Original Papers of Richard Bright on Renal Disease. Edited by A. ARNOLD Osman, D.Sc., F.R.C.P. London; Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1937. (21s. net.)

In the preparation of this volume Dr. Osman has done a considerable service by bringing together in a handy and accessible form the four articles by Richard Bright, from which our present-day knowledge of nephritis may be said to have originated. Excellent reproductions of the coloured plates which appeared in the Reports of Medical Cases add greatly to the interest of the work while a feature of special value is the addition, in an appendix, of a description of the histology of three of Bright's original specimens. This account, with the accompanying microphotographs, reveals microscopic lesions with which we have long been familiar though they would never be seen by the distinguished pioneer himself: it is interesting to note that one of these cases which has proved to be what nowadays some would call amyloid nephrosis is at anyrate entitled to be called Bright's Disease. This book will be most useful to the specialist in medicine or in pathology, but may also prove attractive to the general reader who preserves an interest in the origination of ideas.

Diseases of the Eye. By Eugene Wolff, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1937. (15s. net.)

In this, his third publication, Mr. Wolff has undertaken to write a text-book on diseases of the eye for students and practitioners and he has succeeded admirably. As such, its scope is limited but, in the space available, there is plenty of good material, modern treatment and theories dealt with in a short and concise manner. In a book of this kind it is not desirable to be too dogmatic about certain views, and throughout Mr. Wolff has been impartial in his description of technique, &c.

A pleasing feature to the beginner is the description of special difficulties and common errors met with in the various operations described. The latter are grouped together in one chapter.
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The general arrangement of the book commends itself. The first four chapters deal with those diseases in the diagnosis of which the ophthalmoscope is not required. Chapter V. deals with ophthalmoscopy. There follow chapters on those diseases for which ophthalmoscopy is essential. Chapters of particular interest to the general practitioner include one on injuries and one on the eye complications of general diseases. The illustrations, many of which have already appeared in Mr. Wolff's former publications, are lavish and extremely clear and helpful to the reader.

This book can be strongly recommended to those who wish to obtain a review of the subject in a limited space of time, and should be a useful reference for practitioners in the course of their general practice.

Arthritis in Women: A Clinical Survey. By R. Fortescue Fox, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1936. (2s. 6d. net.)

This interesting pamphlet of some thirty-five pages is well worth reading. The classification of the forms of arthritis and the suggestions as to aetiology will not meet universal approval, but are constructive in their ideas as against the usual muddled or possibly dogmatic views expressed. The suggestion of rest houses for arthritic patients—these preferably in areas where pure sulphur waters are obtainable—is a very sound one.

High Blood Pressure. By I. Harris, M.D., in collaboration with C. N. Aldred, M.D., J. T. Ireland, B.Sc.(Hons.), and G. V. James, M.Sc., A.I.C. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1937. (10s. 6d. net.)

The chief aim of this interesting book is to prove the contention that essential hypertension is closely related to the amount of protein consumed in the diet. The authors believe that in sedentary individuals long continued over-indulgence in protein, first-class or other, leads at length to a rise in serum proteins and in urea and other waste products in the blood which tends to increase the osmotic pressure. A compensatory rise of blood-pressure develops to prevent hydremia. The objection that serum proteins are not always found to be above normal in essential hypertension is met by the argument that hydremia masks the increase. Belief in the existence of hydremia is not very evident in the literature nor is it very greatly strengthened.
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by the few cases quoted in the book. On the other hand, figures are given to show that the total nitrogen of the blood is higher on the high protein intake than when nitrogen balance at a low level has been reached. The results of the investigation show that a high arterial pressure was further raised by a high protein intake, whereas in a majority of twenty-three cases the systolic pressure was appreciably lower on a reduced amount of protein although in no severe case did it approach anything approximating to normal. In passing, it may be said that the addition of dates to the tables would have rendered correlation of the results easier. As regards treatment the authors suggest that the lowest amount of protein consistent with nitrogen balance should be allowed. The figures ranged from 18.4 to 42.5 gm. daily. As a prophylactic measure for the mature, an intake of not more than 50 gm. of protein daily is recommended.

*Experimental Physiology.* By George H. Bell, M.B., B.Sc. John Smith & Son, (Glasgow) Limited. 1937. (4s. 6d. net.)

