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NEW BOOKS

Immunity: Principles and Application in Medicine and Public Health. An Exposition of the Biological Phenomena of Infection and Recovery of the Animal Body from Infectious Disease, with consideration of the Application of the Principles of Immunity to Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prophylaxis and their usefulness in the Control of Epidemics. By Hans Zinsser, M.D., John F. Enders, Ph.D., and Le Roy D. Fothergill, M.D. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1939. (28s. net.)

This book is a completely revised and largely rewritten successor to Zinsser’s “Resistance to Infectious Diseases,” of which the last edition was published in 1931. Like its predecessor, the volume is arranged in two sections, the first dealing with the principles and theory of immunity reactions and the second devoted to special immunological problems in individual infections. The first section is devoted to analysis and discussion of the phenomena of immunity; it forms a comprehensive review of the subject as a whole and especially of the progress made in recent years. The abundant references to literature are very valuable. The second section is of more practical nature and includes two new chapters on the applied immunology of virus diseases. Pneumonia is allocated a chapter to itself in this edition and the authors strongly advocate the serum treatment of pneumococcal pneumonia irrespective of the anatomical characters of the lesion. It is clear that at the time of writing this section, reports of the success of the chemotherapy of pneumococcal infections were not available. Similarly, only passing references are made to the chemotherapy of meningococcal and gonococcal infections, but on the other hand, the earlier results of sulphanilamide on haemolytic streptococci are carefully reviewed. Although not intended as a laboratory text-book, numerous technical methods are included. The intrinsic value of the book, however, rests upon the success with which the results of laboratory research are applied to clinical and epidemiological problems. It can be thoroughly recommended to all who are interested in the theoretical and practical aspects of immunity.
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Anemia in Practice: Pernicious Anemia. By William P. Murphy, A.B., M.D. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company Limited. 1939. (22s. 6d. net.)

At a time when it is hard to keep pace with books written on blood disorders it is a pleasure to come across one which is practical and readable. Dr. Murphy writes from wide experience in the field of haematology and takes care that his book lives up to its title and does not become too technical. Although the book deals with anaemias in general, by far the greatest part is concerned with pernicious anaemia. A historical review of the disease and the author's experience at the time of introduction of liver therapy form two very interesting chapters.

The book contains sound advice as to the treatment and supervision of cases of pernicious anaemia, giving warning against the use of liver extracts of doubtful potency and the "shot-gun" methods of treatment employing iron and liver mixtures which are now flooding the market. Included at the end of the book are two useful chapters on laboratory procedures and blood transfusion.

The coloured plates are well reproduced and the majority of the figures and tables are easily understood. A few are somewhat complicated.

There is a bibliography at the end of each chapter and a full index.

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Trial of Field and Gray. Edited by Winifred Duke. Notable British Trials. London, Edinburgh and Glasgow: William Hodge & Co., Limited. 1939. (10s. 6d. net.)

The Notable British Trial Series requires no eulogy. Its reputation has long been established and all interested in the various branches of criminology turn to the volumes, comprised in it, as works of reference.

The long and comprehensive list of these books which includes famous trials, even long before the days of Pritchard, Maybrick and Crippen up until the trial of Ruxton in 1936, provides an amazing and most interesting kaleidoscope not only of human character with its many frailties but of evidence which was responsible for the acquittal or conviction of those charged.

The most recent inclusion, the Trial of Field and Gray, is yet another example of the excellence of the series. This case deals with the murder of Irene Munro, a short-hand typist and a girl of seventeen which occurred at Eastbourne during the summer holiday season of 1920.
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One afternoon, the girl left her lodgings and did not return. The following afternoon, a boy tripped over what he discovered to be a human foot in a hollow in the Crumbles. From this point onwards incident follows incident with rapidity until Field and Gray are conveyed to Hailsham and there charged with the murder.

The links which connected them with the crime and how their guilt was eventually established shows the assiduity, cleverness and tenacity of purpose displayed by the officials who were responsible for the investigation.

Winifred Duke has done full justice to the treatment of her presentation of a most interesting case in which a concatenation of seemingly trivial incidents led to far reaching conclusions which were established in proof. The simple figure of a dog's head upon the handle of a walking stick is but an illustration.

This case has again emphasized the importance of the translation of the signs of death in terms of the approximate interval which has elapsed between death and subsequent medical examination of a body.

The Trial of Field and Gray is a worthy addition to the companion volumes, already included in this excellent series and place should be found for it in the libraries of all who find interest in criminology, in any of its many phases, as well as in all libraries used for reference purposes.

