NEW BOOKS

The Woof of Life. By I. Harris, M.D. Pp. 113. London: Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd. 1943. Price 7s. 6d. net.

Dr Harris writes as the Director of the Institute of Research for the Prevention of Disease, and addresses himself mainly to the layman. He points out that in recent years great progress has been made towards improving the condition of the manual worker and that this has resulted in a decrease of those maladies to which he is subject. But so far as the illnesses to which the upper and middle classes are prone the position is entirely different. These illnesses are rapidly increasing and will continue to do so as long as the causes responsible for their origin remain operative. His chapters deal with such subjects as the Emotions, Overfeeding, Sex, Christianity, Population, Instinct, and Food Requirements. In considering the strain of middle-class occupations, the author points out that in the present order of things man is an Ishmaelite in his own country. The hand of every man is against him and his against every man’s; members of his own profession or trade are ever on the outlook to injure him. Dr Harris believes that the upper classes are superiorly endowed, and gives as his opinion that the obliteration of the class system would lead to the retrogression of human society. His views on “Medicine” should interest the profession. Doctors as a race are not endowed with a greater dose of dishonesty than the rest of the population, but the doctor is in an impossible position. The author is rather hard on the research worker when he says there is not one typical physician who has the ability and character and leisure to engage in really serious inquiry into some medical problem. His opinion of medical teachers is very low, for he says that the majority of our physicians and clinical lecturers and clinical professors are quite unfit for their jobs. Dr Harris states a case against adulteration of our bread with added calcium, which he claims to be a menace to the health of the people, an opinion with which few experts will agree.

Narco-analysis. By J. Stephen Horslay. Pp. viii+134. London: Oxford University Press. 1943. Price 8s. 6d. net.

The author, one of the pioneers in the use of narco-analysis as a form of examination and therapy, has written an interesting account of its development and practice in psychiatric work. The various steps which have led to the introduction of narco-analysis are traced in a helpful and instructive manner, while the properties and action of those barbiturates suitable either for prolonged or more transitory narcosis are adequately discussed. The idea of narco-analysis is to render the unco-operative or resistant patient more readily accessible to psychotherapy while under the influence of light narcosis. Nembutal, evipan, and pentothal are mentioned as the drugs of choice. The author gives numerous case illustrations of his own experience and believes the results attained are encouraging. This book is a most useful guide and can be recommended to all practising psychiatrists.

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A Medical Bibliography. By Fielding H. Garrison and Leslie T. Morton. Pp. viii+412. London: Grafton & Co. 1943. Price 50s. net.

The late Dr Garrison compiled a mass of references on which he based his History of Medicine. This list was published in 1912, and a revised edition appeared in 1933. Mr Morton, who is librarian at St Thomas’s Hospital Medical School, has used the latter check-list as the basis for the present work. Some 300 references in Garrison’s work have been omitted and nearly 1700 new ones have been included. The references included are to books and published articles of outstanding importance. The majority are of historical value only, recent work being represented by a selection of the principal contributions to the subject.

The references are conveniently arranged under all the recognised branches of medical knowledge, the major specialities, disorders of the various systems and even in some cases individual diseases. The lists vary greatly in their completeness: some are very full, others rather short.

Mr Morton is to be congratulated on his painstaking work. The book should be available in every Medical Library.

Endoscopic Prostatic Surgery. By Roger W. Barnes, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 232, with 104 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1943. Price 30s. net.

In the surgical correction of prostatic obstruction transurethral methods have not only proved their value but have come to challenge previously accepted open procedures. During the last twenty years considerable advances and a degree of standardisation of technique have been reached in the application of this method. This monograph is particularly welcome as it is compiled by a urologist of considerable experience and unbiased opinion, who has the gift of easy description.

Following chapters on the anatomy and pathology of the prostate, and the cystoscopic examination of a patient, together with the associated factors, a very detailed description is presented of the operative technique as applied to the Stern-McCarty electroprobe. As the punch procedure is favoured by many in preference to the cutting loop electrode a separate chapter is contributed by H. C. Bumpus, junr., describing this method.

All possible errors and complications that may arise during the operation of either method are very fully discussed. Emphasis is laid on the management of the patient, particularly during the post-operative period. The text is profusely illustrated, and references are appended to each chapter. This work is essentially practical and for this reason should enjoy a wide appreciation.

Authority in Medicine: Old and New. By Major Greenwood, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Cambridge University Press. 1943. Price 1s. 6d. net.