This little book outlines a short laboratory course in experimental physiology for medical students. The object of the author has been to select experiments which, while illustrating fundamental physiological principles, have also a direct bearing on clinical work. In this he has been eminently successful, and the very short period of time for which this course has been planned appears to be utilized to the best advantage. Nearly all the apparatus required for the experiments is simple and to be found in any physiological laboratory. While the book has been devised for the use of students at Glasgow University, it can be adapted readily for use in any similar class.

*Kidney Pain: It Causation and Treatment.* By J. Leon Jona, D.Sc., M.D., M.S., F.R.A.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (7s. 6d).

This small book of 94 pages is devoted to methods of renal diagnosis as yet little used in this country, viz:—Pyeloscopy and Pyelometry. It is the experience of every urologist to meet with many cases where a typical attack of kidney pain has taken place and yet nothing abnormal can be found on pyelography. This book seeks to explain such cases.

Pyeloscopy, or the observing of the movements of the kidney pelvis under the fluorescent screen, although a time consuming procedure,
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permits of the investigation of dysfunction of the pelvis or ureter. This disturbed action takes a variety of forms broadly classifiable into spasm or atony.

Pyelometry, or the measurement of pressure changes within the renal pelvis, helps in the diagnosis of these cases of dysfunction.

The book is divided into a number of chapters devoted to diagnostic methods, pyeloscopy, pyelometry, dysfunction, action of drugs on the renal pelvis, illustrative clinical conditions and indication and suggestions for treatment. Although many of the findings are controversial and little understood, the suggestions put forward are highly interesting and invaluable to surgeons dealing with such cases. A full bibliography is appended. The volume is highly commended as it collects together many facts widely scattered throughout the literature on a subject that will probably be regarded as important at some future date.

Occupational Diseases (Clinical Supplement to Guy's Hospital Gazette).

By Donald Hunter, F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1937. (9s. net).

In this comprehensive monograph the author reviews the occupational diseases that occur in all parts of the world, giving especial emphasis to the mechanism by which poisoning occurs and to the means of prevention used. The book is written in a lucid, fluent style, and the subject-matter is treated with interest, dealing both with the historical and modern aspects of the diseases.

A wide range of subjects is dealt with, including the more generally recognized industrial diseases, such as lead poisoning, pneumokonioses and ankylostomiasis, and occupational cancer and dermatoses. Stimulating sections are included on occupational stigmata, industrial fatigue, and proneness to accident, notification and compensation, and nervous disability in injury.

The metallic and gaseous poisons are dealt with in detail, as also are the infectious diseases in relation to industry. In the section devoted to pneumokonioses excellent accounts are given of asbestosis and fluorosis, but the terms anthracosis, siderosis and byssinosis are dispensed with, all these varieties of dust diseases being included under the term silicosis. Although the descriptive matter is admirable, we should prefer more differentiation in nomenclature.

In the section devoted to diseases due to physical factors, the author deals in an interesting and informative manner with deafness in boiler-makers, cataract in glass-workers, traumatic affections attributable to
the use of the pneumatic drill, caisson disease, and the various heat-cramps which follow the ingestion of large quantities of water after excessive sweating and loss of salt.

Poisoning from toxic gases is dealt with effectively, especial attention being drawn to poisoning from nitrous fumes due to oxidation of the atmospheric nitrogen, in electro-welding and oxy-acetylene burning, and to the sinister subtlety of phosgene poisoning by the decomposition into hydrochloric acid and carbon dioxide in the bronchioles on coming into contact with moisture.

Industrial cancer forms an important section of the monograph, and the author claims that "it is indeed possible that the study of occupational cancer has led to greater advances in our knowledge of the causation and prevention of tumour formation than any other line of enquiry." The latent period is usually from ten to twenty-five years. A tumour may develop many years after the workman has ceased work, and thus no safeguard from the disease is assured by removing the workman from his occupation. In these cases, well-defined precancerous lesions are usually present, and the localization and histological nature of the resulting tumours are remarkably constant in any one occupation.

Lung cancer, as found in the Schneeberg miners of the Erzgebirge, and in the miners of the famous Jächmor mines, has in the past been attributed to the inhalation of arsenic and cobalt, but the modern view is that the radio-active emanation from the ore is the main cause of the tumour formation.

