

REVIEWS

THE CASUALTY OFFICER'S HANDBOOK

By Maurice Ellis (Third Edition)

This excellent short monograph is packed full of practical advice to the new house surgeon and medical officer who suddenly finds himself posted to the Emergency Unit. This is particularly so for casualty work.

It must be remembered that the advice is aimed at doctors working in the National Health Service in United Kingdom. The book in the context of the existing medical services in Singapore will probably be of more practical value to the

house surgeons and medical officers in Orthopaedic Units than the Emergency Unit. In hospitals where there is no orthopaedic coverage such as rural district hospitals in Malaysia, this book will find its greatest demand.

Of all the chapters, the one on resuscitation is extremely well done, with good illustrations and up-to-date information without clouding management with unessential details.

W. G. S. Fung

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PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND TREATMENT IN MALAYSIA

By N. N. Wagner and E. S. Tan

This is a multiple-author book touching on a number of diverse yet related topics, which renders it difficult to make general comments, except that it provides certain useful reference information on the history of psychiatric care, and certain local native psychiatric practices and beliefs in Malaysia-Singapore. Its name appears misleading because it is *not* as the title of the book may imply, a listing of all the commonly known psychological problems, followed by their treatment.

The first four chapters deal with the history of Psychiatric care with some overlapping in Malaysia-Singapore. It started with a directive dated 12th May 1841 to the Overseer of Public Works to erect an Insane Hospital in Singapore. The history and development of Woodbridge Hospital, Singapore and Tanjong Rambutan Mental Hospital, Malaya, the two major mental institutions were then traced from its earliest beginnings.

The fifth chapter deals with the development of Children's Services which were started in 1933

in the Straits Settlement, and it went on to discuss doctor-population ratio and the various social and legal developments. Emotional problem of children is dealt with in a very general manner and followed by a chapter on Electric mutism in school children with three case reports. This is followed by a chapter on adolescence, and then one on emotional stress in students of the University of Malaya by its Health Physician.

There is also a discussion on the perception of abnormality in a Malay village and a chapter on Chinese methods of mental treatment, which also included an account of Chinese medicine in general. A survey of all the patients treated in the psychiatric unit in the University of Malaya hospital during its first 20-month of service was presented and discussed.

The book ended with a projection of Psychiatry in Malaysia into the future with the recommendation of a comprehensive psychiatric service.

W. F. Tsoi