NEW BOOKS

Psychology of Sex. By Havelock Ellis. Pp. ix+313. London: Messrs William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. 1933. Price 12s. 6d.

This book is an introduction to the study of one of the most important sets of problems which concern the individual. It is primarily intended for medical readers because their formal education scarcely deals with the subject, but it is not too technical for the educated layman, especially as a glossary is included to explain the terms peculiar to the topic. Havelock Ellis' monumental work Studies on the Psychology of Sex has gained for him such a reputation that his authority is everywhere accepted. This volume is not merely a summary of the more important work, but it has been freshly written for the special purpose noted above. There is nothing fundamentally new here but the presentation. The style is direct and easy to read, its only blemishes being the very occasional use of a clumsy term such as "nervosity." The book can be confidentially recommended to medical students, practitioners, and selected members of the public.

Organic Chemistry for Medical Students. By George Barger. Pp. xi+249. London: Gurney and Jackson. 1932. Price 12s. 6d.

The main appeal to the mind which is made by organic chemistry is its orderly and logical development from the fundamental fact that the quadrivalent carbon atom is capable of satisfying its own valencies and so forming chains. Any text-book of organic chemistry must make this appeal if it is to be considered good. If it is addressed to a particular group of readers it must, in addition, but without sacrificing the general basic virtue, so manipulate the material as to satisfy the needs of its readers without the inclusion of irrelevant or superfluous matter.

Professor Barger has, to some extent, deliberately abandoned the extreme logical development to which the subject lends itself; instead of methane, he takes alcohol as his starting-point, and so, for the sake of an interesting opening, involves himself in the necessity of retracing his steps. In doing so he has a number of precedents, but it is doubtful whether the interest of the well-known alcohol is much greater than that of marsh gas or the equally well-known petrol which is at least a mixture of hydrocarbons.

Throughout the book, however, the essential importance of molecular structure is stressed, and this, after all, is the main thing. It is of no
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use the student learning twelve ways of making alcohol if he is not clear as to what an alcohol really is. When Professor Barger introduces and explains a reaction or a method of preparation, it is used not as an end in itself but as a means of illustrating the all-important structure and the behaviour of particular common atomic groupings. This treatment is wholly admirable in any text-book of organic chemistry, and in this one it is admirably done.

The second basis of criticism is the choice of material and its manipulation for the special needs of medical students—the treatment of the subject, in other words, as part of a vocational training. Organic chemistry leads to the study of physiology, and partly thence and partly directly to pharmacology and bacteriology, and so to medicine itself. Hence a book for medical students may (indeed should) jettison the detailed consideration of dyestuffs and their precursors, terpenes, and alkaloids, which figure so largely in the curriculum of the general science student. It should draw its illustrations from compounds which the medical student will meet again, and should deal especially with those important classes of compounds, the proteins, carbohydrates, and lipins which are so important to one who is to deal with life and which (except for carbohydrates) are so summarily dismissed or even ignored in the book of general organic chemistry. In this respect Professor Barger's book is far superior to the non-specialised books of equal or even greater size, but it may be complained that in some cases the treatment is too elementary or over-simplified.

In some respects at least the best critics of a book are those to whom it is addressed, and it is therefore of importance to note that medical students like Professor Barger's book.

It would be carping criticism to call special attention to slight errors overlooked in proof-reading, for no book is free from them, and in this one there are, indeed, very few.

Lateral Dominance and Visual Fusion. By Charles A. Selzer.
Harvard Monographs on Education, No. 12. Pp. xv+119, with 5 figures. Cambridge (Mass.): Harvard University Press (London: Humphrey Milford). 1933. Price 6s.

In this monograph, which embodies the results of an important investigation conducted by a prominent American educationist, various reading difficulties are traced to the combined effects of heterophoria and “suspenopsia.” By means of special tests, the author has shown that suspenopsia, or alteration of the visual fields in binocular vision, is a common phenomenon, involving no disability when the visual fields correspond, but leading to confusing changes of the image in the presence of heterophoria. Children showing such reading peculi-
arities as mirror-reading, reversal of the order of letters, and omission and insertion of letters were all found to suffer from slight lateral imbalance of the ocular muscles. Contrary to general ophthalmological opinion, the author found that such disabilities could be overcome with the aid of corrective lenses.

