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NEW BOOKS

Insect Pests. By William Clunie Harvey and Harry Hill. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1940. (10s. 6d. net.)

The subject of insect pests is of topical interest and practical importance. Wars always bring in their train an increased dissemination of this type of nuisance, and the present conflict bids fair to make us all more intimately acquainted with the menace of vermin. The authors of this book have written briefly but in an interesting manner. Stress is laid throughout on the practical aspects of the various problems. The first five chapters describe the characteristics and life-histories of the common insect pests and methods of control and eradication. The second part of the book deals with the principles and practice of disinestation. The various insecticides and their methods of application are clearly described. Special chapters are devoted to the disinestation of ships and the prevention and destruction of insect pests in foodstuffs. Stress is laid on the education of the public, and an appendix gives examples of propaganda leaflets. The book, which will appeal specially to those concerned in public health administration, can be heartily recommended to doctors and laymen as an interesting and accurate guide to an important problem.

The Universe Through Medicine. By J. E. R. McDonagh, F.R.C.S. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1940. (25s. net.)

This volume is difficult for the reviewer who has an innocent and child-like faith in the fundamentals of physics and chemistry as presented in the modern schools of learning. While reading this book we wondered if we were living on the same planet, or whether a new Einstein had arisen to throw our accepted deductions into profound disorder. The author has set out to interpret the world in the terms of activity, which is represented as describing a circle. The chapters, each of which relates to a segment of the circle, deal with subjects ranging from sub-atomic activity to the future of man, approached through the study of medicine. A mighty undertaking.

The whole work is illustrated by the author's experiences in VOL. CXXXV. NO. II. 61 D2
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therapeutics, from which have been deduced some extraordinary hypotheses. Thus the ductless glands are said to be living examples of retrogression, and the hormones to be end—or waste—products like their homologues, the vitamins. It makes one think. Diabetes mellitus is a manifestation of disease which arises when the protein particles are subjected to a grade of dehydration by the invader, generally intestinal toxemia. Perhaps we are hampered by preconceived ideas, but we are not convinced by the proofs or arguments put forward to substantiate these or other beliefs. In one respect we are in complete agreement with the author—when he states categorically that medicine is part of the economy of the soil, plants, animals and man. A word of praise is due to the publishers for the pleasant format of the book.

Field Surgery in Total War. By Douglas W. Jolly, M.B., Ch.B., N.Z., Late Major Spanish Republican Army Medical Service. London: Hamish Hamilton, Limited. 1940. (10s. 6d. net.)

This little book is an account of Medical organisation developed during the Spanish Civil War as seen through the eyes of a New Zealand Surgeon serving with the Republican Army.

The book is divided into two sections, the first of which deals mainly with the so-called Three-Point Forward System of dealing with casualties. Many of the problems raised in this section are of the utmost importance and of special interest to medical and lay A.R.P. workers. The descriptions of hospitals established in caves, tunnels, &c., methods of camouflage, protection against air attacks, mobile operating theatres, &c., are all clear and at present, while we are groping our way to greater security, very much to the point.

The second section is devoted to Regional War Surgery, and Mr. Jolly is an enthusiast in the Plaster method of treatment for wounds of the extremities, made popular and effective by the work of Winnet Orr and later by Trueta and his fellow workers. An appendix deals with the actual working of the Three-Point Forward System in the Spanish War.

The book is modest in price, clearly printed and well illustrated by photographs and drawings. It deals with all the important points of difference between the present Total Warfare with its indiscriminate aerial bombardments and the War of 1914-18, and will be read with the greatest interest by those engaged in the treatment of casualties, whether military or civilian.

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This book marks the beginning of a new venture on the part of the Edinburgh Post-Graduate School which has been made possible by a generous grant from the Trustees of the late Mrs. Honeyman Gillespie. The present volume consists of thirty-three lectures delivered by authorities on their respective subjects. The lectures themselves differ widely in character and subject, and form a judicious and intensely interesting mixture of medical and surgical material. The fact that two of the lectures were delivered by Glasgow professors is an indication of the happy collaboration at present existing between the medical schools of the East and the West. A sad feature is the inclusion of lectures by the late Sir David Wilkie and the late Mr. J. J. M. Shaw, the former contributing a characteristic lecture on the Surgery of Malignant Disease of the Colon, and the latter a lecture on Cancer of the Mouth and Jaws.

As already indicated the volume might almost be termed an "Omnibus" book, including as it does lectures on such diverse subjects as Suicide, Exophthalmic Goitre, Occupational Therapy, &c., but, after all, the general practitioner requires an "Omnibus" education, and he has no time to read the larger textbooks on special subjects. The book is beautifully printed and illustrated, and the very moderate price, which could only have been made possible by the method of publication, should make it popular among the wide circle of practitioners for whom it is intended. Had it been twice the price the present volume would fill an honoured place on many a medical bookshelf, and it is hoped that war conditions will not delay the publication of the second volume. If criticism were possible, it would be with regard to the title; surely the words "and Surgery" should follow Medicine to give a complete (and modern) indication of the scope of the book.
NEW EDITIONS

Practical Biochemistry for Students of Medicine. By A. T. Cameron, D.Sc., F.I.C., and F. D. White, Ph.D., F.I.C. Fourth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1940. (9s. 6d. net.)