_Treatment in General Practice._ Vol. III.—_Anaesthesia: Surgery._

Articles republished from the _British Medical Journal_. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. (10s. 6d. net.)

This volume is a sequel to two similar volumes dealing with major medical disorders in general practice, and like them is compiled from articles published in the _British Medical Journal_. Volume III. is concerned with anaesthesia and surgical procedures in general practice, the latter being subdivided into general principles (for example, treatment of wounds and haemorrhage) and regional surgery (for example, tonsillectomy, &c.).

In a general consideration of the book it might well be said that the section on anaesthetics is unduly long and exhaustive. The dangerous nature of chloroform is stressed, although "for some imperfectly understood reason, there appears to be little risk of primary cardiac failure in parturient women." The late Dr. H. P. Fairlie of Glasgow, who had a wide experience of chloroform anaesthesia, is quoted as holding the opinion that minor degrees of
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liver damage were not uncommon in chloroform anaesthesia, but that pre-operative loading of the liver with glycogen, given as glucose or sodium lactate were a safeguard.

One chapter which is especially striking is that on "the use and abuse of antiseptics," while that on "minor surgery" and "the choice and care of equipment" will be of most use to the practitioner.

The section of the book dealing with regional minor surgery is mostly orthodox, and therefore instructive, and the inclusion of such topics as "hearing aids in general practice" and "minor dental emergencies" are useful additions to it.

Infra-Red Irradiation. By William Beaumont, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1939. (8s. 6d. net.)

The opening chapter deals concisely with the theory of radiation, and gives a good description of the Electro-Magnetic Spectrum. In discussing the physiological effects the author makes the interesting point that a leucopenia may be caused in rheumatic and debilitated patients by even moderate dosage.

Various types of luminous and non-luminous generators are described, and the technique, length, and frequency of application and their combination with other forms of treatment considered.

It is indicated that massage should not follow but precede radiation to avoid hæmorrhage from dilated vessels.

The latter part of the book deals with conditions which are amenable to treatment and excellent results are claimed. It is a practical, clear and compact little book in which the treatment of the symptom pain is rightly stressed, and should prove of value in particular to the general practitioner interested in Physical Therapy.

Health at Fifty. Edited by Dr. William H. Robey, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Emeritus, Harvard Medical School. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press.) 1939. (12s. 6d. net).

This volume contains a selection of twelve of the free Sunday lectures delivered specially for laymen by members of the Faculty of Harvard Medical School. It contains much up-to-date information on such subjects, among others, as heart disease, blood pressure, cancer, rheumatism, the eyes, menstrual disorders, vitamins and endocrine glands.
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As is not uncommon in attempts to present scientific subjects to laymen, one finds the medical lecturer failing to assess his audience, and much in this book would leave the reader bewildered rather than enlightened. We find in many chapters an excess of technical terms which is apt to be confusing, and much of the subject-matter more suited to the senior medical student than to the untrained reader. The lectures themselves are representative of modern teaching, each being presented by a specialist in the subject selected.

One must assume that members of the American public are more interested in health matters than those on this side of the Atlantic, as the book has been published in response to numerous requests for copies of the lectures.

The Functions of Human Voluntary Muscles. By Norman D. Royle, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.A.C.S. London: Angus & Robertson, Limited. 1939. (3s. 6d. net.)

This book consists of a most interesting series of short lectures on the actions of the voluntary muscles of the body. There is a foreword by Professor A. N. Burkitt, Professor of Anatomy, University of Sydney, explaining the object of the book.

The introductory remarks are of great interest, and explain the different methods of determining the function of muscles, with the author's views on muscle tone. Thereafter, there are three chapters devoted to the action of the muscles of the spine and limbs.

Actually, there is nothing new in the text, but all the facts are put in a most systematic way, which renders this small book a most excellent one for rapid reference. It should be of great value to students of Anatomy, and to those interested in Orthopaedic Surgery.

Diet and Ill-Health in the Forest Country of the Gold Coast. By J. M. Purcell, D.D.(Dub.), M.R.C.P.(Ire.), D.T.M.&H.(Lond.), Colonial Medical Service, Gold Coast. London: H. K. Lewis & Co, Limited. 1939. (7s. 6d. net.)

