REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

Treatment by Manipulation. By H. Jackson Burrows, M.D., F.R.C.S., and W. D. Coltart, M.B., F.R.C.S. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode (Publishers) Limited. 1939. (5s. net.)

This little book is the first of a new series of monographs to be published under the auspices of "The Practitioner." It is a compact little volume of only 36 pages, but within its small compass there is an excellent account of the application of practical "bone-setting," a subject now fortunately of some importance in regular medical practice. The letterpress is excellent and the photographic illustrations, with one or two exceptions, clear and instructive. The book is filled with common sense advice and makes no extravagant claims as regards the results of treatment. It can be recommended with confidence to medical men requiring instruction in manipulation methods and their application to abnormal conditions.

Blood Transfusion. By Victor Horsley Riddell, M.D.Camb., F.R.C.S. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1939. (21s.)

The value of blood transfusion as a therapeutic measure has been more generally recognized since the war in Spain, and even the lay public to-day is alive to its importance in war time. Mr. Riddell has chosen a fortunate moment for the publication of his really valuable book. More than most this book is the result of practical experience and research, and in this is its especial value. For the author is able to discard much in the way of elaborate and obsolete methods and to devote his attention to techniques which are tried and reliable. The sections dealing with the indications for transfusion and the methods are very well done. It is gratifying to note the importance which the author attaches to the rate of transfusion—unless in cases of very acute blood loss the slow drip method should always be utilized and very many of the untoward transfusion reactions would be avoided. There are interesting sections also dealing with stored blood, the organization of a voluntary donor service, various serological problems, and reactions to blood transfusion. The book is of a con-
Reviews

Convenient size and illustrations are excellent. The bibliography is large but well selected—a little attention might be directed to the correct spelling of the names of some of the authorities quoted, e.g., McCartney is rendered "McCarthey," McCluskie—"McCulskie," &c. The book can confidently be recommended for the amateur and the expert.

The Essentials of Medical Treatment. By David Murray Lyon, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.Ed. London: Oliver & Boyd, Limited. 1939. (15s.)

This volume has been produced as a guide to the practitioner and undergraduate in view of the comparative neglect, until recently, of therapeutics in the students' course. Its rather ambitious object is "to survey the whole range of therapeutic measures and demonstrate the full resources of modern medicine." It is based on the author's experience and the result of research carried out under his direction.

The book contains a considerable amount of practical information and will no doubt be useful to the newly qualified practitioner. There is usually a brief synopsis of the different diseases indicating the points requiring attention for treatment, and nursing, diet and methods, other than drugs, receive appropriate consideration. The book, however, is not complete, and on looking for the treatment suggested for erysipelas, disseminated sclerosis and cirrhosis of the liver we failed to find any of them in the contents or index.

Drugs in the text have mostly been printed with the first letter a capital, but even this has not been consistently carried out and in adjacent sentences different methods have been employed.

We note also a lack of detail, e.g., "neo-arsphenamine may be tried in small doses." We would also disagree with the suggestion of giving digoxin or strophanthin hypodermically, both drugs being particularly irritating.

A few useful prescriptions and a table of doses are appended.

While the book contains much practical information, we feel that it could be improved should a second edition be required.

Psycho-analysis. By Edward Glover, M.D. London: John Bale (Medical Publications), Limited. 1939. (12s. 6d. net.)

This comprehensive but condensed account of psycho-analytic theory and practice, ably written by one of its leading British exponents, presents some noteworthy features. It makes very plain the too
often forgotten fact that psycho-analysis, properly so-called, means the doctrines and methods of Freud and his whole-hearted and officially accredited followers, and nothing whatever else; all other forms of psychotherapy are "suggestion" or perhaps "interpretative approach" but are not psycho-analysis. It also indicates the remarkable isolation of psycho-analysis; the only medical or psychological authority mentioned in the book is Freud. And it offers a clear-cut and self-consistent psychopathology for each and every form of mental maladjustment or illness apart from the organic psychoses.

The psycho-analytic theories of mental development and of the determining factors in the causation of psychoneuroses, manic-depressive psychoses, schizophrenia, paranoia, sexual perversions and social inadequacies are set forth with confident clarity. Dr. Glover emphasizes the need for careful selection of cases suitable for treatment, and gives definite advice on that subject. Hardly anything definite is said about therapeutic results, but he makes it plain that, while certain cases may obtain a measure of symptomatic relief after a few months of treatment, an average Freudian analysis involves attendance five days a week for at least two years. While holding that psycho-analysis is the only radical treatment for psychological disorders, Dr. Glover "does not imply that analysis is the only method by which cures can be effected," and he advises that "some short-cut method" should be considered if psycho-analysis is impracticable or contra-indicated.

The book is apparently intended for general practitioners, to guide their diagnosis and their recommendations for treatment. Since avowedly "no attempt is made to argue the validity of psycho-analytic views or to give the evidence on which they are based," those who have little previous knowledge of the subject may find some statements hard to understand or accept. But a certain measure of dogmatism is inevitable, and even advisable, in any small book on a large subject, and as a take-it-or-leave-it outline of the present position of psycho-analytic theory the book is excellent and authoritative.
Reviews

NEW EDITIONS

Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By William Hale-White, K.B.E., M.D. Twenty-Fourth Edition, revised by A. H. Douthwaite, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1939. (12s. 6d.)

Hale-White's Materia Medica, so well known to generations of students, maintains its popularity owing to the very efficient revisions which have been undertaken by Dr. A. H. Douthwaite from the Twentieth Edition (1931) onwards. The feature of this latest edition is the inclusion of several of the more important newer preparations such as the Sulphonamides, the ß-Estrogens, Corpus Luteum Hormone, the Androgens, Heparin and Nicotinic Acid. Most of these drugs have been introduced to the profession under a variety of trade names, and it is pleasing to note that with each preparation the various synonyms are accurately stated. This will no doubt help to clarify the prevailing confusion in the nomenclature. We have every confidence in the continued success of the book.

An Atlas of the Commoner Skin Diseases: with 120 Plates reproduced by Direct Colour Photography from the Living Subject. By Henry C. G. Semon, M.A., D.M.Oxon., F.R.C.P.London. Photography under the Direction of Arnold Moritz, B.A., M.B., B.C.Cantab. Enlarged Second Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1940. (42s. net.)

The first edition of this Atlas, published six years ago, met with a very warm reception from the critics, and eight of the illustrations were honoured by inclusion in the monumental French work, "La Pratique Dermatologique." The appearance of this second edition is evidence that it has appealed to a much wider public than that which studies eight-volume compendiums, and the practitioner can be assured that in it he will find probably the most life-like representations of the commoner skin diseases to be found in any book. A number of rarer conditions have been added, and the text brought up-to-date. The instructions for treatment are terse, and make no pretence to being comprehensive, but are always sound. In studying such an Atlas it will be found very helpful to use a large reading-glass, which gives a possibly spurious but none the less pleasing sense of relief to the plates. This is particularly so in the cases where the finger-nails are shown.