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Published information on these matters, including reference to the absorption, excretion, and distribution in the body, is often scattered throughout a variety of specialized journals and may well be overlooked in the absence of a lengthy search. Physicians and other hygienists working in the chemical, metallurgical, and mining industries will therefore like to refer to this book because it gathers together the relevant facts and theories from diverse sources, and provides many references to work published in several countries. There are others, including some general physicians and biochemists, not directly concerned with the chemical, metallurgical, and mining industries, who will at times benefit from its use.

The book is clearly written and well produced with an excellent index; although still of convenient size, it now contains a few more pages of text, but its cost has much increased.

T. G. FAULKNER HUDSON

Medical Supply in World War II. Medical Department, United States Army. (Pp. 628; 149 illustrations; 54 maps; 8 tables; \$8.25.) Prepared and published under the direction of Lieutenant General Leonard D. Heaton. Editor in Chief - Colonel Robert S. Anderson. Editor for Medical Supply - Charles M. Wiltse. Office of the Surgeon General: Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1968. (Obtainable from the Government Printing Office, Division of Public Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402. U.S.A.)

This lavishly produced volume is a worthy addition to those already published in this authoritative series giving the official history of the Medical Department of the United States Army in World War II. Despite a troublesome and long gestation period, hampered by retirement and death of contributors, the result is an outstanding achievement and a worthy memorial to those who did not live to see the results of their endeavour. This volume, devoted entirely to the subject of Medical Supply, describes the magnitude of the task in considerable detail, and General Heaton, in his eloquent Foreword, pays a well-merited tribute to the 'limitless devotion' which enabled the United States Army to treat over 14 million patients scattered over the globe.

The first part describes how a nation, largely unprepared for major warfare, set out to procure and distribute medical supplies throughout the world, not forgetting such items as spectacles, artificial eyes, and medical journals. The remaining two parts deal with problems peculiar to the principal theatres of war in which the United States Army was deployed. The volume concludes with three appendices, one of which gives valuable sample equipment lists of their principal medical units corresponding to our Casualty Clearing Station, Static and Field General Hospitals. There is a comprehensive index and numerous beautifully produced plates and maps.

It is disappointing that there is no officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps mentioned in the list of contributors and reviewers or indeed in the index. In view of the operation of lend-lease and reverse lend-lease and the fact that we were fighting common enemies, very largely in the same theatres, this seems an unhappy omission not reflecting

the close liaison which existed between our medical supply organizations during World War II.

With regard to the supply of blood, the Americans appear to have handled this as part of their general medical supply system, whereas the British organized a special service to collect and distribute this peculiarly perishable item. It is noted on page 152 that at first blood was transported by air without refrigeration (although previously chilled) and it was not until much later that an insulated container holding a can of wet ice was developed. This principle was well established in the British Forces from the outset of the war. (Incidentally, it is assumed that the reference to the carriage of whole blood packed in 'dry ice' in the Foreword is an oversight.) The reference on page 73 to the timely discovery of atabrin by the German scientists, which enabled the war to continue against them and their allies despite the capture of the world's main sources of quinine by the Japanese, is a refreshing memory.

Although this book may not be widely read, it will serve as a valuable work of reference to all concerned with medical supply in war. For this the index is especially valuable and could not be faulted. It is well to remember, however, that the lessons of the last war may not be of service in the next.

Over 20 years have elapsed since the events here described and, as General Heaton says, the passage of time has dimmed and softened memories and brought a sense of perspective. But the tragedies of the intervening years arouse speculation as to what might have been accomplished to meet the crying needs of the times were a comparable effort deployed. One is left with a sense of despair at the futility of human endeavour, so well reflected in the sad face of the central figure of the plate on page 330.

M. H. P. SAYERS

NOTICE

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
The TUC Centenary Institute of Occupational Health
 (Director: R. S. F. Schilling, M.D., D.SC., F.R.C.P.,
 D.I.H.)

The next course leading to the degree of Master of Science in Occupational Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of London will start on 28 September 1970 and extend over one academic year. The course will cover all aspects of occupational health and also fulfil the requirements of the Diploma in Industrial Health of the Conjoint Board.

The course is devised to meet the needs of registered medical practitioners in industry or the government services who require an academic training in occupational medicine or who wish to follow a career in research and teaching. Previous experience in occupational medicine is not necessary.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street (Gower Street), London, W.C.1 to whom applications for admission should be addressed before 1 April 1970.



Medical Supply in World War II. Medical Department, United States Army

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