In this fourth edition the authors have made few alterations. The book covers the course given to students of medicine in the University of Manitoba and, from the notes at the head of the exercises indicating the time which the authors have found to be adequate, it appears that the course must extend to at least 58 periods of 3 hours each, which indicates a longer and more leisurely course in practical biochemistry than is given to most medical students in this country. The methods described are sound and well tested, as one would expect from Dr. Cameron. The exercise headed Examination of Pathological Urines is rather brief and might be omitted, to allow the subject to be dealt with in more detail during the student's clinical course, when he is in a better position to appreciate the findings. An appendix on first-aid procedures for the immediate treatment of injuries which may happen to the student in the biochemical laboratory is a useful addendum not often seen in books of this type. The printing and illustrations are of the high standard one expects from the publishers.

The Action of Muscles. (Reprinted Second Edition). By Sir Colin McKenzie, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.Ed. Biographical Note by C. V. McKay, M.C., F.R.A.C.Ed. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1940. (12s. 6d.)

This edition is in the nature of a memorial volume to a great anatomist who during his lifetime contributed much to medical knowledge.

The field of the research worker is all too often associated with the laboratory and the microscope, and it is only right that we should on occasion pay tribute to the many great advances made in the clinical field.

It is a matter of mere coincidence that two such workers should be named McKenzie. Sir Colin McKenzie's work on the action of muscles is now accepted as a page in the history of our knowledge. This volume is one that every orthopedic surgeon must and every
physician should read. Informed opinion has always known how much can be done to aid the recovery of paralysed muscles in such conditions as infantile paralysis. Unfortunately, however, there is still too large an element of the profession who place their whole faith in the electric battery, and ignore the essential of intelligent splintage and re-education.

Let the converted read again and be refreshed and the unbeliever cast aside his false idols and begin anew!

Pharmacology, Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By B. N. Ghosh, M.B.E., F.R.F.P.S.G Fifteenth Edition. Calcutta: Hilton & Co. 1940. (15s. net.)

The rapid succession of new editions of this work is a tribute to its great popularity as well as to the ever-increasing advances in this branch of medical science. The ground is well covered. Indeed, the only fault as far as the student is concerned is the absence of light and shade in the presentation of facts. Among subjects dealt with for the first time are the sulphonamides, nicotinic acid and zinc protamine insulin. For those who like the facts presented in concentrated form we can recommend this book.

The Anatomy of the Female Pelvis. By F. A. Maguire, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.Eng., F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. Third Edition. Sydney: Angus & Robertson, Limited. 1940. (10s. 6d.)

The necessity for a third edition of this work proves its value. The reviewer is not familiar with the previous two editions and therefore cannot make any comparisons.

A most helpful pictorial representation of the anatomy of the pelvis and the structures it contains is provided. The portrayal is accurate with the exception (as in Fig. XXII.), that the round ligament of the uterus appears to arise from behind the tube and the ovarian ligament from in front. The two branches of the internal iliac artery (hypogastric) in the same figure are both labelled "posterior division." Generally, this main section of the book has been assembled with obvious care and attention to detail.

The last two chapters give the impression of having been hurriedly written. In that on "Applied Anatomy" (17 pages) reference is made to Surgical Procedure and Pathology. The last chapter (12 pages) is entitled "The Physical Examination." In the first page it is
said that "the object is to obtain all the information possible by the use of two hands, one in the vagina, the other on the lower part of the anterior abdominal wall." Except in the gravid state at or near term it is impossible to introduce the whole hand into the normal vagina. Other inaccuracies could be cited. The book, without this chapter, would leave a better impression on the reader. As an anatomical atlas it has much to recommend it.

Recent Advances in Endocrinology. By A. T. Cameron. Fourth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1940. (18s. net).

Endocrinology is one of the rapidly growing departments of biological science. It is very difficult to keep abreast with its modern developments and at the same time see wood and trees.

Professor Cameron is to be congratulated on keeping his well-known and much used volume up-to-date. In doing so he has conferred a great benefit on all interested in the practice of medicine. The chief alterations in the present edition concern the gonads and the anterior pituitary, although much new work has had to be recorded relating to the other glands. We have no hesitation in once again recommending this book to all who desire an interesting and critical account of the recent work on the ductless glands, their physiology, biochemistry, pathological significance and therapeutic applications.

An Introduction to Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By J. A. Gunn. Sixth Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1940. (6s. net.)

The great problem of the teacher in a medical school is to integrate the various subjects of the curriculum. This has become increasingly more difficult as the various medical sciences have steadily advanced. For the student a bridge from one part of the curriculum to another may mean all the difference between an orderly and interesting journey and chaotic stumbling. Pace the naturopath, drugs are likely to remain of importance in the practice of medicine, and an intelligent appreciation of their actions and uses is a necessity for the physician. This little book by Professor Gunn is admirably adapted as an introduction to pharmacology for the student who has completed his course in physiology. The sixth edition has been brought in line with the recent advances in drug therapy. We can heartily recommend this book, and wish it a long and successful life.