

MEDICINE

Patients Want Sympathy More Than Cures

► PATIENTS want sympathy, patience and understanding from their doctors more than guaranteed cures and "wonder drugs."

Most Americans, 82%, have a family doctor, or at least their own doctor, the one they call first when sick. They are less critical of their own doctor than of doctors in general. And they are less critical of doctors than doctors themselves are.

These findings are from a study sponsored by the American Medical Association. It consisted of a public opinion poll by an independent research organization, Ben Gaffin & Associates of Chicago.

Personal interviews were conducted with 3,000 members of the general public, 500 physicians in private practice, and 100 persons in each of the five following groups: lawyers; pharmacists; registered nurses; executive secretaries of state and county medical societies; and editors, commentators and columnists.

Doctors themselves "overwhelmingly" listed fees as the thing the public would be most likely to criticize about doctors. Yet although 71% of the doctors listed this, only 16% of the public said their own doctors' charges are too high.

While 19% of the public thought their own doctors hard to reach for emergency calls, 32% of the doctors thought this true of doctors. More than half, 51%, of the public, however, thought this was true of doctors in general.

More than a fourth, 27%, of the doctors thought it true that doctors keep patients with appointments waiting too long. Almost half the public, 41%, thought this was true of most doctors, but only 15% thought this true of their own doctor.

Very few of the public, only five percent, thought their own doctor too quick to recommend an operation. Twice as many, 10%, of doctors thought this was true. Many of the public, 31%, thought it true of most doctors.

Science News Letter, February 18, 1956

How Life Is Handed On

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Books of the Week

For the editorial information of our readers, books received for review since last week's issue are listed. For convenient purchase of any U. S. book in print, send a remittance to cover retail price (postage will be paid) to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Request free publications direct from publisher, not from Science Service.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: Vol. XII, No. 47, 96 p., paper, 7 s. 6 d. Reporting the British Association for the Advancement of Science Bristol meeting in 1955.

APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF HUMAN PERSONALITY: Psychiatric Research Reports of the American Psychiatric Association 2—Jacques S. Gottlieb, chairman—*American Psychiatric Association*, 176 p., paper, \$2.00. Papers presented at a regional research conference of the Association.

ATOM HARVEST—Leonard Bertin—*Secker and Warburg*, 253 p., illus., about \$3.60. The British atomic story by a London science writer.

THE COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION AND THE EFFECTS OF SEX HORMONES IN VERTEBRATES: Part 1 of the Comparative Endocrinology of Vertebrates—I. Chester Jones and P. Eckstein, Eds.—*Cambridge University Press*, 253 p., illus., \$8.50. Discussing the sex life of all sorts of creatures, including fish, birds and amphibia.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF FIRST AID—John Henderson—*Duell, Sloan and Pearce and Little, Brown*, 341 p., illus., \$3.50. A book for the home telling what to do and how in case of sudden illness or injury.

THE GOLDEN BOOK OF SCIENCE—Bertha Morris Parker, illustrated by Harry McNaught—*Simon and Schuster*, 97 p., illus., \$3.95. A delightful introduction to the world of animals, plants, rocks, stars and machines.

IMPARTIAL MEDICAL TESTIMONY: A Report by a Special Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York on the Medical Expert Testimony Project—The Committee—*Macmillan*, 188 p., \$3.95. A unique experiment in medicolegal collaboration intended to do away with the "battle of experts."

MAJOR: The Story of a Black Bear—Robert M. McClung, author and illustrator—*Morrow*, 64 p., illus., \$2.00. The story, told for children, of the growth and development of a bear in his natural habitat.

THE MICROBE'S CONTRIBUTION TO BIOLOGY—A. J. Kluyver and C. B. Van Niel—*Harvard University Press*, 182 p., illus., \$4.00. The lowly, but extremely important, microbe accounts for almost one-half of the living protoplasm on earth, and microbes produce 95% of the carbon dioxide essential for plant life.

MINERALS YEARBOOK, 1952: Volume III, Area Reports—Mabel E. Winslow, Ed.—*Govt. Printing Office*, U. S. Bureau of Mines, 1050 p., illus., \$3.75. Covering each of the 48 states, plus chapters on Alaska, the Territories and island possessions in the Pacific and Caribbean, and the Canal Zone. This volume also has a chapter recapitulating its statistics on a regional basis.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 1955: Administrative report without technical reports—Jerome C. Hunsaker, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 68 p., paper, 50 cents. Pointing to the relatively great importance of developing an atomic airplane and an intercontinental ballistic missile.

NATURE'S WONDERS IN FULL COLOR—Charles L. Sherman, Ed.—*Hanover House*, 252 p., illus., \$7.50. For the nature lover.

PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY: Background Material for the Report of the Panel on the Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Volume 2—Robert McKinney, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 749 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Intended to make available to the public a substantial and useful collation of relevant information.

PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY: Report of the Panel on the Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Volume 1—Robert McKinney, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 155 p., illus., paper, 40 cents. Before it has much impact on our lives, peaceful atomic energy must first become economically competitive, the report points out.

PRINCIPLES OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING THERMODYNAMICS—Ernest D. Wilson and Harold C. Ries—*McGraw-Hill*, 376 p., illus., \$7.50. The authors are convinced that a working knowledge of thermodynamics is one of the most valuable assets a chemical engineer can have.

PROSPERITY BEYOND TOMORROW—Samuel H. Ordway, Jr. with foreword by Paul B. Sears—*Ronald*, 208 p., \$3.00. A plea for using our great wealth of leisure in such a way that those who follow after us will also have leisure, freedom and a wealth of natural resources.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN ADOPTION: Report of a Conference—Children's Bureau—*Govt. Printing Office*, 43 p., paper, 20 cents. Reporting a conference exploring possible ways to eliminate the "black market in babies" and other related problems.

PSYCHOLOGISTS IN ACTION—Elizabeth Ogg—*Public Affairs Committee*, Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 229, 28 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. Telling about some of the services and qualifications of the professional psychologist so that you can distinguish him from the quack.

RADIO-PHILATELIA—Herbert Rosen—*Audio-Master*, illus., paper, \$2.00. Telling of postage stamps having to do with radio, television and telecommunications.

THREE MIOCENE PORPOISES FROM THE CALVERT CLIFFS, MARYLAND—Remington Kellogg—*Smithsonian*, 54 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. Describing new species found in 1933 and 1939.

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TECHNOLOGY

South Africans Market Plastic-Wrapped Fruit

► A SOUTH AFRICAN manufacturing firm has made a machine that coats citrus fruits with a plastic film.

The coating is supposed to protect the fruit from its moths and eliminate refrigeration, pre-cooling plants and special railway trucks.

The first shipment of plastic-coated citrus fruit, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported, will be marketed by the South Africans sometime this year.

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