NEW BOOKS.

Poliomyelitis in all its Aspects. By John RuhräH, M.D., and Irwin A. Meyer. Pp. vi. + 297. With 120 Illustrations. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1917.

Acute poliomyelitis has attracted more attention than any other disease of the nervous system during the past decade. Since the great New York epidemic of 1907, outbreaks have been reported every year in various parts of the United States. Much has been added to our knowledge of the disease, and American investigators have taken an active part in elucidating its pathology and perfecting its orthopaedic treatment. Although there are many excellent monographs featuring one or more phases of the disease, there is, in the opinion of the authors, no adequate account contained in one volume. They have consequently essayed to meet this want, and that they have satisfactorily attained their object will be admitted by those who read their book. Of special importance are the chapters on the nature of the virus and the epidemiology of the disease, since it is in these directions that so much advance has been made. An historical sketch with which the book opens gives due recognition to the work of Heine, Medin, Wickman, Flexner, and others. The authors give the credit of first mentioning poliomyelitis to Michael Underwood, a London practitioner, who in 1784 published a treatise on the diseases of children, which went through several editions. Extracts from this work, together with some plates reproduced from Heine's monograph published in 1840, are of much interest. A chapter on the examination of muscles and muscle training will prove helpful to the practitioner who is not conversant with the neurological examination, as will one entitled "Some Anatomical and Physiological Reminders."

Locomotor Ataxia (Tabes Dorsalis). By Wm. J. M. A. Maloney, M.D.(Edin.). Pp. 299. With 97 Illustrations. New York and London: D. Appleton & Co. 1918. Price 15s. net.

Recent advances in our knowledge of the reflex, sensory, and vegetative functions demand a reconsideration of the symptomatology and treatment of tabes dorsalis, while the discovery of the spirochaete pallida as the cause of syphilis, and its detection in the exudative foci which precede tabetic changes, open a wide field for pathological and clinical speculation. The application of new facts and hypotheses to a well-established clinical picture calls for much discrimination and judgment, and the way in which the author collates the results of physiological and pathological investigation, and the convincing
manner in which he applies them to the clinical problems which the disease tabes presents, compels admiration. Perhaps the most important section of the book, which the author modestly styles "An Introduction to the Study and Treatment of Nervous Diseases for Students and Practitioners," though it is really a very complete monograph upon tabes, is that which deals with the mental state in this disease. A product of the symptomatology, amounting in many cases to an anxiety neurosis, the mental state of the tabetic may aggravate his symptoms to a remarkable degree. The improvement which results in many cases from an explanation of the mode of production of the symptoms by one who is thoroughly conversant with their significance is often astonishing. The author has done a great service by emphasising an aspect of treatment which has admittedly in the past received but scant attention in relation to this disease, but which, as he has found by personal experience, is attended with great possibilities. Space does not permit of a consideration of the method of treatment which he describes in detail and which he practises with such success.

Tumours of the Nervus Acusticus and the Syndrome of the Cerebello-pontile Angle. By Harvey Cushing. Pp. 296. With 262 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1917.

Among 468 cases of intracranial tumour observed by Harvey Cushing and verified by operation or autopsy, 56 were extracerebellar growths, and 30 of these, or 6 per cent. of all the verified cases, were tumours growing from the auditory nerve. These growths may be designated fibroneuromata. As a rule occurring as single tumours, they are occasionally bilateral, while very rarely they are the expression of a generalised neurofibromatosis. The order of development of symptoms is "first, the auditory and labyrinthine manifestations; second, the occipito-frontal pains with suboccipital discomforts; third, the incoordination and instability of cerebellar origin; fourth, the evidence of involvement of adjacent cerebral nerves; fifth, the indications of an increase of intracranial tension with a choked disc and its consequences; sixth, dysarthria, dysphagia, and, finally, cerebellar crises and respiratory difficulties." Post-mortem appearances give the impression that these tumours should be easily dealt with by the surgeon. This is not, however, the case since, when complete enucleation is attempted, uncontrollable bleeding is very apt to occur from branches of the basilar artery entangling the growth. The author has consequently abandoned the idea of extirpation, and contents himself with enucleating as much as possible of the tumour by an intracapsular procedure. Unfortunately, it is not at present possible to diagnose the tumour when it is only producing auditory manifestations and is of small size and might consequently be removable. The operative
mortality in Cushing's first 10 cases was 40 per cent., in his last 18 cases 11.1 per cent. He expects to reduce the latter figure very materially. The relief following operation is usually "enormous." At the time that the majority of cases came under observation the changes in the optic nerve were already so far advanced that vision could not be saved. A three-year period after a wide decompression and partial enucleation may be regarded as a fair estimate of the expected period of relief. Almost one half of this fine monograph, which will be welcomed not only by neurologists whose attention has been especially directed towards this group of intracranial tumours during the past few years, but also by the aurist and the surgeon, is occupied by detailed records of the thirty cases of acoustic tumour verified by the author at operation.

War Surgery of the Abdomen. By Cuthbert Wallace, C.M.G. Pp. 151. With 26 Illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1918. Price 7s. 6d.