Many books have been written on tropical diseases from the point of view of the causal agent, bacterial or parasitic, but in this short clinical study Dr. Purcell approaches the subject from the point of view of the state of nourishment and type of diet of the patient, and shows that the soil, as well as the seed is important in the development of ill-health.
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In an introductory section he shows that the Akim, a primitive African people living in forest clearings in the Gold Coast, live on a diet which is very largely carbohydrate and particularly low in good-quality protein. Though neither tall nor robust the adults maintain a reasonable degree of health and nutrition as the calorie content is ample. In the case of nursing mothers, however, this kind of diet gives a poor quality of breast milk and in consequence many infants suffer from malnutrition.

The main part of the book deals with such infants and young children, in whom the deprivation of protein leads to retarded growth or wasting, and to a lowered resistance to infection. Various types of cases are met with, such as generalized oedema, lesions of the alimentary tract, nephritis, dermatitis, and affections of the nervous system. Two of the most interesting conditions resemble closely the syndromes of pellagra, and of acrodynia, or "pink disease." As these little patients (210 in number) were studied in an outpatient dispensary, and many did not attend regularly, it was difficult to observe the effect of dietetic treatment adequately.

The problems suggested by this study are many and complex, for in addition to a lack of protein and fat in the diet of these children there may also be deficiency of vitamins and of mineral salts. The onset of the more acute forms of these deficiency illnesses seemed often to be brought about by a recent attack of measles or whooping-cough.

The book is well produced, with a number of interesting diet-tables in the first part and over sixty illustrations from photographs in the second part. Some of these photographs are very good, but others are rather too small to show clearly what they are intended to illustrate.

Fractures and Dislocations. (Lewis's General Practice Series.) By John P. Hosford, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1939. (12s. 6d. net.)

The author, following out his intention, has written a small text-book for the undergraduate working for his final examination and also for the recently qualified practitioner.

The work is along orthodox lines and while there is some disproportion in the space devoted to certain subjects, this has been intentional. The views presented, especially those on the treatment of fractures, are thoroughly up-to-date, the Böhler influence being apparent. Considerable attention has been given to the details of
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non-operative treatment; the book has been based essentially on the actual experience of practice and therefore contains a great deal of practical information. The style is fluent and facile and shows a refreshing departure from the academic. Reproductions of x-ray photographs are used as illustrations almost throughout, but the omission of skiagrams for fractures of the pelvis, shaft and lower end of the femur, and, especially, the spine, is surprising.

We would commend the eleven chapters in the "General" part of the work, with special reference to those on General Principles of Treatment and Plaster of Paris, which are good. An historical note on a few surgeons of the past, whose names are household words in the fracture world, forms an interesting appendix.

We feel certain that the student will find this book to be of considerable value; we are not so certain, however, that it can appeal to the ordinary practitioner, who usually regards any fracture as being a case for the surgical specialist at the fracture clinic.

The production of the book reaches a high level, the type being clear, the paper of good quality, the arrangement satisfying, and the illustrations, of which there are seventy-one, uniformly strong.

Orthopaedic Appliances: The Principles and Practice of Brace Construction for the Use of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Bracemakers.

By Henry H. Jordan, M.D. New York and London: Oxford University Press (Humphrey Milford). 1939. (21s. net.)

This excellent book, stated to be the first of its kind in English-American literature, deals systematically with the entire subject of orthopaedic appliances from the point of view of the orthopedic surgeon and the appliance-maker. The great wealth of technical knowledge contained in the book is clearly described and illustrated. Reasonably careful study of, or even intelligent reference to this book should enable most orthopaedic surgeons to go beyond the scope of their everyday appliances, without feeling out of their depth and at the mercy of their appliance-maker. If the latter in turn is at a loss as to the technical details entailed by the surgeon's requirements, the book contains excellent diagrams and photographs with detailed explanatory text.

Many of the braces described are little, if at all, used in Britain, but, in all probability, this book will supply the details necessary to encourage their adoption here, to an increasing extent.

There is an excellent foreword by Dr. E. G. Brackett, the Editor of the "Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery," in which he stresses the
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need for the careful choice and detailed consideration as well as the final fitting of apparatus by the orthopedic surgeon. The sections on Plaster of Paris technique, on Spinal Braces, on Lower Back-braces, Sacro-iliac Belts, &c., and on Major Leg-braces, are packed full of useful information and explanations, which are necessarily curtailed where presented at all in ordinary orthopedic publications. To most British readers a whole section on Foot-plates will come as almost as great a surprise as will the author's belief in their value. Dr. Jordan's arguments are most convincing when they apply to patients whose work necessitates standing for long periods.

