optimum con-

centration and purity of both substrate and cofactor was also dealt with. More presentation on problems of enzyme measurement and quality control was given by the Swiss - German - Austrian group.

The Dutch - Belgium group and the Latin group covered general aspects of Quality Control. Drug interference in Clinical Chemistry was a topic discussed along with two other papers on the effects of drug interference on Estrogen and Calcium determinations.

The section on Free Communication was well presented covering topics which will interest most. Some topics discussed were: Precise temperature control, optimizing analytical methods, Radioisotopic procedures in Clinical Laboratory and various aspects of automation.

I should have liked to see more uniformity in enzyme nomenclature and abbreviation and perhaps this could be a topic for the next Symposium. Besides this, the book on the whole is excellent and should be in every library of Institutions or departments associated with medicine or biology.

J. E. Buttery.