REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

Clinical and Operative Gynaecology. By Professor John M. Munro Kerr, M.D. Oxford Medical Publications. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1922. (£2 10s. net.)

In 1908 Dr. Munro Kerr published his book on Operative Midwifery, a volume which was deservedly well received. We may safely predict an equally cordial reception to the present work on clinical and operative gynaecology. The book falls naturally into two parts—clinical and operative. The clinical part is again divided, the first and larger portion being devoted to the clinical aspect of gynaecology, while the second part deals with medical treatment and remedies. For clinical purposes the author employs an anatomical classification, modified, as far as possible, to approach a pathological one, as he finds this arrangement much more useful.

In the opening chapter on etiology, emphasis is laid on the large number of gynaecological conditions which are due to infection, either local or general. Pregnancy, labour, and the puerperium as factors in producing gynaecological conditions are lucidly dealt with. Age and mode of life are discussed particularly with regard to malignant disease. The chapter on symptomatology advises the reader to go thoroughly into the past and present history of the patient, and to keep an open mind as to diagnosis until all particulars regarding the local and general symptoms and conditions have been collected. To gain pre-eminence in gynaecology, the author maintains that a thorough training in general medicine and in general surgery is absolutely necessary for success, and in this statement we entirely agree. The advice dealing with the examination of patients is sound. Physiology of the female reproductive organs and disorders of function are gone into very fully. Uterine and nervous disorders in relation to nervous conditions are discussed in a chapter by Dr. Ivy Mackenzie, while the ravages of gonorrhoea and syphilis in the female, with the appropriate treatment, are ably set forth by Dr. David Watson. Professor Thomas H. Bryce describes the development of the female reproductive organs, and immediately following this is a chapter by Professors Bryce and Munro Kerr on malformations of these organs, chiefly from their own experience,
undoubtedly great, in the dissecting-room and in practice. Then follows a minute description of the anatomy of the pelvic floor and uterine supports, excellent diagrams and drawings supplementing the text, and this is followed naturally by a very good dissertation on displacements of the uterus. Injuries to the external and internal genital organs are next dealt with, then diseases and tumours. On medical treatment and remedies, sound advice is given on feeding and elimination—subjects which are very apt to be overlooked when advising a patient.

Coming to the second part of the book, operative gynaecology, the first chapter is devoted to preparations for operation, post-operative treatment, and complications. Dr. J. Paton Boyd contributes a short article on anaesthesia in gynaecological surgery, while Mr. William Rankin describes the technique of blood transfusion. The various operations in gynaecology are then fully described, the diagrams being on the right-hand page while the descriptive matter to these diagrams is on the left-hand page—an arrangement which saves time and annoyance. We may add that 188 pages are occupied in describing these operations.

All through the book the sequence is well arranged, the letterpress, drawings, and diagrams are of a very high standard, and we desire to congratulate Professor Munro Kerr on this able addition to the study of the diseases peculiar to women.

Angina Pectoris. By Sir James Mackenzie, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.
Oxford Medical Publications. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1923. (30s. net.)

This latest addition to the number of Mackenzie's books will be found to contain many of the results of a lengthy experience and of his investigations into the symptoms of disease, as well as the more immediate discussion of angina pectoris. Throughout the book there is no attempt to discuss in detail the older views, or views that are at present held by many physicians. Rather he reviews the results of his own personal experience, correlating the clinical facts and the pathological findings with the views that he has adopted towards the production of symptoms in recent years. The "fear of impending death," which, by the older writers, received a prominent place in the symptomatology of this condition, is barely mentioned, and the monograph as a whole deals more particularly with cardiac pain in all its varieties rather than with the condition which would have
been accepted as angina pectoris in its classical form. He makes use of the theories he has already propounded with regard to the production of pain in hollow viscera and the presence of hyperesthetic areas in the spinal cord, and applies this to explain the production of pain in the heart. The pain he believes in the majority of cases is due to the attempt on the part of the heart muscle to contract, when it is not being supplied with sufficient blood through the coronary arteries. The pain of angina is thus a symptom of an exhausted heart, and, as in its severer forms, its intensity arrests, for the time being, bodily functions generally, so it becomes a protective mechanism in such cases. He suggests two broad groups of heart disease—one in which breathlessness is the primary symptom, the other in which pain is the primary symptom—and points out that in the former the effects of the deficient circulation are shown in another organ, namely, in this case, the lungs, while in the latter the heart itself suffers from a defective blood-supply with pain as the prominent symptom. While he accepts coronary artery disease as the main underlying cause of angina, he recognises that pain may be produced in functional disorders of the heart where the nervous mechanism is hypersensitive. He thus divides angina pectoris into two main groups—primary angina in which there is disease of the heart, and secondary angina, which is a more benign and a curable condition. While Mackenzie deals with his recent work on Disturbed Reflexes in the production of symptoms, he does not discuss Allbutt's views as to the pathology of angina, and we feel it is just here that these two investigators might have reached a common standpoint. Such a monograph, incorporating the results of thirty years' consideration of the problem by an experienced investigator, cannot but be warmly welcomed as a further contribution to this most important subject. The book is well produced, and contains numerous diagrams and other illustrations, and there is added an appendix containing the records of 160 cases, many of them with post-mortem reports. We can cordially recommend this book to our readers.
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and a further perusal of the book has confirmed that opinion. We have seldom read a book on heart disease containing so much practical information interspersed with so many apt and crisp illustrations. The author has the ability to draw word pictures in such a way that one hardly notices the fact that there are no graphic records in the book. He admits that he was one who followed the old school, but has been converted to the new, and he describes in a way that is sure to rivet attention the various abnormalities of the heart-beat. The chapters on heart failure and angina pectoris are very helpful, as also those which deal with the symptomatology, prognosis, and treatment. The book is specially prepared for general practitioners, and the author puts in a plea for men of that class making use of their opportunities for original research. He says, "Neither a £300 electro-cardiograph nor even a gilt stethoscope is required." "His incentives should be, on the one hand, that what we do not know about the heart is enough to fill many coffins, and on the other, the inspiring thought that among the names of men who have done good work for posterity whilst engaged in private practice are those of Jenner and Mackenzie." We can only add to what we said at the beginning, that every practitioner will be well advised to secure a copy of this book which is specially dedicated to "those who find salvation in compensatory hypertrophy and who fear a well-conducted mitral."

