New Books

Varicose Veins. By R. Rowden Foote. Pp. xiv+225, with 181 illustrations. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1949. Price 32s. 6d. net.

Despite the fact that varicose veins cause much suffering and views on treatment are at variance, no volume devoted entirely to this important subject has previously been published in Great Britain. Rowden Foote has, therefore, filled an important gap with his publication. The author, whose experience in this branch of surgery is univalled, has produced a volume which surgeon, general practitioner and postgraduate student will find a useful addition to his library. The anatomy, physiology and pathology are fully considered and the controversial subject of treatment is discussed in great detail. The advantages and disadvantages of the commoner sclerosants and the operative procedures are presented in unbiased fashion. A suitable scheme of treatment for the various types of varicosity is suggested, a scheme which will find few antagonists. The complications of varicose veins are also discussed. Interesting notes on the historical landmarks in the treatment of varicose veins are included.

Discoveries for Medicine. By William H. Woglon. Pp. 229. London: Oxford University Press. 1949. Price 18s.

Throughout its long centuries of progress, medicine has owed much to the allied sciences; to chemistry, to physics, to biology and to the branches, now so numerous, of each of these sciences. Discoveries which have advanced medical learning have not always been the work of those engaged in practice. Some of the most noteworthy discoveries have been made by men outside the ranks of the profession, such as Garcia, the singing master, who contrived to see his own vocal cords and thus, unintentionally, founded the specialty of laryngology; Pasteur, the chemist, who gave Lister the idea which was to revolutionise surgery; Stephen Hales, the curate, whose enquiring mind led him to investigate the flow of sap in plants, and the blood pressure in animals; Benjamin Jesty, the farmer, who, as the writer correctly states, anticipated by twenty-two years Jenner’s discovery of vaccination; Röntgen, the physicist, who by a happy chance, discovered X-rays; and “the old woman in Shropshire,” of unknown name, from whom Dr Withering received the recipe for dropsy, and so discovered digitalis. These and other persons have been selected by the author for his work so aptly entitled, Discoveries for Medicine. It is fair and proper that medicine should acknowledge the debt to those, who, though not of the profession, have brought credit to it. There are eighteen chapters, ranging from respiration to heredity and from spectacles to phagocytosis. This volume of interesting essays forms an excellent introduction to that fascinating field of study, the history of medicine.

New Editions

Diseases of Women. By Ten Teachers under the direction of Clifford White, M.D., B.S. Lond., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., F.R.C.O.G. Eighth Edition. Pp. viii+461, with 170 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1949. Price 25s.

The eighth edition of this well-known textbook written by ten London gynaecologists has been thoroughly revised and gives in a clear and readable way a very concise presentation of modern practice and opinion. Every care has been taken to overcome the difficulties of collective authorship by close collaboration at all stages of composition, so that the volume is well-knit together.

The chapter on the physiological action of the endocrine glands has been rewritten and gives a summary of the present position of that complex subject. In it is included a brief account of the diseases associated with pituitary, thyroid and adrenal dysfunction as these are of importance in gynaecological differential diagnosis. Here, as elsewhere in this textbook, opinion and fact are fairly distinguished.

The volume is essentially practical and clinical and can be confidently recommended to students and general practitioners.
Handbook of Surgery. By ERIC C. MEKIE, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.E., F.I.C.S., and
IAN MACKENZIE, M.B.E., M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.E. Second Edition. Pp. xvi+764.
with 29 illustrations. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 20s. net.

This concise handbook of Surgery is intended for last minute revision by the
final year student who, having studied a larger textbook, wishes to refresh his
memory on the more important features. This purpose is admirably fulfilled.
A wide field is covered, and the subject matter is up to date, and well presented.
Some of the sections deserve special mention. In the treatment of acute inflam-
ination a good account is given of the use of the Sulphonamides, the treatment of their
toxic effects, and Penicillin therapy.
In the chapter dealing with the general effects of injury a good description is
given of shock, crush syndrome, and water and salt requirements.
The various types of intestinal obstruction are well described.

Practical Orthoptics in the Treatment of Squint. By T. KEITH LYLE, M.D., M.CHIR.,
f.r.c.s., and SYLVIA JACKSON, S.R.N., D.B.O. Third Edition. Pp. xii+271;
with 151 illustrations including 3 coloured plates. London : H. K. Lewis &
Co. Ltd. 1949. Price 35s. net.

This new edition has been brought up to date with much new matter gained from
hospital experience and the particular ocular problems which arose in relation to
flying during the war. The greater part of the book is given over to consideration of
the squinting child, but the subjects of latent and paralytic squint are also fully
and lucidly dealt with. With the co-ordination of the School Ophthalmic Service
under the Hospital Service, the chapters on instruments and the layout and manage-
ment of an Orthoptic Department will be helpful to hospitals creating an Orthoptic
Department for the first time. The new edition will be of great assistance to
ophthalmologists and will provide orthoptists in training with a sound basis on which
to build their practical training.