_The Common Causes of Chronic Indigestion: Differential Diagnosis and Treatment._ By THOMAS C. HUNT, B.A., D.M.(Oxon.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). Pp. vii + 341, with 16 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1933. Price 12s. 6d.

The aim of this work is to provide the practitioner with an indication of the lines along which a digestive, or apparently digestive, case should be investigated, and to discuss the interpretations to be put upon the facts so elicited. The author himself readily admits that, in the present state of knowledge, it is not possible accurately to correlate pathological findings with clinical manifestations, so that rigid tables of symptomatology and differential diagnosis cannot be constructed. He has, however, given a clear, well-documented summary of present-day views, appropriately coloured by his own experience and opinions. The result is a handbook of convenient size, which is practical, readable, and should prove of considerable service in clarifying the reader's views as to the various possibilities, quà diagnosis and treatment, presented by that commonly encountered type of patient, the chronic dyspeptic.

_The Biochemistry of Medicine._ By A. T. CAMERON and C. R. GILMOUR. Pp. x+506, with 31 illustrations. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1933. Price 21s.

The Professors of Biochemistry and of Medicine in the University of Manitoba have collaborated in attempting a new treatment of a subject on which a number of books, large and small, have recently appeared.

A very brief outline of human biochemistry (20 pages) is followed by a more detailed consideration of carbohydrate metabolism and its disorders, with a chapter on normal fat metabolism to explain the formation of ketone bodies. Then follow sections on normal and abnormal protein metabolism, water metabolism, and inorganic metabolism. A chapter on respiratory disorders is followed by one on the "organic constituents of blood"—haemoglobin, plasma proteins, lipides, and the substances concerned in blood clotting—and the diseases associated with them. The endocrine secretions and vitamins are considered, and accounts are then given of liver functions and their tests, gastric functional tests, and a miscellaneous chapter.
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The book is no mere catalogue of laboratory tests used in medicine (and no details of chemical manipulation are given), but is a genuine attempt to supply the physician, whether recently qualified or not, with the means of understanding the chemistry underlying so many of the conditions he meets, and the laboratory tests he may have performed.

On the whole, it succeeds in its purpose, but it is marred by a number of inaccuracies, many of which are doubtless due to the dogmatism necessitated by the attempt to cover briefly so large a field. Bibliographies, without pretence at completeness, are appended to the various chapters. They suffer from the undue preponderance of American references, a feature which one is learning to associate with American books, though not with Canadian.

_Medicine: Essentials for Practitioners and Students._ By G. E. Beaumont, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 719, with 61 illustrations. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1932. Price 21s.

Dr Beaumont has succeeded in producing a work on the practice of medicine which deserves to be widely known by the student. Its virtues are many in that, without being a cram, all the essentials of diagnosis are included and a definite course of treatment recommended. Moreover, the work is well up to date and the practitioner, who may confidently consult it, will find scattered through its pages evidence of a broad clinical outlook as well as precise recommendations as to the investigations likely to be of value in determining the appropriate treatment. With the help of well-constructed diagrams, the section on nervous diseases is in advance of many works in current use. In recommending the book both to the senior student and the practitioner we anticipate as keen a demand for it as for the well-known work of which Dr Beaumont is part author.

_Cardiovascular Pain as a Biochemical Problem._ By Gordon Lambert, B.A., M.D. Pp. xi + 75. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1933. Price 6s.

