NEW EDITIONS

A Practical Handbook of Midwifery and Gynaecology. By W. F. T. Haultain and Clifford Kennedy. Third Edition. Pp. x+388, with 47 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1946. Price 20s.

This edition retains the essential characteristics of its predecessors. For its size, by means of enumeration and tabulation, it summarises an amazing amount of up-to-date theoretical and practical information. Alteration has been made in the arrangement of some obstetrical chapters to bring together normal and then abnormal parturition. New chapters have been added, one on the infant written by a paediatrician, one on the therapeutic use of hormones in obstetrics and gynaecology and one on sexual disorders.

Two criticisms are offered. The chapter on puerperal sepsis lacks a comprehensive definition to unify the aetiology and variety of lesions resulting from post-partum and post-abortion organismal invasion of the genital tract. Again the useful summary, of contraceptive techniques should be given as a separate chapter. These observations in no way alter the opinion that this edition will be found a most helpful synopsis for students. Practitioners, especially those resuming civilian practice, will also find here a short and very practical modern summary of the subjects.

A Complete Outline of Fractures, including Fractures of the Skull. By J. Grant Bonnin. Second Edition. Pp. xiv+658, with 711 illustrations. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books Ltd.) 1946. Price 30s. net.

The second edition of Mr Bonnin’s Outline of Fractures is a notable advance on its forerunner.

Written primarily for students, it succeeds admirably in providing an up-to-date, well-balanced and reasonably concise account of fractures which will have a much wider appeal than its author anticipated.

The book has a distinct academic flavour, yet it remains essentially practical; and the methods of treatment advocated conform to accepted British practice. The illustrations are numerous and illuminating, apart from those in the Appendix on Operative Exposure of the Long Bones, which are well below the general standard and should be replaced or deleted.

The book is well produced and a credit to author and publisher alike. It should, for many a day, be the junior classic in this important and difficult subject.

The Early Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen. By Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Ninth Edition. Pp. 262, with 38 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1946. Price 12s. 6d.

This new edition contains a few minor alterations and additions chiefly in the chapters on acute intestinal obstruction and on acute abdominal emergencies in pregnancy and the puerperium. Two new radiograms have been included.

This very readable little book should continue to be of real help to all those who have to diagnose abdominal emergencies.

Regional Analgesia. By H. W. L. Molesworth. Second Edition. Pp. viii+92, with 42 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1946. Price 8s. 6d. net.

This little book is a record of its author’s personal experiences in the practice of local anaesthesia. It makes no claim to be comprehensive; it is, indeed, both
short and terse, yet it is a mine of information of the greatest interest and importance to surgeons who favour regional rather than general anaesthesia.

The format of the slender volume is pleasing; a few of the diagrams might have been drawn with more regard for anatomical exactitude, but for the most part they are useful and helpful.

We can confidently recommend the book as a sound, reliable and practical guide to local anaesthetic practice and procedure.

Practical Anaesthetics. By J. Ross Mackenzie, M.D., D.A. Second Edition. Pp. x+172, with 71 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1946. Price 10s. 6d.

In this edition, Dr Mackenzie has added much new detail and yet contrived to restrict the size to pocket dimensions. A typographical error, which has passed into this edition (p. 10 et seq.) from the first, must be mentioned, viz. Bromethyl for Bromethol. Bromethyl is a synonym for ethyl bromide which is not what the author is describing. Chapter IX is entitled Endotracheal Anaesthesia, but half of it is concerned with Trichlorethylene, which would have found a more appropriate place in Chapters IV and V on Inhalation Agents. As a primer for students and occasional anaesthetists this excellent little book can be confidently recommended.

The Science of Dental Materials. By Eugene W. Skinner, Ph.D. Third Edition, Revised. Pp. 410, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1946. Price 24s. net.

It is not surprising that this book has reached its third edition. The revision of a text-book during a period of world war is a difficult undertaking, especially as fundamental researches are likely to be neglected and any available time is directed towards the invention of substitutes for scarce materials. Consequently some of the chapters in the present edition have not been revised from the second edition as no notable contributions have been made since 1940 to these particular subjects. Considerable progress has, however, been made in the knowledge and use of acrylic resins for dental restorations and the chapters dealing with this subject have been entirely rewritten. The book should prove to be of real value in the important branch of dental practice with which it is concerned.

