BOOK REVIEWS.

A Companion to Manuals of Practical Anatomy, by E. B. Jamieson, M.D.
7th edition. Pp. 736. Price 18/- net. London: Oxford Medical Publications. 1950.

As this edition contains little alteration from the previous one, review is unnecessary, indeed, of this excellent little ready reckonor of anatomy one might say—born 1913, first edition six impressions, second two impressions, fourth two impressions, sixth two impressions, seventh edition 1950, no comment.

The essentials of regional anatomy and embryology are presented briefly but with extraordinary clarity and completeness. The volume is very compact and easily carried in the jacket pocket which should be its normal habitat for those engaged in the learning or teaching of practical anatomy, for this is not a book of reference but a companion to be kept at hand to answer queries on the spot—rarely will it be found lacking. This book will continue to attract an ever widening circle of readers and can be particularly recommended to medical students.

A Synopsis of Surgical Anatomy, by A. Lee McGregor, M.Ch., F.R.C.S.
Pp. 778. Price 25/-. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1950.

That a book of this type should have reached a seventh edition so comparatively soon after the reprint of the sixth edition and the fact that seven editions have appeared in eighteen years, would appear to prove its usefulness and the demand for it.

This edition has been completely revised and includes new chapters on trans-thoracic surgery and on surgery of the blood vessels. This last is a concise account of some of the work done by eminent men in the field of surgery of the great vessels. Portal obstruction is dealt with at some length. The section on the surgery of the Sympathetic Nervous System has been considerably re-written and brought into line with modern thought. Here Mr. McGregor has done justice to a subject which is still extremely controversial.

The new illustrations are up to the high standard of those of the earlier editions and the book should enhance the appeal which earlier editions have made to senior students, practitioners and aspirants to higher surgical qualifications for whom the book was primarily intended.

Textbook of Physiology and Biochemistry, by G. H. Bell, B.Sc., M.D.,
F.R.F.P.S., F.R.S.E.; J. N. Davidson, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.F.P.S.,
F.R.I.C., F.R.S.E., and H. Scarborough, M.B., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.E.
Pp. 918. Price 45/- Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1950.

It is a common experience of clinical teachers that students commencing work in the wards display a deplorable ignorance of elementary, but practically important, aspects of the ‘pre-clinical sciences,’ despite their pre-occupation with these subjects during the preceding two years. The clinical teacher may therefore be excused if he sometimes questions whether it is entirely wise to entrust the medical student’s earlier education solely to the non-clinical medical scientist, whose enthusiasm for his subject as an independant academic discipline may lead him to cloy the students’ not unlimited powers of mental assimilation with too lavish, or to indiscriminate, a dispensation of his knowledge. The participation, therefore, of an experienced teaching physician in the production of this book should be welcomed by all clinical teachers, because it might be expected that his collaboration would ensure that the primary object of a medical education be not forgotten, namely, to produce sound doctors rather than embryo scientists. The book is unusual also, as modern textbooks go, in that it deals both with physiology and biochemistry, the two non-clinical authors being experienced teachers and investigators in these subjects respectively. The combination of these two closely related subjects within a single volume should clearly be advantageous to the student; although it results in a somewhat bulky, and not inexpensive, volume.

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Cursory inspection might suggest that the book is more suitable for the postgraduate than for the undergraduate student, but further examination dispels this thought. For although a wealth of information is given, much of it is too superficial for postgraduate needs. Indeed, the preface states that the book is intended as an introduction to the study of physiology and biochemistry. It is to be hoped, however, that the novice, if his chemical background is no more profound than that of the average medical student, will be enlightened and stimulated by the wealth of chemical formulae in the biochemical sections of the book, and that he will not be repelled or discouraged.

Perusal of the book as a whole reveals that an abundance of up-to-date information is lucidly presented, and that it is liberally illustrated by photographs, diagrams, charts, and tables. Indeed some of the information is perhaps, too up-to-date. Thus, Lemberg and Legge's views on bile pigment metabolism, by no means generally accepted, are set forth unreservedly, and without reference to the older teaching. On the other hand, in connection with the determination of prothrombin time, Russel viper venom is stated to be the best laboratory source of thromboplastin.