Impressed with the generally accepted fact that morbid anatomy has failed to solve the riddle of angina pectoris, the author, without presenting much convincing evidence to support his thesis, suggests that the solution of the problem is to be found somewhere within the realms of the biochemist. After reviewing the older hypotheses, which in themselves are now chiefly of historical interest, the author discusses the vascular, muscular, and neural factors in the production of cardiac pain. This section of the book is of interest, but the author fails to make the most of his opportunities. Little is to be
gained by quoting the opinion of others unless judgment is passed and the threads woven into a coherent whole. The current view, which attributes the production of the anginous attack to a disproportionate between the supply and the demand for oxygen by the active cardiac muscle, has so much in its favour that it is surprising that the author should not have devoted more attention to this aspect, which is essentially a problem of biochemistry. Whether the coronary arteries are contracted or dilated is not of fundamental importance, provided oxygen is delivered at a sufficient tension to the active cells. The recent work of Clark, Gaddie and Stewart on the frog's heart serves to indicate the complexity of the problem and might well provide a clue to the abrupt chemical changes which doubtless antedate and accompany the attack of angina pectoris as it occurs in man.

Psycho-Analysis and its Derivatives. By H. Crichton-Miller.
M.A. (Edin. and Pavia), M.R.C.P. Pp. 254. Home University Library. London: Thornton Butterworth. 1933. Price 2s. 6d.

The aim of the author, himself a psycho-therapist of the eclectic English school, is to give an impartial account of the rival systems of Freud, Jung, and Adler. Chief attention is naturally devoted to the Freudian psycho-analytical theory, of which Jung's "Analytical Psychology" and Adler's "Individual Psychology" are derivatives. A chapter is also devoted to Prinzhorn whose views, though not derived from psycho-analysis, are relevant. While the possibility of maintaining impartiality in questions of psycho-therapeutics may be questioned, the author is to be congratulated on the present volume. The most difficult of the author's tasks, viz., the descriptions of Freudian theory, is the least successfully executed. The author's attempt to make his account complete makes it over-condensed for the uninitiated reader, and the initiated reader will feel that meagre justice has been done to the significance of the "super-ego" concept as an explanatory principle in Freud's psycho-pathology.

The Chemistry and Physics of Contraceptives. By Cecil I. B. Voge.
Pp. 288, with 30 illustrations. London: Jonathan Cape, Ltd. 1933. Price 12s. 6d.

Whatever opinion the doctor may hold about contraception, he should have information of the numerous methods which are so widely employed since they may have a considerable bearing on his practice. The information is not always easy to procure, especially as most books on "birth control" are written in a manner which is not only unscientific but distasteful. This book is quite unlike any others on the subject we have met. It deals with the general biological and medical aspects of spermicides, the particular properties of all available
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commercial products, the chemistry of rubber and the effects of age, climate, and so on. It thus provides a wealth of information quite unprocurable elsewhere. In a future edition certain omissions might be made; it is unnecessary to use three equations to explain to the scientific reader (for whom it is written) that CO₂ is formed by the action of acid on carbonate (p. 93), and other similar passages should go. One is surprised, too, that no reason can be found for the spermicidal action of water (p. 82). Setting these small matters aside, the book is a really valuable contribution to a great problem.

NEW EDITIONS

Black's Medical Dictionary. Edited by John D. Comrie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Eleventh Edition. Pp. viii + 1002, with 509 illustrations. London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1933. Price 18s.

The eleventh edition of this standard and almost classical work has appeared only eighteen months after its predecessor, a fact which demonstrates that it continues to answer most successfully a wide popular demand for information and guidance on medical matters expressed with as little technicality as possible. In this new edition the article on Dosage has been entirely reset to conform to the new issue of the British Pharmacopoeia, and the meticulous care of the editor is further evidenced in a number of minor alterations which bring the volume thoroughly up to date. Though the book is primarily intended for lay workers in the profession, yet the vast number of medical terms and diseases which are defined and briefly described, some of which are bound to be unfamiliar to the most erudite practitioner, make it a most useful work of reference for medical men themselves.

The Principles and Practice of Obstetrics. By Joseph B. De Lee. Sixth Edition. Pp. 1165, with 1221 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co. Ltd. 1933. Price 60s.

There are few names better known in the field of Obstetrics than that of Joseph De Lee. For many years his writings have carried with them that imprint of authority which has pervaded each succeeding edition of his well-known treatise on Obstetrics, one of the largest volumes published on the subject. The attention to detail evident in every chapter makes the book worth extensive study. There is little departure from the plan which has been followed in the preceding editions; in this last, additions have been made on matters which have