Surgeon-General Wallace says that the book contains the experience in abdominal surgery of a sector of the battle-line over a period of thirty months. It is founded on the practice of many surgeons working under different conditions and in different hospitals. The book gives an excellent account of the present attitude towards abdominal wounds. It traces the evolution which has occurred in the treatment of these cases, and the work bears testimony of the greatly improved results which have followed upon early operation. One of the most interesting chapters deals with the causes of failure—haemorrhage, sepsis, and surgical shock. The book throughout is essentially a practical treatise and we welcome its appearance. This is practically the first monograph which has appeared dealing with British surgery as practised at the front, and we hope that its appearance may be followed by others. Hitherto, while French opinion has been well represented, British publications have been rare. This treatise should prove of the greatest value to men whose duty may lead them to deal with abnormally wounded men.

Diseases of the Heart. By Frederick W. Price. Pp. xiv. + 472. Illustrated. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1918. Price 21s. net.

Dr. Price is to be congratulated on the excellency and readability of his book. He has had exceptional opportunities of personal observation, especially in the work he has carried on in the Mount Vernon Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, where he has been associated with Sir James Mackenzie and Professor Cushny, and he has used his opportunities well.
The book gives evidence throughout of careful observation, clear-thinking, and concise expression. As in most modern works on the heart, prominence is given to the myocardium, and its affections are carefully discussed; but other parts of the subject are not neglected, and the sections dealing with endocarditis and pericarditis are more adequately handled than they have sometimes been of late.

The book is written rather for the general physician than for the specialist in heart disease, and specialised methods, such as electro-cardiography and radiography, are touched upon but lightly, whilst subjects of universal importance, such as treatment, receive due prominence.

An interesting chapter, which contains a considerable amount of original work, is that on "Primary Cardiac Overstrain, or Soldier's Heart," where, with the aid of modern methods, a much clearer conception of the process has been attained than was possible in the older literature of the subject.

In view of the wide experience of the author it is perhaps unfortunate that he sometimes quotes conflicting opinions on unsettled subjects without himself taking either side, merely stating that whilst "some authorities hold" such and such a view, "in the opinion of others" the facts point in an opposite direction. Clearly in such cases one or other group of authorities is wrong, and one would have welcomed an indication of Dr. Price's own opinion. On the other hand, in one or two places the author makes statements that differ from the current opinion without giving any indication that he does differ. These, however, are very minor faults that can easily be rectified in future editions.

Taken as a whole, this book is, from the practitioner's standpoint, one of the best of the many monographs on the heart that have appeared of recent years, and both author and publishers are to be congratulated on the care with which the text and the clear and well-chosen illustrations have been produced.

**Human Intestinal Protozoa in the Near East.** By Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Wenyon, R.A.M.C., and Temporary Captain F. W. O'Connor, R.A.M.C. Pp. 218. Illustrated. London: Published for the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research by Bale, Sons & Danielsson. 1918. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This very helpful volume contains a revised issue of the authors' well-known report on the human intestinal protozoa in Egypt, published during 1917 in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps, to which has been added an Appendix giving the history of the cases treated. After giving an account of the methods of collecting material and of examining various groups of men for protozoal infections, the authors
describe the characters of the intestinal organisms, especially *Entamoeba histolytica*, *E. coli*, and *E. nana*, the last named being a new species which proved to be one of the commonest protozoa in the human intestine in Egypt.

One of the chief practical problems considered is that relating to carriers: “Cases may remain as healthy carriers for long periods without showing any signs of dysentery,” but on microscopical examination of their faeces the characteristic quadrinucleate cysts of *Entamoeba histolytica* are found. Observations on the part played by house-flies in carrying protozoal infection from faeces to food demonstrate the importance of the measures directed against flies. Examination of the droppings of 229 flies captured in a hospital compound showed that eighteen of the flies had deposited cysts of protozoa or eggs of parasitic worms.

---

**NOTES ON BOOKS.**

*The Fitting-out and Administration of a Naval Hospital Ship*, by Fleet Surgeon Edward Sutton, R.N. (John Wright & Sons, Ltd.). The author of this little book has had a unique experience of hospital ships both before and during the present war, and records in great detail the practical points in regard to equipment and administration which have stood the test of, or been evolved by, war service. Throughout, the book is essentially a practical one, and, whilst it appeals to a somewhat restricted circle of readers, it can be cordially recommended as a standard work on the subject with which it deals.

In his *Aids to Rational Therapeutics* (Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1918, 3s. 6d. net), Dr. R. W. Leftwich systematises in a concise and practical way the treatment of diseases under a method of grouping them together according to their salient feature. An appendix on what may be called the “bedside manner” side of medicine is added.

The third edition of Cramer’s *Directions for a Practical Course in Chemical Physiology* (Longmans, Green & Co., 1917, 3s. net) is, save for a few verbal alterations, identical with the second edition which appeared in 1914. The course outlined is more than amply for the average student.

The ninth edition of Thresh’s *Water Analysis* (J. & A. Churchill, price 3s.) is a practical guide for the use of medical officers of health and others—not an exhaustive treatise. The methods described do not involve more than the use of soloids as reagents, and no complicated apparatus is needed.

We have received a copy of a lecture, *Notre Sympathétique Confrère François Rabelais* (Genève, Librairie Georg & Cie., 1918), delivered before the Medical Society of Geneva by Dr. Charles Greene Cumston.