The section of skin cancer contains an historical outline from the time when Percival Pott, in 1775, published his monograph on chimney-sweep cancer ("soot-wart"), up to the present day when occupational cancer is recognized in such diverse industries as the refining of tar, paraffin, shale-oil, crude anthracene, the preparation of patent fuels and in mule-spinning. In these cases the prognosis is excellent if early radon treatment is instigated, but neglect may lead to metastases and a fatal issue. The carcinogenic activity of an oil much reduced or completely removed by extraction with sulphuric acid, by oxidation, and by reduction. The author holds out the hope that skin cancer in industry will be got rid of by the elimination of carcinogenic substances or by their neutralization and destruction.

The present opinion with regard to aniline tumours of the bladder is that these tumours are induced by some substances secreted in the urine over a period of many years. This is possibly beta-naphthylamine or some allied compound, but experimental proof is at present lacking. The routine cystoscopic examination of all aniline workers at regular intervals is justifiably urged.
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There is a brief review of the fate of the pioneers in the field of x-rays, and a warning to industrial workers that adequate protective measures are essential. Industrially, as distinct from their medical applications, x-rays are utilized in a wide variety of occupations, such as the detection of defects in castings and alloys, corrosion in cables and gas cylinders, defects in reinforced concrete and in welding, and in sorting fresh eggs from stale. Clinical accounts of x-ray dermatitis and carcinoma and of the effects of chronic exposure to x-rays are given. The author traces the evolution of methods of protection from scattered radiation.

The principal difference in the harmful properties of radio-active substances and x-rays is that the gamma rays of radium appear to have a greater tendency than x-rays to cause aplastic anaemia, due to their greater penetrative properties and hence their liability to damage bone-marrow. In industry, radium salts are used in the preparation of luminous paint for watch-dials. Severe anaemia, necrosis of bones, and bone sarcoma have followed the incidental ingestion of the paint by workers pointing the brush between the lips. In some cases, the portal of entry has been the respiratory tract. Emanation is found during life in the expired air, and after death in the bones and teeth. Extreme anaemia, agranulocytosis, hemorrhages and bone sarcoma have all followed undue exposure to radio-active substances.

The alpha particle is thus to be classed among the known carcinogenic agents, as little as 0.01 mgm. of radium distributed over the whole skeleton being sufficient to produce fatal results in due course.

The section on occupational dermatitis is dealt with under four headings—physical, plant products, living agents, and chemicals.

The author concludes with an instructive section on the prevention of disease in industry.

This useful and concise monograph will be welcomed by all medical practitioners whose field of work lies in industrial areas, whether they be general practitioners, medical officers of health, or factory inspectors. The print is clear, and the illustrations are good.

Weight Reduction, Diet and Dishes. By E. E. CLAXTON, M.B. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1937. (8s. 6d. net.)

The average physician is usually much too vague in his instructions to patients concerning diet. He can seldom find time to sit down and work out a suitable diet for each individual patient, and instead gives general instructions which the patient does not understand fully, and
in which he soon loses faith. There is no doubt that one reason for the great popularity of certain diet specialists is that they are definite and exact in their instructions.

This book contains very sensible and practical instructions for the dietetic treatment of obesity, and is written in the form of a manual for the patient himself. The first part of the book contains a simple exposition of the theory of the subject. It shows that normal foods may be taken, and it is the quantity of the different varieties of food consumed which is important. Sample diets are given and methods of working out individual diets are explained. The second part of the book contains a large number of useful recipes.

The book is confidently recommended to the medical profession for the practical information which it contains. It is also recommended for use as a reference book by patients suffering from obesity.

A Doctor at Work and Play. By Sidney H. Snell, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. London: John Bale, Sons & Curnow, Limited. 1937. (12s. 6d. net.)

This book is disappointing after reading the interesting and entertaining autobiographies of medical men which have been published in recent years. Unfortunately the author died before the book was published, and that may account for some of the inaccuracies encountered. In the chapter describing a tour in Scotland the spelling of some town names is careless. For instance, in one paragraph Girvan is given its proper name and in the next line it is spelt Govan, while a few pages further on it is Garvan. “Kilwinning” is another example. The words “Scotch” and, even worse, “Scottish” are repeated ad nauseam. And surely anyone who had visited Edinburgh would not saddle that city and its famous one o’clock gun with the old story about the lady, startled by the sunset gun, exclaiming, “Does the sun always set with a bang in Edinburgh?” The book is full of stories, almost all of which have had a wide circulation for many years past.