Recent Advances in Oto-Laryngology. By R. SCOTT STEVENSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed.
Second Edition. Pp. viii+395, with 106 illustrations and 8 plates. London :
J. & A. Churchill. 1949. Price 24s. net.

This is an example of what Recent Advances should be. The text has been
practically entirely re-written and much of the material of the previous edition has
been discarded. The author has reviewed the extensive literature of recent years
and is able to present his views on a wide range of subjects of topical interest. He
aims at stimulating interest in problems of the ear, nose and throat and calls attention
to recent advances in diagnosis and treatment.
This attractive and well-written book should appeal to the general practitioner
and to those specially interested in this field of work.

Surgical Technique and Principles of Operative Surgery. By A. V. PARTIPILO,
M.D., F.A.C.S. Fourth Edition. Pp. 676, with 997 illustrations. London :
Henry Kimpton. 1949. Price 75s. net.

This monograph on surgical technique is largely written by the surgical staff of
Loyola University Medical School.
The book is well laid out and the illustrations are clear and helpful. Of particular
interest are the first six chapters in which suture and ligature technique is described
in a detailed fashion not readily available in textbooks of this type.
The remaining chapters are devoted to the standard operations of abdominal,
thoracic, vascular, plastic and thyroid surgery. The descriptions of the operations
are classical and are therefore likely to be of more value to undergraduates and
recent graduates than to practising surgeons to whom details of operative difficulties
and complications are of greater interest.
In general, the book is written in a pleasant and readable style and can be
recommended as a clear and well-illustrated exposition of standard surgical operations.
Diseases of Children. By Sir A. E. Garrod, F. E. Batten and H. Thursfield. Fourth Edition, edited by Donald Paterson, M.D., F.R.C.P., and Alan Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. Vol. II, pp. vii+1033, with 380 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1949. Price 4os. net.

The eagerly anticipated second volume of the fourth edition of this famous British reference book is indeed welcome. The outstanding success of the first volume which was published last year will be amply emulated by its companion volume now published. The twenty-four contributors to this volume have presented the most comprehensive and up-to-date review of their respective subjects which is to be found in any British reference book on pediatrics.

This volume contains eighteen sections. While all are excellent, the chapters on "Organic Diseases of the Nervous System," "Diseases of Bones and Joints," "Diseases of the Cardiovascular System," and "Infectious Diseases" are especially notable.

A Textbook of Medicine for Nurses. By E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P. Fifth Edition. Pp. xv+491, with 8 plates and 64 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1949. Price 21s.

The important advances made in medicine and therapeutics during the past few years have necessitated an extensive revision of this well-known book. In particular the section on venereal diseases has had to be completely rewritten following the introduction of penicillin therapy. A new section on the neuroses has been included. The photographs and diagrams are clearly reproduced and well chosen to illustrate the text.

This volume should continue to prove a popular textbook for nurses preparing for their State examinations and for reference after qualification.

Psychosomatic Medicine. By Edward Weiss, M.D., and O. Spurgeon English, M.D. Second Edition. Pp. xxx+803. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 47s. 6d. net.

The second edition of this book incorporates much new clinical material. This clinical material is concerned principally with how the psychiatric approach can be applied to the problems of general medicine. As one reads through it, it is obvious that there is an immense amount of carefully considered and stimulating information. There, however, is a certain critical lack and a tendency to accept the opinions of others—which are extensively quoted—without separating the wheat from the chaff. There is too great a tendency to link up diseases, such as arthritis and others, with particular personality types, and to base such opinions on the Rorschach test. To base clinical evaluations on more or less arbitrary tests is rather dangerous policy.

Trends in Nursing History. By Elizabeth M. Jamieson and Mary F. Sewall. Third Edition. Pp. 632, with 111 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 22s. 6d.

Some new material has been added and much rewritten by the two American authors in the third edition of their book which now surveys nursing events from earliest times to the present day. In its first section, the historical background associated with each succeeding phase of development is concisely and interestingly expressed. The later part covers the period following World Wars I and II and presents the events which lead to the understanding of the place occupied by nursing in the scheme of national social legislation and world affairs, but here, the International outlook tends to be obscured by the large proportion of this section devoted to American nursing and the ramifications of its professional organisations. This could only be of interest to the American nurse or the advanced student of nursing affairs.
Textbook of Bacteriology (Eleventh Edition of Muir and Ritchie's Manual). By C. H. Browning, M.D., LL.D., D.P.H., F.R.S., and T. J. Mackie, C.B.E., M.D., LL.D., D.P.H. Pp. 907, with 226 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1949. Price 50s.

