NEW BOOKS

Shock. Blood Studies as a Guide to Therapy. By John Scudder, M.D., Med.Sci.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 323, with 55 illustrations and 5 plates. London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1940. Price 30s. net.

This work is the result of a great deal of personal investigation of cases of shock and of an extensive analysis of the literature of the subject. The influence of such factors as toxæmia, loss of circulating fluid, adrenal exhaustion and nervous disturbances in the production of shock is reviewed and the author points out that the one common denominator in all cases, however produced, is a rise in the plasma potassium. Of the many methods of demonstrating the presence of peripheral stasis, estimation of the specific gravity of the blood is the best because of its accuracy, speed and greater sensitivity. Indeed, this may show evidence of change many hours in advance of a fall in blood pressure.

Considerable attention is given to the effects of different forms of treatment and definite opinions are expressed on their relative merits.

There is a very full bibliography, and in addition the author gives an account of the historical development of the subject from 1492.

Casually. The Training, Organisation, and Administration of Civil Defence Casualty Services. By G. B. Shirlaw, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.(Edin.), L.R.F.P. & S.(Glas.), with a Foreword by Oliver Simonds, M.P., and an Introduction by Clement Francis. Pp. xix+281, with 70 diagrams and illustrations. London: Secker & Warburg. 1940. Price 8s. 6d. net.

There are many books on First Aid, on Gas Warfare, and on the various aspects of A.R.P., but, until this book appeared, there was none available which gave a comprehensive view of all aspects of the Defence Casualty Services.

The book is divided into three parts, but these are interrelated and should be considered together. Part I deals with the general features of air raids, the different kinds of bombs likely to be used, and the effects produced by them, especially the types of wounds and injuries they cause. At the end of this part the author stresses the great importance of rapid diagnosis and adequate classification of injuries, so that treatment may be begun as soon as possible and that the most urgent cases will get priority.

Part II is concerned more especially with the essentials for an efficient Casualty Service Scheme. The Government scheme is outlined, and the author, as the result of his own experience, offers
criticism of a constructive character where that seems necessary. On p. 133 it is stated that "In the Government scheme, as it is at present, there is no provision at all made for real classification. . . . There is certainly no provision for classification at Casualty Clearing Hospitals. . . ." This criticism has to some extent been met in the Edinburgh area by the appointment of "Receiving Officers" at all the Casualty Receiving Hospitals in that area, whose duty is primarily to sort out the casualties into their appropriate categories so that time may be saved and treatment by the surgeons may be used to the best advantage. "Hospital Cities" are favoured as the most suitable and most economical means of dealing with casualties. This means that as soon as possible after immediate treatment a casualty should be evacuated to such a "hospital city," where his whole treatment to convalescence could be carried out with every facility to hand and a minimum of risk of disturbance from enemy action.

In Part III administration is the main theme and the various posts and services are considered from this point of view. The need is emphasised for proper routine in instruction in the keeping of records and stores, and helpful schemes and examples are given.

There is also a useful appendix and a bibliography on all aspects of A.R.P. The book is well arranged and printed and remarkably free from printing errors.

It is obvious throughout that the author has had first-hand experience of all aspects of casualty service, both in the early days of A.R.P. in this country and, under actual war conditions, in Spain, and this gives all his opinions and suggestions added weight. The relation of the medical part of the casualty service to the other parts, such as Rescue Parties, Fire Parties, etc., is indicated, and intelligent co-operation is shown to be essential for the efficient working of the Service as a whole.

This book should be studied by all those who have to take an active part in War Emergency Medical Work. The author is to be congratulated on bringing together in compact and accessible form a vast amount of valuable information most essential at the present time.

**Electrocardiography.** By C. C. Maher, B.S., M.D., and P. H. Wosika, M.D., M.S. Third Edition. Pp. xvi+334, with 147 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1940. Price 22s.

There can be no doubt that the use of the electrocardiogram in cardiac diagnosis has grown rapidly in the past few years. This is due to the fact that its field of usefulness has greatly increased, especially in relation to the recognition of coronary disease. The
introduction of a fourth standard lead has made new information possible, and the electrocardiogram has become almost essential in the diagnosis of many cardiac cases.

The text of this book deals with the technique of electrocardiography and with the physiological principles underlying the various lesions. Special emphasis is laid on interpretation of records and the large number of illustrations critically analysed is a valuable feature. The authors have kept in mind the needs of the practitioner who is interested in this specialty and to him the book can be thoroughly recommended.

**Authority, Observation and Experiment in Medicine.** By W. W. C. Topley, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Pp. 46. London: Cambridge University Press. 1940. Price 1s. 6d. net.