The chapters on the author’s student days, travel in various countries, horses and hunting, farming, the Great War, &c., lead one to expect pages full of colourful events and interesting people, but, unfortunately, these hopes are not realized. The descriptions of the author’s journeys resemble an A. A. itinerary without maps.

One feels that this book was originally intended for private circulation among Dr. Snell’s personal friends on the South Coast to whom, no doubt, it will be interesting.
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The Facial Neuralgias. By Wilfred Harris, M.D.(Cantab.), F.R.C.P. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press.) 1937. (7s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Wilfred Harris, is one of the pioneers of the injection treatment of tic douloureux in this country, and in this little book he has collected together the results of his enormous experience of the various forms of neuralgic pain in the facial region. His book on “Neuritis and Neuralgia,” published in 1926, is already a minor classic, and this smaller work, in its more limited field, reaches the same high level as a practical guide to the diagnosis and treatment of a difficult class of case.

A very full account of trigeminal tic is given, in which the claims of alcohol injection of the Gasserian ganglion as compared with partial sensory root section are discussed with considerable fairness, but with, very naturally, some amount of bias towards the injection method. Then follows a description of the diagnostically more difficult types of atypical neuralgia, in which the author makes out a very good case for the incrimination of the sympathetic in certain obscure cases of diffuse pain in the face and head. Shorter accounts of such rare conditions as geniculate and glossopharyngeal neuralgia are then provided, and finally the painful neuroses of the face, and their differentiation from the various forms of neuralgia of organic origin are discussed. This is certainly a book to be recommended.

Elements of Orthopedic Surgery. By N. Ross Smith, M.B., Ch.M. (Sydney), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), and R. C. Elmslie, O.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited; London: Simpkin Marshall, Limited. 1937. (10s. 6d. net).

In view of the recent trend of orthopedic manuals to assume unwieldy dimensions, it is refreshing to find craftsmen of this speciality who surmount their academic enthusiasm to put before us the essentials of their art in a manner which is suitably adapted to the fundamental requirements of students and masseuses. After a cursory review of the scope of Cripple Welfare Work, the usual gamut of orthopedic problems is discussed. The practicability of the detailed tabulated gymnastics for postural deformities is appreciated, and the same can be said for the balance of attention directed to clinical features and treatment in preference to theory and pathology. The authors have been careful in the choice of clinical photography and skiagrams and append their work with a consideration of the adjuncts which are the hallmark of their trade, i.e., physiotherapy, splints, appliances and plaster of Paris technique.
NEW EDITIONS

Recent Advances in Allergy (Asthma, Hay Fever, Eczema, Migraine, &c.). By George W. Bray, M.B., Ch.M.(Sidney), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). Third Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (15s. net.)

The value and popularity of this book is shown by the fact that this is the third edition within a space of five years. As evidence of the amount of work entailed in the production, it may be noted that, apart from complete revision and considerable rewriting, the original 1,600 references given and used, have now grown to 3,000. On reading, it proves to be a comprehensive text-book on the subject as well as a summary of recent research work. As a result, it serves as an excellent introduction for the general reader, while at the same time, it forms an invaluable aid for the research worker.

A valuable feature which also adds to the charm, is that wherever possible, divisions of the subject are headed by short historical surveys. In some cases this may stretch far back; as, for example, a reference to Botallus (1565), of Pavia, who recorded an instance of a patient who was "sensitive" to roses, and who developed "Hay Fever" symptoms on being brought into contact with their odour.

Throughout the book, there are many instances detailed of differing results of research; but, when these occur, the writer, in most cases, gives one a clear and definite conclusion, and, when this is impossible, says so. The subject, as a whole, is one of rapidly growing importance in medicine; and in this book the style being clear and without ambiguities, there results reading which is not only intensely interesting but also pleasant.

Catechism Series: Botany. Part I. Fourth Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1937. (1s. 6d. net).

The new edition of the Catechism Series in Botany will be welcomed by students of the subject. It is very well laid out and the student is carefully conducted through the whole of the processes which are carried on by the higher plants. Each component part is fully explained, as to structure and function, in a very concise manner. The diagrams which illustrate the book are very clear and therefore easy to follow. The book will be a boon to students when revising their work for examination purposes.