This small book contains the Linacre Lecture given by Professor Greenwood in May. The author first of all tries to visualise the attitude of the physician in the time of Linacre. In these days the medical textbooks were bad, purporting to record the opinions and reasonings of Galen. The problem Linacre had to solve as an educational reformer
was whether Galen's teachings were so bad that no selection of his writings could be made into an elementary textbook, or whether Galen, not as a vague oracle but as a writer known at least at second-hand, might still be a useful teacher. Professor Greenwood gives his views of Galen as an authority.

Real experiments are difficult, unlike the armchair experiments of Francis Bacon, and most readers will agree that Bacon was not a much more useful teacher or writer of textbooks than the despised ancients.

Coming to more recent times, Greenwood speaks of authority in modern science as exemplified in his own field of epidemiology. The authority of ancient books is dead, but the authority for which herd vanity and individual vanity hunger is alive. Lastly, he has something to say of the praise of scientific research undertaken for its own sake, and he quotes that the satisfaction of intellectual curiosity respecting problems which have no relevance to the betterment of mankind is, if not immoral, certainly no better than harmless amusement. He offers a graceful tribute to the memory of Morley Fletcher who did so much to secure a scientific freedom in State-aided medical research. The lecture is interesting and stimulating reading.

**Studies on Immunisation.** First Series. By Sir ALMROTH E. WRIGHT. Pp. xi+421. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1943. Price 25s. net.

This is the third of a series of publications of collected researches from the inoculation department of St Mary's Hospital, London, and records the author's studies on the protective elements of the blood and on vaccine therapy. The book is a reprint of a previous publication by Messrs Constable in 1909, with the omission of three studies included in the original work and the addition of another.

These studies were first published between 1897 and 1908 in scientific and medical journals. Three of them appear in revised form; the remainder are reproduced without change except for the omission of details of technique. As the present volume does not represent a new contribution to the literature of the subject, it is unnecessary to review it in the usual way. Suffice it to say the book will be of great value in bringing together in one volume a series of original studies, several of which have been of fundamental importance in the development of our knowledge of immunity and will remain of great historical interest in medical science.

**Essentials of Proctology.** By HARRY E. BACON, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.P.S., Professor of Proctology, Temple University Medical School. Pp. xvi+345, with 168 illustrations. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1943. Price 21s.

This is an excellent book. It succeeds admirably in presenting the essential features of pathological conditions of the lower bowel pithily, systematically and adequately, and should be of great help to the senior student and practitioner. Its teachings are sound and orthodox and derived from the author's vast experience in this field. The presence of anal papillae, commonly enough seen, is recognised, and the pathology, treatment, etc., described. The paper is of refreshingly superior quality;
the illustrations are plentiful and of that particularly high standard we have come to associate with American productions, though perhaps we are not yet accustomed to such words of convenience as "stricturotomy," "colostomized" and "analgesization."

**NEW EDITIONS**

*First Aid.* Revised and rewritten by Halliday Sutherland, M.D. Forty-fifth Edition. Pp. 77, with 45 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1943. Price 9d. net.

This well-known booklet is a popular guide to first aid in injuries of all descriptions, and has been written to appeal to a large section of the community. It contains an amazing amount of useful information and should prove of the greatest service.

*A New Dictionary for Nurses.* By Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N., and T. B. Davie, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Eighth Edition. Pp. xx+452. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1943. Price 4s. net.

We welcome a new edition of this useful little work. It is of handy size, well printed and excellently illustrated. Definitions are given in simple language and an indication of the pronunciation is given with each word. Nurses will find the illustrations of trays prepared for various techniques of special value. Every nurse should have a copy of this valuable vade mecum.

*Methods for Diagnostic Bacteriology.* By Isabelle G. Schaub and M. Kathleen Foley. Second Edition. Pp. 430. London: Henry Kimpton. 1943. Price 18s. net.

The subtitle of this book is "A Complete Guide for the Isolation and Identification of Pathogenic Bacteria for Medical Bacteriology Laboratories." It is an account of the methods used in the diagnostic laboratories of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Usually one method only for each identification is given. Technical methods commonly used in this country are therefore sometimes omitted. But there is the advantage that the methods advocated are those with which the authors are completely familiar, and some useful details of technique are given which are not usually included in British manuals. Formulas for various culture media are included.

The American point of view differs from the British in many ways. The influence of the work of J. Howard Brown, for example, is evident in the sections on the streptococci: the enterococci are classed in the alpha-haemolytic group.

There is hardly a hint in the book of a medical interest. The patient and his condition do not come into it at all.

One side of each page is left blank for notes, so that the book is only half its apparent size. The blank sides cannot be written on in ink as the paper is soft.

Bacteriologists and technicians will find this a very useful laboratory companion. One gets from it the impression of extreme technical efficiency.