This little book embodies the Linacre Lecture for 1940. Topley is unable to accept the unqualified eulogies pronounced by previous lecturers on Linacre. He was certainly a great pioneer in the new age of scholarship, but as a physician the only reason he did no more harm than he did was because the times were too much for him. His great achievement was the translation of Galen's Greek into admirable Latin, and his work represented the last stage of the age of authority.

Topley traces the beginnings of scientific medicine from this time and emphasises the importance of the laboratory in the advance of medicine. He believes that it is from the laboratory that the great medical discoveries will come in the future as they have come in the past.

This is an interesting and stimulating lecture well worthy of the attention of the profession.

**The Physiology of Sex.** By Kenneth Walker. Pp. xi+157. London: Penguin Books Ltd. 1940. Price 6d.

The author has taken a serious decision in writing a book on Sex for the general public, yet there is much to be said for making authoritative information on such a subject freely available. The book deals with normal and abnormal physiology, and there are chapters on Love, Marriage, Divorce, Sexual Deviations and Education in Sex matters. The writer states that putting the world right has never appealed to him as an occupation for which he was in any way fitted. He has dealt with the subject in a strictly scientific and impartial manner, and has refrained from emphasising his own views.

The book is one which might well be extremely useful to the practitioner of medicine, though many might have doubts as to the desirability of its appearing on the railway bookstall.
New Books

_The Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services in the War of 1914-1918._ Vol. II. By Colonel A. G. Butler, D.S.O., V.D., B.A., M.B. Pp. xvi + 1010, with 212 illustrations and maps. Obtainable in Great Britain at Australia House and from all booksellers. Price 21s. net.

The history of the Australian Medical Corps in the Great War is being published in three volumes, the first dealing with operations in Gallipoli, Palestine and New Guinea, the third with the special services, chemical warfare, problems of repair, and of restitution and statistics. We have received from the publishers, the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, a copy of the second volume which concerns an account of Australian activities on the Western Front.

This volume tells the story of the Australian effort from 1915 to the end of the war. It sets forth the difficulties encountered under new and unexperienced conditions and how they were overcome. The account is frank and critical. Full access has been had to official records and to private diaries, so that a very complete view of conditions can be obtained.

The work is a wonderful story of the gallant part played by the Australian Forces in the fight for freedom. It should prove of interest to the general reader as well as to the student of medical military affairs.

_Diseases of the Urethra and Penis._ By E. D'Arcy McCrea, M.D., M.Ch.(Dub.), F.R.C.S.I., F.R.C.S.(Eng.). Pp. 306, with 181 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1940. Price 21s. net.

This volume presents a comprehensive study of the subject, brought fully up to date. The matter is presented in a logical sequence and there are sixteen chapters which cover all phases, commencing with a chapter on the anatomy and development, continuing with anomalies and malformations.

The operative correction of the various types of epispadias and hypospadias receive particular attention and the details of approved operations are illustrated. Injuries, diseases, and inflammatory conditions are all clearly presented and fully discussed.

Based as this work is on considerable personal experience, the author has succeeded in making it essentially practical, particularly with regard to treatment, and for this reason the monograph should prove of considerable value.

The illustrations throughout are good and explanatory, and further, the text is enhanced by references to the literature at the conclusion of each chapter. This work is undoubtedly one which can be thoroughly recommended.
New Books

Clinical Toxicology. By CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D., Ph.D. Pp. 309, with 7 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1940. Price 18s. net.

This book has been written especially as a guide to general practitioners and not for experienced practising specialists or laboratory scientists. In its small compass it contains a large amount of valuable information. Not only does it deal with the actions of important poisons, but also discusses the treatment of poisoning. An outline is given of the methods used in the diagnosis of poisoning and of the outstanding symptoms which may be encountered. A special section is devoted to the chief methods used for the identification of toxic substances in tissues and fluids. The book is fully up to date and can be recommended as making easily available many data on various aspects of poisoning.

Surgery of the Hand. By MARC ISELIN, M.D. Translated by T. M. J. d'OFFAY, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. Eng., and THOMAS B. MOUAT, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Eng. Pp. xiii+353, with 135 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1940. Price 21s.

This very complete treatise on Surgery of the Hand by the well-known French surgeon to the American Hospital in Paris is already in its third French edition and has now happily been translated into English.

The merit of the work is beyond question, as are the opinions on the various subjects dealt with. Although complete in itself it is the first of two volumes, and is termed by the author the "Practitioners' Book"; while the second, which will deal with reparative surgery of the hand, is called the "Surgeons' Book," and will be published shortly.

