Comment.

Coarctation of the aorta of the adult type is a lesion that is not very frequently recorded, there being only 200 in the series referred to in "Nelson's Living Medicine". In 1928, however, Arendsen reported four cases among 17,000 autopsy cases in Berlin, and if there is even one case among every 17,000 living people the condition must be much more common than has been thought.

No doubt many cases are missed; my patient has not had many medical examinations, but he has had a few, and had reached sixty-three years before his condition was detected. No doubt also many cases that are detected are not reported. I must plead guilty to not reporting two cases in my files in which the clinical and radiological findings were typical. One patient was a man, aged thirty-nine years, examined in 1938; the other patient, examined in 1943 when aged thirty-one years, was one of the less common female patients and almost certainly had also a patent ductus arteriosus.

Among the 200 cases mentioned by Mande E. Abbott in "Nelson's Living Medicine", ten patients reached the seventh decade and two others lived beyond seventy years, one of these two dying at the age of ninety-two years.

My patient will have to live another seven years before he will be able to join this very select group; but if he takes things quietly and is a little lucky he may manage it.

Acknowledgement.

I have to thank Dr. E. W. Frecker for reporting on the X-ray films and fluoroscopic examinations.

Reviews.

OPHTHALMIC NURSING.

The fifth edition of Maurice Whiting's "Ophthalmic Nursing" maintains its previous very high standard and should be in the possession of every ophthalmic nursing tribe.

When the review of the fourth edition was written, we expressed a hope that some improvement in the standards of ophthalmic nursing in Australia would be undertaken in the post-war years. Now, three years later, the position has not improved, but deteriorated. This is mainly due to the introduction of a forty-hour week for all trainees in nursing, but is also partly due to the fact that fewer girls are prepared to undergo the sacrifices which nursing entails. "Ophthalmic Nursing" is again recommended to all ophthalmic nurses who have decided to make nursing their profession and not just another forty-hour week job.

PSYCHODRAMA.

The method of group psychotherapy described by J. L. Moreno in his book "Psychodrama" (Volume I) may best be understood by the presentation of a synopsis of an abridged case history reported in it. Mr. and Mrs. T. were asked to talk about their problems in the presence of an audience of other patients. During the first session Mr. T. told his wife that he was in love with Miss S., a fact that he had previously suppressed. At this point Mrs. T. was instructed to sit among the audience, and a woman took the role of Miss S. Mr. T. was told to each "Miss S." in her part by telling her about the real Miss S. Mr. T. then said that he wanted to marry "Miss S." and get a divorce from Mrs. T.

In the next session Mr. T. and "Miss S." acted what had transpired the day before when he took Miss S. to dinner. On that occasion she had returned a keepsake which he had given her and said that she did not want to take him from his wife. Mrs. T. expressed satisfaction at this, but Mr. T. said that he would separate from her in the hope that Miss S. would change her mind. Miss S. attended the following session and Mrs. T. was absent. Mr. T. and Miss S. then re-enacted their relationship step by step, and the session ended with Miss S. saying she would like to marry him if he obtained a divorce.

Moreno comments: "Two roles in which T. showed a deep complicity of feeling with Miss S. were those of the poet and the adventurer (in which he and his wife had no contact), but the crux of the matter was that Mr. T. wanted to be understood by the presentation of a synopsis of an application of that part of psychoanalysis known as catharsis which Freud relegated to a position of reduced importance as his technique developed. Apart from that, Mr. T. claimed that if he employed psychodrama, he would produce a greater degree of catharsis than that resulting from the prepared text of ordinary drama, not only for actors, but also for the audience, because of the latter's greatest identification. He suggests that in this age of mass production the need for self-expression is greater than hitherto, even for people who are unaware of emotional disturbance.

There is a section on "Psychomusik" which at its simplest consists of spontaneous singing without words before an audience, and another on therapeutic music pictures and television, all of which are adjuvants of psychodrama. This report illustrates the method of psychodrama and the variety of its action. He suggests that in this age of mass production the need for self-expression is greater than hitherto, even for people who are unaware of emotional disturbance.

SEXUAL ENDOCRINOLOGY.

"SEXUAL ENDOCRINOLOGY OF NON-MAMMALIAN VERTEBRATES", by L. H. Bretschneider and J. J. Duyvené de Wit, in collaboration with others, is a little book in an attractive paper cover, which bears a remark indicating that it is "Monographs on the Progress of Research in Holland." It is apparently one of an unusual series, of which thirteen or so have been published.

A foreword by the editors explains that the purpose of the series is to show the world that scientists in the Netherlands have remained active during the five years of German occupation, and it explains certain conditions under which the volumes were written. It may be said at the outset that we cannot remember a publication in this form which is more beautifully set up. The print itself catches the eye immediately and the layout and diagrams provide a model of a standard which only a few printers or publishers reach.

The chapters of the volume under review cover an extremely interesting series of researches on sex and sexual endocrinology in the vertebrates, and although the stress is laid on the non-mammalian vertebrates, the details are of importance to anyone interested in mammalian, and indeed, in human endocrinology.

The first chapter, for example, discusses the little fish—the herring—as a test subject for endocrine experiments, but the experiments are with the mammalian steroid hormones—estrone, estradiol, progesterone and others, including andro-