Perhaps the most satisfactory sections in the book are those dealing with the more conventional or academic aspects of physiology. The clinical applications of physiology and biochemistry are not always so happily handled. Thus, in connection with renal function, several pages are devoted to a description of insulin and diodone clearance tests, but no mention is made of any of the simpler renal function tests commonly employed in clinical practice. Under the heading of uraemia, the only cause cited is bilateral nephrectomy. Indeed, the influence of the clinical author is not easy to discern. His function would appear to be the provision of isolated paragraphs and odd 'snippets' of information rather than influencing the moulding of the work as a whole. In this respect, then, the book is disappointing. The hope that the collaboration of the specialist authors with a general physician would result in a book giving a worthwhile vocational or utilitarian slant on physiology and biochemistry, without necessarily violating the purity of the 'hand-maiden,' has not, in the opinion of the reviewer, been completely fulfilled.

Recent Advances in Chemotherapy, by G. M. Findlay, C.B.E., Sc.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. 3rd edition. Vol. II. Pp. 597. Price 36/-. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1951.

The first volume of this new edition of Findlay's book has already been reviewed in this journal. The present volume which is wholly devoted to the chemotherapy of malaria, maintains the same high standard of scholarship. The subject is, of course, a big one in which many advances have been made since the publication of the last edition of this book, but there can be little new knowledge of significance in this field that will not be found in this very comprehensive review, or publications not listed in the extensive bibliography.

This is not a textbook for the undergraduate or even post-graduate student, but as a work of reference it should prove invaluable to all who are interested in the malaria problem, whatever their angle of approach.

Dible and Davie's Pathology, An Introduction to Medicine and Surgery, by J. Henry Dible, M.B.(Glas.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.). 3rd edition. Pp. 963, with 417 illustrations. Price 54/-. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1950.

The third edition of this excellent and comprehensive textbook of pathology follows similar lines to the previous editions. The principles of general and regional pathology, bacteriology and parasitology are described in a concise and clear-cut manner and their applications to medicine and surgery are shown. The book differs from many manuals of pure morbid anatomy in that 'structural change and functional alterations in disease are considered together.' In this way the medical student, in his early clinical studies, can appreciate the application of the basic sciences of anatomy and physiology to medicine.

The book will always find a place in the library of the medical student, especially during his instruction in pathology.
A Synopsis of Anaesthesia, by J. Alfred Lee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.M.S.A., D.A., F.F.A., R.C.S. Pp. 356. Price 15/-, Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1950.

This excellent book has been considerably altered and brought up to date since the first edition was published three years ago. While there is a wealth of information in compact form which is of use for quick reference, the main value of the book is to the student of anaesthesia as a means of revision before Part II of the examination for the Diploma in Anaesthetics.

The more recent subjects on which there is additional information, are intravenous procaine, vagus block, intra-arterial thiopentone, and anaesthesia in surgery of the heart. The chapter on muscle relaxants has been completely rewritten so as to give a comprehensive view of this important subject.

A Handbook on the Diseases of Children, by Bruce Williamson, M.D., F.R.C.P. 6th edition. Pp. 440. Price 17/6, Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1951.

The curriculum of most British medical schools allocates an absurdly short period for the study of Paediatrics. It is not surprising, therefore, that the harassed undergraduate places a high premium on brevity when choosing a textbook on the Diseases of Children. The present volume, compact in size, beautifully produced, and inexpensive by today's standards, must be a first choice for many.

Four years have elapsed since the previous edition and much revision has been undertaken, in the main, adequately. Omissions are inevitable in a book of this size. While the classification of nephritis is a particularly thorny subject, it is surprising to find no reference to Ellis' work. Nor is there any indication of the long-term sequelae of pylonephritis.

In considering the etiology of diabetes insipidus, syphilis is emphasized—a rare disease nowadays—yet the possible association with the Hand-Schüller-Christian Syndrome is not mentioned. In older children, who normally co-operate well, the administration of posterior pituitary extract in the form of snuff avoids the necessity for repeated injections.

Is it altogether wise in the treatment of hypoglycaemic coma to recommend subcutaneous adrenaline? The inexperienced houseman has been known to withhold intravenous glucose for a dangerously long time, simply because its use did not immediately occur to him.

