NEW BOOKS

Essentials of Clinical Proctology. By MANUEL G. SPIESMAN. Pp. 238. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1946. Price 21s.

This book is a monograph published by Dr Spiesman, and based on his lectures to undergraduates and post-graduates at the Cook County Hospital Rectal Clinic in Chicago. While the book covers a considerable amount of useful ground and is well laid out, it is rather full for the undergraduate and does not go into sufficient detail for the post-graduate. Dr Spiesman’s practice in various ano-rectal conditions is described in considerable detail and the book is well illustrated. There is, however, a great deal of unnecessary repetition both in the text and also in the explanations of the illustrations. Certain conditions which would normally be perhaps without the ano-rectum, such as the treatment of pilonidal cyst, are discussed. There is an excellent “proctologic reference book list” at the end.

A Contribution to the Knowledge of the Influences of Gonadotropic and Sex Hormones on the Gonads of Rats. By J. H. GAARENSTROOM and S. E. DE JONGH. Pp. 164, with 20 illustrations. Distributors: Cleaver-Hume Press. 1946. Price 16s. net.

The authors of this monograph are to be congratulated on their courage and pertinacity in carrying on their scientific work under very difficult conditions during the German occupation of Holland. As the title suggests, the effect of the gonadotropic hormone on the gonads of rats was carefully investigated and the results correlated. One of the objects of the investigation was to produce biological proof of the independent existence of two gonadotropic hormones in one and the same species. The authors not only produce evidence which appears to substantiate their hypothesis, but indicate that there is a much closer inter-relationship between the gonadotropic and sex hormones than was considered formerly. The investigations suggest that the sex hormones often act as a link between the gonadotropic hormones and certain morphological processes in the gonads. They employ a neutral descriptive nomenclature for the two gonadotropic hormones, namely, GI—interstitium factor, and Ge—epithelium factor.

Although the monograph deals for the most part with experimental work, it is of absorbing interest and should be read by all interested in sex endocrinology.

Experiences with Folic Acid. By TOM D. SPIES. Pp. 110, with 4 coloured plates. Chicago. (London: H. K. Lewis & Co.). 1947. Price 21s. net. $3.75.

A summary of the work leading to the successful therapeutic use of synthetic folic acid is followed by an account of the formidable list of investigations carried out by Spies and his co-workers on each patient. Folic acid was effective in the treatment of megaloblastic anaemia of various types, and in what is described as nutritional leucopenia. It produced definite haematological and clinical improvement in cases of sprue.

The danger of subacute combined degeneration of the cord occurring when folic acid is used alone in the routine treatment of pernicious anaemia is stressed. There is a brief discussion of the part played by folic acid and its conjugates in haemopoiesis. As yet no definite conclusion has been reached as to its mode of action.

Child Health. (The Practitioner Handbooks.) Edited by ALAN MONCREIFF, M.D., F.R.C.P., and WILLIAM A. R. THOMSON, M.D. Pp. 254. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd. 1947. Price 14s. net.

This volume clearly unfolds in its twenty-two chapters the management of the disorders which are likely to become the care of the general practitioner under the National Health Service, necessitating on his part a wide knowledge of the services available and how they may be utilised to the best advantage.
A detailed description of the organisation and administration of Child Health Services and the facilities available for the care and education of the child at different ages is set out. The common problems of infant feeding and hygiene, of the toddler, the school child and the care of the physically handicapped, mental and problem child are dealt with.

This book is full of helpful advice and information for those who have the supervision of the upbringing of children.

Recent Advances in Clinical Pathology. Edited by S. C. Dykes, D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. xii+468, with 34 plates and 19 figures. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1947. Price 25s.

This new volume, issued under the auspices of the European Association of Clinical Pathologists, is a valuable addition to the series of Recent Advances.

The editor has secured the services of about forty collaborators, each an expert in his own department. The book is divided into four sections which deal respectively with Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Hāematology and Histology, and covers a wide range of subjects. The information collected has been well chosen and is authoritative and reliable.

The book is excellently produced and well illustrated and it should become a popular member of this well-known series.

The Psychology of the Unwanted Child. By Agatha M. Bowley, Ph.D. Pp. xi+112. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1947. Price 6s. net.

Miss Bowley has tried to help matrons, wardens, housemothers, and all those who are responsible for the care of children removed from their own homes, to understand something of the child’s point of view, his feelings and his difficulties. A clear, simple and readable book results. We commend particularly her advocacy of the value, under proper conditions, of institutions in the care of problem children.

The Practice of Mental Nursing. By May Houlston, R.G.N., R.M.N., R.F.N. Pp. xi+164. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1947. Price 7s. 6d. net.

Miss Houlston has designed this book as a brief elementary introduction to the practice of mental nursing, including an attenuated account of normal psychology and of psychiatry, in the belief that there is no other such introductory book for use in preliminary training schools. There are already a number of books on mental nursing, and we still think that the Handbook of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association is the most suitable manual for nurses in training and that Sister-Tutors should introduce and guide their probationers to the subject.

The Psychology of Women. Vol. II: Motherhood. By Helene Deutsch, M.D. Pp. vi+436. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1947. Price 25s. net.

This volume is an excellent counterpart of the previous volume, and maintains its high standard. It deals with the psychologic life of the normal woman, and while the interpretations are based on psycho-analytic doctrine, yet the picture is never overdrawn and the deductions are reasonable. The psychosomatic interdependence of the processes involved is always kept fully in mind, and the conditions described are related to the social and economic circumstances. This book is not only of intense interest to psychiatrists, but it can be recommended cordially to all practising obstetricians and gynaecologists.

Elements of Surgery. By Fawset Welsh, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.S.(Eng.). Pp. viii+83. London: Oxford University Press. 1947. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This book is the outcome of lectures given to nurses. It is hoped that it might be welcomed by medical students as well. The text is clear and up-to-date, but it suffers from compression and lack of illustrations—both dangerous in a “primer.” It covers the syllabus for the S.R.N.