NEW BOOKS

Textbook of Ophthalmology. Vol. IV. By Sir W. Stewart Duke-Elder. Pp. 4627, with 79 tables, 3985 illustrations and 73 plates. London: Henry Kimpton. 1949. Price 70s.

The advent of the fourth volume of Sir W. Stewart Duke-Elder’s Textbook of Ophthalmology, delayed as it was by six years of war service, is welcome to all ophthalmologists. Those who have looked forward to its production will not be disappointed. It deals with the neurology of vision and motor and optical anomalies. These are dealt with in a most comprehensive and orderly way and in every particular this latest arrival reaches the previous very high standard. Not only is the Textbook of Ophthalmology of the greatest service to ophthalmologists throughout the world but is of inestimable value to the teachers in this subject as a complete and reliable work of reference.

Modern Practice in Ophthalmology. Edited by H. B. Stallard, M.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. 523, with 231 illustrations and 30 colour plates. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1949. Price 65s. net.

This newcomer to the Modern Practice series has been edited by Mr H. B. Stallard, who has himself written several chapters. All the contributors are well-known ophthalmologists. Individually, therefore, as would be expected, the separate chapters are excellently written. There is on some occasions a tendency to overlap so that the same conditions are discussed in different sections by separate authors. The book is lavishly illustrated and the diagrams well annotated. One can have no hesitation in recommending it to the practitioner who wishes to have a fuller understanding of the ophthalmological problems which must periodically crop up in practice.

Ophthalmic Medicine. By James Hamilton Doggart. Pp. 329, with 87 illustrations and 28 colour plates. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1949. Price 32s.

As is stated in the preface “the main object of the volume is to emphasise how intimately the eye is linked not only with adjacent structures but also with remote parts of the body.” As would be expected only the medical aspect of ophthalmology is dealt with and surgical and therapeutic details are omitted. There is much good material in this book and it is up to date in its exposition of the many medical conditions and syndromes dealt with in its thirty-five chapters. It is a very easily read volume and is well illustrated.

Aviation Medicine. By K. G. Bergin. Pp. xiv + 447, with 131 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1949. Price 35s. net.

With the increasing popularity of air travel some knowledge of aviation medicine is essential. The literature on this subject appearing during the war was of such volume as to suggest that the topic could only be understood by specialists in aviation medicine. This book, presented in most readable form as a compact review of the medical problems associated with flying, is acceptable to all. It would be erroneous to presuppose that the book deals entirely with scientific aviation medicine as applied to war; a wealth of practical advice is readily available on such varied subjects as the advisability of pregnant women flying as passengers, night blindness, and also the effects of smoking on general health. The medical contra-indications to air travel presented in tabulated form will appeal to many as the most acceptable part of the volume. Free illustrations, diagrammatic and clearly reproduced photographs, and an excellent bibliography all add to the acceptability of this excellent volume.
Notes on the Theory of Dental Surgery. By NORMAN BLACK. Pp. 168. London: Staples Press Ltd. 1949. Price 12s. 6d.

This book is described as being a handbook on dental surgery and pathology for students preparing for their final examination. Modern methods of treatment are not mentioned and chemotherapeutic agents such as penicillin are completely ignored. The references to oral pathology are inadequate and would not give a student a true picture of the condition. An appendix devoted to local anaesthesia is included but this would have been improved by the incorporation of simple line drawings to clarify the text.

Surgery for Nurses. By JAMES KEMBLE, CH.M., F.R.C.S.ENG., F.R.C.S.ED. Pp. xiv+348, with 374 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1949. Price 21s. net.

This admirable surgical textbook for nurses covers a wide field, clearly, concisely and dogmatically where necessary. The arrangement is good; chapters and sections are well headed, and the illustrations, some of which are in colour, are well chosen and profuse.

Tom Cullen of Baltimore. By JUDITH ROBINSON. Pp. 435, with 20 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1949. Price 21s. net.

This is the life story of an outstanding medical man, who became head of the Department of Gynaecology at Johns Hopkins Hospital and taught in its medical school from its inception. Cullen was a great man who was well known and respected throughout his country and indeed the world. He had a remarkable career and from early days of anxiety and poverty he became a leader in the profession. The biography of a great man is always interesting but this tale is even more so because it includes the names of several other great medical men amongst whom are Dr Howard Kelly and Sir William Osler. Cullen had many interests besides gynaecology. He was a leading public figure and took a large part in public health and the famous library system of Baltimore. The interest of the reader is maintained throughout by the story which is always changing and always vital.