The volume is divided into four parts: Wounds; Infections; Closed Traumata (fractures principally); The Assessment of Incapacity. The last gives complete details of percentage disability of every lesion of the hand from a snapping thumb, where the imputability is often very debatable, to the avulsion of any of the finger tendons.

Some interesting statistics are given. It is said that the comparative cost of wounds of the hand is 46 per cent. of the total sum paid as compensation for all injuries. Wounds of the fingers accounted in Zurich for the greatest mortality—greater considerably than that produced by compound fracture of the femur.

The social problem of hand wounds is discussed and the great importance of organising the treatment of hand conditions is pointed out, but Iselin feels that there is little to hope for in that direction,
since the "organisation of clinics similar to that of Böhler would run counter to the practice of the faculty of medicine, of hospital surgeons and insurance practitioners, and finally to the sacrosanct dogma of free choice. There is therefore nothing to hope for"! He naively adds, "The only hope left is in this work."

The book is full of good things, and one would congratulate the author particularly on his modern treatment. This section is interspersed with directions in italics: "A whitlow must never be opened by a lateral incision." "Drainage must never be used in the fingers." "Immobilise the finger in the position of function." "Prohibit hand baths when there is an open wound."

The author is to be congratulated on a splendid book and, far from being a Practitioners' book, there must be very few surgeons who could not learn a lot from it.

Injection Treatment of Hernia, Hydrocele, Ganglion, Haemorrhoids, Prostate Gland, Angioma, Varicocele, Varicose Veins, Bursa and Joints. By Penn Riddle, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. ix + 290, with 153 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. 1940. Price 27s. 6d. net.

As the title of this volume indicates, a large number of different lesions can be dealt with by injections, but the author states that only those conditions amenable to injection treatment, as substantiated by adequate series of cases, are discussed. There are excellent sections dealing with hernie, varicose veins and haemorrhoids; anatomy, pathology, diagnosis, and the indications and contraindications to treatment, all receiving consideration. The methods described are, for the most part, those commonly employed in this country, but there is no reference to the method of high submucous injections in the treatment of haemorrhoids. The final section is devoted to the treatment of hydrocele and a number of conditions which are usually treated by more radical measures. Each section concludes with a long bibliography. The book is well produced, with good illustrations, and is one which should prove very helpful to those interested in this form of treatment.

The Universe Through Medicine. By J. E. R. McDonagh, F.R.C.S. Pp. 389. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1940. Price 25s. net.

The character and scope of this work can best be conveyed by such extracts as the following:—

"I view medicine as it has been practised since its birth, as an undetermined phenomenon of the co-exhibition of the functions of storing and radiating activity, whereas its rightful place is as a
determined phenomenon of the co-exhibition of these associated non-reactive and reactive functions. In other words, medicine is a differentiated part of the human economy, whereas it should be an integral part, not only of every individual, but also of the whole of mankind."

"The practice of modern medicine practically resolves itself into combating the results of inherited disease. This end is achieved by removing the intestinal toxemia, correcting the osteopathic lesions and rendering the victim co-ordinated."

"Bacteriologists have always held the view that these microorganisms act by liberating toxines, but in my opinion such bodies do not exist, and what are held to be toxines are particulate forms of the protein particles in the plasma."

"In order to conclude my argument that the whole sex problem resolves itself into certain grades of hydration and dehydration, which particularly the protein particles in the plasma, the rulers of the actions of the host as well as functioning as his main protective force, undergo, I cite, that just as certain sterols can be employed to protect blood from clotting, so can certain anethol preparations, having a similar action, be used to stimulate oestrus."

"Vitamins are not the essential products of food; more good is done by eating the whole vegetable product than taking the isolated bricks internally and not one of them has a specific action."

"The ductless glands do not secrete hormones into the blood stream."

"Vivisection is mostly undertaken in the expectation that the goal which has been mentally erected is attainable. The results never justify the means as erecting goals is an idle pursuit, as evidenced by research conducted on these lines retardig instead of advancing progress."

*The Psychology of Fear and Courage.* By Edward Glover, M.D. Pp. 128. London: Penguin Books. 1940. Price 6d.

Practical psychology stands in the forefront of the present war. Alarm, mistrust, and despondency have been effectively used as offensive weapons against the peoples the dictators have sought to overcome. The author, as a psychologist, has examined the problems involved, and presents his views in simple language. Several of the chapters were originally prepared for broadcasting. He discusses such subjects as Rumour, Spy Mania, War Hate, and Guilty Conscience. The book is attractively written and deserves to be widely read. The author and publishers are to be congratulated on a public service which should help to maintain the morale of the people.