Rickets and scurvy are well presented, apart from the complete absence of any description of the x-ray appearances of the long bones. The importance of the newer antibiotics is not underestimated and there is inference to the possible roles of cortisone and ACTH. To other recent preparations, humbler perhaps, but valuable to the family doctor, are soluble aspirin and hexamine-mandelate. The colour photographs are not very true to life, and there is an unconvincing radiogram of the heart in Fallot's tetralogy.

In spite of these minor criticisms, the student will find Dr. Williamson's Handbook a first-class investment.

Anopheles and Malaria in the Near East, by H. S. Leeson, F.R.E.S., W. M. R. Lumsden, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M.&H., and J. Yofe, M.D., D.T.M., T. T. Macan, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.E.S. Pp. 223. Price 35/- net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1950.

This is the 7th of the Series of Memoirs published by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It deals with the Anopheles and Malaria of a geographical area which includes Transjordan, Syria, Iraq and Iran, and is in the form of three papers of independent authorship. Based mainly on surveys carried out by Malaria Field Laboratories of the R.A.M.C. during the second World War, these papers give not only a comprehensive account of anophelism and the methods of survey, but also a very clear general picture of the areas involved. The data obtained on surveys being very complete when one remembers that some at least of these must have been carried through with urgency owing to military necessity. Excellent photographs and maps illustrate the text throughout. The memoir will be of considerable interest not only to entomologists but also to medical officers of the armed forces.
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*Genetics in Ophthalmology*, by Arnold Sorsby, Research Professor in Ophthalmology, Royal College of Surgeons and Royal Eye Hospital; Surgeon, Royal Eye Hospital, London. Pp. 251. Price 42/-. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1951.

The enthusiasm of the author is conveyed to the reader in this book. As might be expected those aspects of the complex subject, to which he has contributed so much, are the more lucidly expounded. The varieties of corneal dystrophy are presented in a most acceptable tabular form and are beautifully illustrated. The sections devoted to the retina and choroid demonstrate the inherent difficulties of the subject and the genetic puzzle of Leber’s disease is particularly well described. The first and last sections of the book are less satisfactory than the larger central one. This is probably due to the necessity to compress the material into brief space. More detailed definition of concepts fundamental to modern genetics would be of help to the uninstructed reader. The selected bibliography is arranged at the end of the book and follows the textual sequence. This makes for ease in reference and is a practice which might well be copied.

*Injuries of the Knee Joint*, by I. S. Smillie, O.B.E., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.F.P.S. Pp. 391. Price 50/- net. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1951.

The second edition of this book follows the plan of the first in analysing the author’s extensive experience of lesions of the knee. The series has now been extended to nine thousand cases.

From this large mass of material, many interesting lessons have been learned, most on orthodox lines but a few which are not in line with current opinion. For these latter Mr. Smillie makes out a well-documented case. His operation for rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament by using the medial meniscus was greeted with some scepticism but his follow-up results suggest that a further trial is justified.

On p. 22 one still sees a large heading ‘Clinical Features of Haemarthrosis’ but this is not followed by any description of the lesion. This minor oversight does not detract from the general excellence of lay-out. The production is magnificent but probably is reflected in the price.

This book can be confidently recommended to all general and orthopaedic surgeons who wish a well-balanced treatise on the knee joint based on experience.

*Child Health in Warm Climates*, by Dr. W. K. Blackie. Pp. 182. Price 7/6. 1st edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1950.

The care of children under tropical and subtropical conditions is a vastly important subject. Dr. Blackie has briefly set forth the basic principles for the guidance of parents and nurses. There is a great deal of common-sense advice in these pages; and a great deal of inaccurate scientific information. Moreover there is a tendency to lapse into a medical jargon unintelligible to the layman. The diet sheets are excellent but the author has apparently not heard of pre-cooked cereals or of tinned bone and vegetable broth. Few modern housewives will stand over one pot for 30 minutes!

The statement that childhood convulsions are due mainly to brain disease or to absorbed toxins may cause alarm and is probably untrue. No good would be done by mentioning epilepsy. It is just not advisable to give this kind of information to non-medical readers, and especially to parents. They are likely to be unimpressed also by a detailed account of the malaria cycle. However, if a few fathers and mothers read and apply the chapters on the importance of sleep and the dangers of the tropical sun, this little book will have justified its publication.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

*Introduction to Ophthalmology*, by N. A. Stutterheim, M.D. (Rand.). Pp. 43. Price 7/6 net. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1950.