Your Hospital. By A. R. J. WISE, F.H.A. Pp. 239, with 50 illustrations. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1949. Price 15s. net.

The author, a hospital administrator of experience, writes for the enlightenment of the layman, but there is much that might be of interest even to the hospital worker. He tells of the early hospitals, of modern conditions and of how the future may be shaped. There is a short account of each speciality and service, showing how they fit in with the whole and how the public can take advantage of them. Other chapters describe the management of a hospital, the problems of catering and the design of modern institutions. A highly informative book which should give the public an insight into their new heritage.

Introduction to Micro-organisms. By LAVERNE RUTH THOMPSON, R.N., M.A., M.S. Pp. 454, with 73 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. Price 21s.

A small attractively bound volume. The quality of the paper and print is exceptionally high and the illustrations, including several good electron micrographs, are most refreshing.

The subject is presented in an interesting fashion for public health and welfare workers without previous knowledge of bacteriology; it might prove of value as a reference book for nurses.

The text covers prevalent infectious diseases both of temperate and tropical regions and the present edition incorporates most recent information likely to be of interest to those for whom it was written.
Surgeon's Saga. By ROBERTSON MCDOUALL. Pp. 330. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1949. Price 15s. net.

This book is written in the form of a novel, the surgeon being carried from his schooldays, through Glasgow University to London where he works during the blitz, and finally to Skye. There are many vivid pictures of medical life—general practice. disorders. Nutrition, increasing many vivid pictures of medical life—general practice in the Gorbals, the overworked E.M.S. surgeon of war-time and the helpful psychiatrist. There is much sound sense and much thought-provoking material woven into the tale. This pleasantly written book is one we can heartily recommend, particularly to the young practitioner.

Mayo Clinic: Diet Manual. Pp. 529. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 20s.

This book, drawn up by the Committee on Dietetics of the Mayo Clinic, contains all the diets in ordinary use in that institution. With advancing knowledge of nutrition, increasing use is being made of special diets in the treatment of many disorders. The Diet Manual contains very little textual matter, just sufficient to explain the object of the diet, but it gives in fullest detail the foods and the quantities required. It is a first-class book of reference on the most approved present-day practice.

A Surgeon's Domain. By B. M. BERNHEIM, M.D. Pp. 217. Kingswood, Surrey: The World's Work Ltd. 1949. Price 9s. 6d. net.

The author, a surgeon at Johns Hopkins, describes medical training in America and especially his own progress till he joined the staff of a great hospital. Though written primarily for laymen it may well be read with profit by medical men, for he holds strong views on matters of the greatest interest to the profession.

No Place to Hide. By D. BRADLEY. Pp. 191. London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1949. Price 7s. 6d.

Writing in the form of a diary, the author, an American doctor, gives an account of the Bikini expedition which studied the effects of two atomic bombs exploded under experimental conditions. Dr Bradley concludes that there is no real defence against atomic weapons and there is no medical or sanitary safeguard for the peoples of an atomised area. The book is not all scientific data, but contains an interesting account of a pleasant trip amongst south-sea islands.

Collected Papers of the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation. Edited by R. M. HEWITT, B.A., M.A., M.D., and others. Volume XL, 1948. Pp. xii+918, with 116 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 55s.

This annual publication from the Mecca of American medicine is a wonderful collection of modern ideas. It covers all fields of medical knowledge, and kindred papers are grouped together in sections so that they are readily accessible. The papers vary considerably, some are relatively short summaries of work which has appeared elsewhere, while others are relatively full. This excellent periodical is worthy of the attention of specialists in every branch of medicine.

Introductory Botany. By ALEX. NELSON, B.S.C., PH.D., D.Sc. Pp. viii+479, with 121 figures. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 22s. 6d. net.

This book has been written as an elementary course in the science of plant life to serve as a basis of biological knowledge for the student going on to medicine or one of the kindred disciplines. It deals with classification, structure, morphology and methods of reproduction, also with physiology, genetics and the distribution of plants. The material is clearly presented and satisfactorily illustrated, and the book is to be strongly recommended to those who require an introduction to the subject.
The Structure of Medicine and Its Place Among the Sciences. By F. M. R. Walshe, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Pp. 26. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 1s. 6d.