An Introduction to Human Anatomy. By Clyde Marshall. Third Edition, revised by Edgar L. Lazier, Ph.D. Pp. xi+418, with 303 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. Ltd. 1946. Price 12s. 6d. net.

This is an excellent short text-book of anatomy and Dr Lazier is to be congratulated on the alterations that he has made in this edition. Although too brief and simple to be adequate for medical students it should prove a reliable guide to practitioners who are required to conduct courses on elementary anatomy. Perhaps the two outstanding features of the work are the large number of useful illustrations, many of which are taken from standard anatomical text-books, and the footnotes that give the derivation and meaning of anatomical terms.

Electrocardiography in Practice. By A. Graybiel, M.D., and Paul D. White, M.D. Second Edition. Pp. ix+458, with 323 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Co. Ltd. 1946. Price 35s. net.

During the last twenty years the scope of electrocardiographic diagnosis has greatly broadened as a corollary to advances in knowledge in this specialised branch of Medicine. Initially of value in recording and elucidating the mechanism of the arrhythmias, the electrocardiograph is now largely employed in the diagnosis of myocardial disease. In modern practice the use of chest leads has added greatly to precision, but at the cost of increasing complexity; the multiplicity of leads now
employed is a source of confusion to many. Of recent years new terms have crept into current use and new techniques are employed in the diagnosis of certain cases. There is great need therefore for an authoritative text-book on the subject, such as that now under review.

This book covers a wide field in a most satisfactory manner. There are initial chapters on physiology and technique and on variations in the normal, which lead on to sections on the arrhythmias and myocardial disease. The last is headed "Etiologic Types and Patterns" and covers not only the common forms of heart disease, but a wide variety of other conditions—avitaminoses, endocrine disorders, drug actions, etc. A valuable note on artefacts is included. Approximately one-third of the book is devoted to electrocardiograms "for practice in interpretation," arranged haphazard and accompanied by full diagnoses and comments in the text.

The standard of production is very high. The reproductions are admirably clear and reproduced in full size. The book is so arranged that a page of cardiograms faces the text describing the changes recorded, with a full clinical description of each case figured. It is emphasised by the authors that electrocardiography cannot be divorced from clinical study of the patient.

The book is strongly recommended to all interested in this branch of Medicine.

Theory and Practice of Nursing. By M. A. Gullan, S.R.N. Fifth Edition. Pp. xii+236. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1946. Price 12s. 6d. net.

This standard text-book first appeared as long ago as 1920, a record which speaks to its usefulness and popularity. The present edition has been thoroughly revised to bring it up-to-date but the original plan of presentation remains unchanged.

The book is one which can be read and re-read with profit many times during the nurse's training and it should serve as a useful book of reference when information is required.

Electro-therapy and Light Therapy. By R. Kovacs, M.D. Fifth Edition. Pp. 694, with 352 figures in the text. London: Henry Kimpton. 1946. Price 42s. net.

This work, originally limited to a description of electro-therapy and light therapy has now been expanded to include hydrotherapy, hypothermy, massage, exercise and the many kinds of treatment which go to make up physical medicine.

The first part of the book is devoted to a description of the various techniques and their uses, while the later sections discuss the method available for different individual disorders. Full details are given and the book is copiously illustrated. The steadily increasing interest in physical medicine should create a demand for this authoritative work.

Elementary Bacteriology. By Joseph E. Greaves and Ethelyn O. Greaves. Fifth Edition. Pp. xvii+613, with 160 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Co. Ltd. 1946. Price 20s. net.

The title does not quite convey the nature and scope of this work, which comes from the Utah State Agricultural College. It is in a sense elementary but its length and range make the term unsuitable.

It deals with bacteriology in the widest sense, less than half of its forty-nine chapters being concerned with that subject in relation to medicine. It traces bacteriological discovery from the earliest days up to the latest researches with the electron microscope.

The sections on bacteriology in relation to plant life and agriculture are naturally among the most detailed and interesting. Each chapter is followed by a series of questions for the student, and a list of references. The illustrations are excellent.

This fifth edition can be recommended as very readable, comprehensive and up-to-date.