Light and Colour. By R. A. Houston, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc., Lecturer on Physical Optics in the University of Glasgow. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1923. (7s. 6d. net.)

The book is written primarily for amateurs, but those interested in the study of light and colour will find it worth while to peruse the pages. In the 176 pages comprising the text a great range is covered, commencing with the discovery of the spectrum passing on to the nature of light, and ending finally with the psychology of colour as far as that can be dealt with. Before the reader reaches the final chapter many interesting descriptions are given of the present outlook on the nature of light rays and of colour, and very practical descriptions are given of the application of our present knowledge of these subjects to chemistry, photography, and medicine. Many things of general public interest, such as invisible rays in war, secret signalling, the optophone, the atom, and the electron, are discussed and described and brought into proper focus. The book is full of interest, and though not written specially for medical men it is one which gives the reader
the present-day outlook and position in the various problems dealt with. The busy practitioner as well as the man of leisure will find his time well repaid in spending a few hours reading this book.

NEW EDITIONS.

Dental Surgery and Pathology. By J. F. Colyer, K.B.E., F.R.C.S., L.D.S. Fifth Edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1923. (32s. net.)

The new edition of this admirable work maintains the high position in dental literature that its predecessors attained. We think the author was well advised to delete the technical procedure of filling teeth &c., and has certainly enhanced the value of his work by the extension of the pathological conditions. He has been aided in certain sections by well-known writers, such as Stanley Colyer on "Radiographic changes in jaw infections"; J. H. Mummery on "Caries"; Dr. Still on "Pathological dentition"; Dr. Strickland Goodall on "Dental sepsis in cardio-vascular diseases," and others. A detailed review of this volume is hardly necessary, it being so well known to dental surgeons, many medical men, and has long been the standard text-book of the dental student.

Quain's Elements of Anatomy. Eleventh Edition. Edited by Sir Edward Sharpey Schaffer, LL.D., Sc.D., M.D., F.R.S., Johnson Symington, M.D., F.R.S., and Thomas Hastie Bryce, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. In Four Volumes. Vol. IV, Part II: Myology. By T. H. Bryce. Sections on the Actions of Muscles. By Thomas Walmsley, M.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1923. (25s. net.)

The appearance of this part of the new edition of Quain's Anatomy has been long delayed by the European war. This delay cannot be considered altogether a misfortune, as such a large amount of attention has been directed to the muscles by the surgical experience of the war that it has led the author to elaborate the portion on the muscles into a special volume. The changes in the new edition are so radical that they almost constitute this section a new work altogether. A special feature is the large number of beautiful coloured plates, mainly from the pencil of Mr. A. K. Maxwell. The large amount of work which
has been done in recent years on the development and morphology of the muscles has been summarised and embodied in this volume. Professor T. Walmsley has contributed a succinct and instructive account of the actions of the muscles. In this account emphasis is laid, not on the action of individual muscles, but on the part which each muscle plays in the production of co-ordinated actions. This method of presentation is of much greater value from the practical point of view, particularly to the orthopaedist. Of practical value also are the exact measurements given from fixed points of the sites of entry of the nerves into the respective muscles, particularly in the limbs. While the Basle nomenclature has been used without reserve in most parts, the author has exercised a commendable restraint or used a double nomenclature in other parts, especially in regions of surgical importance where the older terms are mostly used in surgical literature. In this respect the balance has been admirably held. An excellent and classified bibliography is attached. The production of this standard treatise must have involved a great amount of labour, and the author is to be congratulated on the result.

Practical Anaesthetics. By H. E. G. Boyle, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., and C. L. Hewer, M.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1923. (6s. 6d. net.)

The third edition of this work has just been published—Dr. Hewer collaborating with the original author. Although nominally a new edition, so many changes have occurred in the science and art of anaesthesia that the book has been, to a considerable extent, rewritten. Despite this fact it is not any larger than formerly, the material having been carefully chosen with conciseness as a primary consideration, and the maximum of information packed into the 187 pages. The value of the rather elaborate series of illustrations of the various postures of patients during operation is questionable, as also the description of some of the older appliances, e.g., Junker's inhaler, which has now been superseded by Shipway's. But, generally speaking, the subject is well handled, with just the special stress on the practical aspect which will appeal strongly to students looking for a compact presentation. The book is well illustrated. Dr. E. I. McKesson, of Toledo, Ohio, has contributed a chapter on blood-pressure. The newer methods, such as gas and oxygen, ethanesal, and endo-tracheal anaesthesia, all receive attention, and local and spinal analgesia is treated in a special chapter.