The book is well written, and contains nearly four hundred illustrations, most of which attain a degree of perfection seldom encountered. The author and the publishers are to be congratulated on filling a long-felt want so ably.

The Physiology of Anaesthesia. By Henry K. Beecher, A.B., A.M., M.D. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press.) 1939. (17s. 6d. net.)

This volume fills a long felt want in the literature on anaesthetics. Although primarily of interest to specialist anaesthetists and physiologists, it is well worthy of perusal by surgeons who are interested in the post-operative physiology of their patients. Facts as to the far-reaching effects of general anaesthesia on the human organism, which will surprise many, are disclosed.

The action of the commonly used anaesthetics on the various systems of the body are thoroughly examined, various theories and research results being presented. It is stressed all through the book that much of the research has not been confirmed, and must be taken with reservations, but on the other hand prominence is given to work that has been thoroughly verified.

It is interesting to note that many theories that have been copied from text-book to text-book find no support in this volume. For instance, it has always been taught that chloroform causes increased haemolysis of the red blood corpuscles, but the author of this book can find no fact to justify this teaching.

Anaesthetic technique is not dealt with, except in so far as it affects the physiology of the various systems. The book will therefore not appeal to the general practitioner or the final-year student, but it is a mine of information to the specialist anaesthetist. It has the best bibliography on anaesthetics yet published, extending to forty-five pages.

This is a stimulating and fascinating book, and can be thoroughly recommended.
Handbook of the Vaccine Treatment of Chronic Rheumatic Diseases.
By H. Warren Crowe, D.M., B.Ch.Oxon., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Third Edition. London: Oxford Medical Publications. 1939. (3s. 6d. net.)

This book has now reached the third edition which is some indication of its popularity and of the increasing attention at present being paid to rheumatism. Like previous editions the treatment described is based on the hypothesis that all rheumatic diseases are bacterial in origin and therefore they should be amenable to vaccine treatment. The author elaborates his method of vaccine preparation and administration and presents a good thesis for the beneficial effects of small doses. He emphasizes that the effects produced are due to the vaccine and are not likely to be entirely non-specific as some suggest. He bases his arguments on the results obtained at the Charterhouse Rheumatism Clinic.

The present edition has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. A very welcome addition is the chapter on Chrysotherapy, even although the author does not give this form of treatment the credit that it deserves.

The book is well written and is a useful guide to those who wish to try the effect of minimal doses of vaccine prepared and administered as described.

Clinical Pathology. By P. N. Panton, M.B., B.C., and J. R. Marrack, M.D., B.C. Fourth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1939. (16s. net.)

Since the first edition of this book appeared twenty-six years ago, it has gained so well deserved a reputation that it is to be found in most clinical laboratories throughout the country. The present edition maintains the high standard of its predecessor in usefulness, clarity of style and illustrations.

Unlike most other books, succeeding editions have not materially added to its size; this has been achieved by omitting those older methods which have been replaced by newer and better ones.

The scope of the book embraces practically all branches of work carried out in a clinical laboratory, and while the various sections are not intended to be exhaustive so far as specialized research is concerned, they epitomise, the present-day knowledge on the subjects with which they treat.
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The technique for quantitative and qualitative chemical investigations, for histological preparations, for bacteriological examination and for the function tests of the various organs are clearly and precisely given. The index is full, enabling any particular subject or technical method to be readily found.

We commend the present edition to all those who have learned in the past to look upon the book as a safe and dependable stand-by; we urge any worker in a clinical laboratory who is not yet acquainted with it to acquire a copy forthwith knowing that it will quickly become a valued and constant companion to him in his work.

An Introduction to Dermatology. By Sir Norman Walker, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., and G. H. Percival, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Tenth Edition. London: W. Green & Sons, Limited. 1939. (20s. net.)

Since the first edition was published in 1899, this book has been kept up-to-date at repeated intervals, and the present edition retains its place in the front rank in spite of the publication of several other good books on dermatology for students and practitioners.

It is amply illustrated with an unusually large number of excellently coloured plates, which make it specially attractive and gives the student a clear mental picture of the various diseases, which nothing else, apart from clinical experience, can do. In this edition a few more coloured plates have been added.

The subject of allergy sensitization dermatitis has been adequately dealt with from the students' point of view.

The authors continue to hold the view that it is a mistake to use the words Eczema and Dermatitis for superficial inflammatory eruptions which clinically and histologically are the same. There is, therefore, no chapter entitled "Eczema" which makes this thorny problem easier for the student to understand.