The Manual has become modern—except in weight. The new format provides a larger, more satisfactory page. The lay-out has been reconstructed, the subject matter brought up to date and the whole rewritten with few paragraphs in small type. Recent work has been included throughout in an unobtrusive fashion—mainly in connection with chemotherapy and coliform, protozoal and virus infections; the book therefore retains its original character. The references are complete for new information and are now compiled in alphabetical order under chapter headings; additional references are conveniently grouped under subject. Technical methods have been removed from the text and now form a separate section.

The text is not over illustrated but the micrographs and photographs of colonies in culture are excellent. A comparison of the micrographs selected from the last edition demonstrates the very high quality of the printing in this book. The older nomenclature has been retained and generic and specific names appear in section headings. Fungus infections are dealt with in masterly fashion, by the late Dr Cranston Low.

The book is larger, more factual and informative than the usual textbook of bacteriology; it will prove useful to students, post-graduates and bacteriologists.

Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By William Halse-White. Twenty-eighth Edition. Revised by A. H. Southwaite, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii+532. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1949. Price 16s.

Since the last edition of this popular textbook appeared two years ago the 1948 British Pharmacopoeia has been published. All the changes in the new British Pharmacopoeia have been incorporated in this revised edition which has been brought completely up to date. In spite of the many additions of new and important drugs the size of the book has actually been slightly reduced by the careful pruning of out-of-date remedies. This latest edition should further enhance the popularity of this standard textbook.

Fractures and Dislocations. By Edwin O. Geckeler, M.D. Fourth Edition. Pp. xii+371, with 344 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1949. Price 27s. 6d. net.

Students often complain that there is no good concise book on fractures, and they can be warmly recommended to study this work by a Philadelphia orthopaedic surgeon. It is well designed for undergraduates and general practitioners, for it describes all the common fractures and dislocations briefly but not scrappily, and only the one most practical method of dealing with a condition is advised. The treatment is conservative, and there is little resort to internal fixation of fractures. The illustrations are profuse and excellent.

The Business Side of General Practice. By Theodore Wiprud. Second Edition. Pp. xi+232, illustrated. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 17s. 6d.

The author interprets medical "business" widely. Besides the expected articles on selection of practice, records and accounts he includes chapters on personal finance, writing for the medical press, public speaking and so on. However, as the problems are discussed in an American setting there is little of practical value to the practitioner on this side of the Atlantic.
Illustration of Surgical Treatment, Instruments and Appliances. By ERIC L. FARQUHARSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.ED., F.R.C.S.ENG. Third Edition. Pp. xii+391, with 383 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 25s. net.

The third edition of this book has been thoroughly revised and is well up to date. It is intended primarily for the student preparing for the final examination, and also for reference by the young house surgeon. It deals principally with fractures and orthopaedics, and the descriptions of the common procedure are clear and concise and stress the important practical details. The text is profusely illustrated with well-chosen diagrams and photographs, each one of which clearly demonstrates the intended lesson. There is a comprehensive and well-illustrated appendix which demonstrates clearly by diagram and text the common surgical instruments and their uses.

This is a useful practical book for the surgical aspirant.

Oral and Dental Diagnosis. By K. H. THOMA. Third Edition. Pp. 563, with 776 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 47s. 6d.

Much of the text in the third edition of Oral and Dental Diagnosis has been rewritten and numerous illustrations have been added. The book covers diseases and abnormal conditions of the teeth, jaws and associated parts, as well as the principles of treatment. In addition to primary lesions, the secondary manifestations which are symptoms of general disturbances are carefully considered. The effects of oral infections on bodily health are also described.

The book is divided into two main sections. Part I deals with treatment planning and special methods of examination on a broad basis, while Part II describes the diagnosis of the various oral conditions and suggests methods of treatment. A bibliography is included but this would be more useful had it contained references to a greater number of British authors.

The book can be recommended to medical and dental students.

The Foot. By Professor F. WOOD JONES, D.Sc., M.B., B.S., F.R.S. Second Edition. Pp. vii+333, with 155 figures. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1949. Price 25s. net.

It is always a pleasure to read a book by Professor Wood Jones and this one is no exception. The foot and its functions is one of the mysteries of nature to most students of anatomy, and it is even more of a mystery after studying the usual anatomical textbooks. The author, however, with his easy and amusing writing, descriptive ability and obvious intimate knowledge and understanding has gone far towards elucidating the subject.

A Practice of Orthopaedic Surgery. By T. P. MCMURRAY. Third Edition. Pp. viii+444, with 191 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1949. Price 30s. net.

This book on orthopaedic surgery is now in its third edition and many alterations and revisions have been made. The fundamental principles have not altered, but the many improvements in technique and methods of investigation have widened its scope and usefulness. The outstanding chapters are on the knee, the hip, and the back and McMurray clarifies his subject so that it is easy to follow for the young surgeon. In the book, however, one misses his dogmatic teaching and sometimes it is difficult to know which of the many methods he would choose.

This is an excellent book, beautifully illustrated and written, and no orthopaedic surgeon, whatever his rank, should be without it.