In a book which is mainly intended for students and practitioners, it is perhaps not essential to devote so much space to the description and illustration of the rarer skin affections, for example, Blastomycosis, Sporotrichosis, Mycosis Fungoides, Leprosy, etc. These are of great value to the specialist, but are not so important from the point of view of the student and practitioner. Again, several of the more common affections, particularly Neuro-dermatitis and Cheiropompholyx could, with advantage, be more fully discussed and illustrated.

In dealing with Neuro-dermatitis, p. 145, it is observed that this condition is more common in men than in women and that one of the common sites is the nuchal region. The arrangement of the text would lead the student to infer that Neuro-dermatitis of the nuchal region is common in men, whereas it is almost entirely confined to women.
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Again in describing Cheiropompholyx. p. 163, the authors might have broadened the aetiological conception of this interesting and common clinical condition. They state that there are views held regarding the aetiology—one that it is neurotic in origin, the other that it is due to micro-organisms. This is much too rigid a statement. Cheiropompholyx is simply a type of re-action (dermatitis) in which many causes play a part—both internal and external.

The details in the treatment of Psoriasis are excellent, but cignolin, which has certain advantages over chrysarobin, is not included in the therapeutic measures which may be adopted.

In discussing the treatment of Sycosis, no mention is made of any general treatment and the importance of dealing with focal sepsis. Furunculosis, a very common and troublesome condition is rather briefly dealt with, and Carbuncle, which is now as much a dermatological condition as a surgical one, is omitted.

The secondary (Eczematide) eruptions mentioned on p. 124, could, with advantage to the student, have been discussed more fully, as they are very common and vary greatly in their clinical types. It is very doubtful if they are all due to absorption of the irritant from the primary area of dermatitis as stated by the authors. No mention is made of the absorption of toxic products from damaged tissues as a cause of secondary eruptions, now an accepted fact, and a point easily grasped by the student. Although focal sepsis is mentioned as a causal factor in certain diseases, a separate heading and a discussion of the whole subject of "Focal Sepsis in Relationship to Diseases of the Skin" would be of great value to the student.

A brief account of Monilia infections with a photograph is worthy of a place.

The book maintains a high standard, and the authors are to be congratulated. We hope to see other editions as occasions demand.

Synopsis of Hygiene. By Sir W. W. Jameson, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., and Lieut. Col. G. S. Parkinson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Sixth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1939. (21s. net.)

The sixth edition of this standard work follows the fifth after an interval of three years. The time which separates the two, although comparatively short, has been one of continued activity in the field of public health legislation. The Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation Act and, on a more massive scale, the consolidating Factories Act and the new Food and Drugs Act have come into being. Other new
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productions have been the Imported Food and Aircraft Regulations and the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. The presentation of so much new material, even in a synoptic form, and obviously a substantial task, and a number of sections dealing with occupation and other matters have had to be completely recast. The article on the deaf child contains a note upon the pure tone audiometer and the routine group testing of the hearing of children in schools with the aid of the gramophone. A salutary caution is uttered against the indiscriminating application of the ultra-violet rays as a remedial or health promoting measure. An account is given of the methods employed to purge oysters and mussels of bacterial contamination. Reference is made also to air conditioning for the preservation of food, and to the value of the eupatheoscope and other instruments of its type in the estimation of comfort standards in inhabited rooms. In view of the popular conviction that books are specially prone to transmit infectious disease it is well said that the great mass of evidence points to the conclusion that, unless in exceptional cases, they are nearly blameless. A timely paragraph is that which suggests a course of procedure to prevent infection of communal water supplies, and especially those from deep strata, by workmen employed underground. The sixth edition of this book is well up to the high standard of its predecessors.

Handbook of Tuberculosis Schemes for Great Britain and Ireland. Published by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. Tenth Edition. 1939. (5s. net.)

This is the tenth edition of the Handbook published by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and is a most valuable Directory of all Tuberculosis schemes throughout Great Britain and Ireland. It affords to all Medical Officers of Health, and all interested in Tuberculosis, information regarding the schemes throughout the country.

This information has been obtained from most trustworthy sources, and consists of a resumé of each County and Burgh, of the area, population, industries, statistics, &c., with a more detailed account of the existing arrangements under each Tuberculosis scheme.

The Handbook also contains a considerable list of Local Authority, Voluntary and Proprietary Institutions for the treatment of Tuberculosis.

There are also appendices illustrating death rates from Tuberculosis, financial cost of Tuberculosis Service, and a complete compilation of the various branches of the Association and of the affiliated Societies