This is the Harveian Oration for 1948, a very erudite and thought-provoking examination of the subject. "The need for rebuilding the foundations of medicine was never greater than to-day, when we are being swept along in a spate of new knowledge and new techniques, and have so little time for their due contemplation and integration."

Medical Etymology. By O. H. Perry Pepper, M.D. Pp. vi+263. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 27s. 6d.

In former days the student was prepared for his professional studies by a thorough grounding in the classical languages, and the new terms used in medical classes offered little difficulty. Now things are different, and to make good the deficiency Professor Perry Pepper has produced this excellent book. His material has been arranged in various sections which deal with the words employed in different fields of medical teaching. The book is not a dictionary defining the terms, but deals with origins and derivations though explanatory notes are often added. This useful reference work should be greatly appreciated by the harassed undergraduate.

Living Anatomy. By Ronan O'Rahilly, M.B., M.S.C. Pp. x+88, with 7 figures. Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 1949. Price 5s. net.

These notes are primarily intended to be read in connection with a practical class in topographical anatomy and should also serve as a brief summary of the subject. The requirements of clinical examination of the patient have been kept prominently in view. Chief stress has been laid on the surface orientation of deep soft tissue structures as many of the skeletal structures are so obvious. In addition, there is a series of appendices in approximate vertebral levels, dates of eruption of teeth, ossification centres and segmental innervation of muscles. A useful compilation.

The Healing Touch. By Harley Williams. Pp. 408, illustrated. London: Jonathan Cape. 1949. Price 15s. net.

Those who have enjoyed Harley Williams' earlier writings will welcome this new series of biographical sketches. William Knighton, James Clarke, William Jenner, Edwin Chadwick, T. S. Smith, Florence Nightingale and C. E. Brown Segward are the principal characters, but shorter accounts of many others are also introduced. Perhaps the most fascinating story is that of the development of the Mayo Clinic— a piece of modern history that should be familiar to every medical man. Harley Williams has a pleasant touch and his present book will enthral the leisure hour.

Obstetric Analgesia and Anaesthesia. By F. F. Snyder, M.D. Pp. viii+401, with 114 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 32s. 6d.

This publication, based on forty-five years of practical experience and investigation in obstetrics, coincides with a flood of newspaper propaganda for the universal use of analgesia in childbirth. At a time when there persists some indifference to and inadequate knowledge of the problems of analgesia and narcosis in relation to parturition, an authoritative work such as this comes opportunely. The author stresses the great importance of the physiological, pharmacological and psychological factors involved. His observations on prenatal activity of the fetal respiratory mechanism and a detailed study of the influence of various drugs on the latter are of particular interest and value. The fact that the agent, trichlorehylene, and the relaxant, tubocurarine chloride, have not been included does not in any way lessen the enthusiasm with which the reviewer recommends this well-written and finely produced volume to all obstetricians and anaesthetists.
Penicillin and Other Antibiotics. By G. W. S. ANDREWS and J. MILLER, with a foreword by Sir ALEXANDER FLEMING, F.R.S. Pp. 160, with 4 plates. London: Todd Reference Library. 1949. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The object of this book is to present a short scientific survey of the field of antibiotics and it may be fairly said to have been achieved. After a general discussion of antibiotic substances, the properties, production and the principles of the use of penicillin are dealt with in some detail. There are also good sections on streptomycin and tyrothricin.

A Psychiatrist Looks at Tuberculosis. By ERIC WITTKOWER, M.D. Pp. 152. London: The National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. 1949. Price 12s. 6d.

Some knowledge of the human make-up is necessary for the practice of all forms of Medicine and certainly the tuberculous person during the course of his long and uncertain illness presents many psychological reactions which require patient and sympathetic handling. In this book Dr Wittkower describes the results of a long and painstaking study of the psychological aspects of tuberculosis, and his description of the various personality types and their reactions to the circumstances of the disease will be of the greatest help to all who have anything to do with these patients.

Sufferers from tuberculosis come from all walks of life and belong to all personality types, and it is extremely doubtful if a statistician would be happy about some of the conclusions which Dr Wittkower draws. Whether we agree with the author's conclusions or not the value of his investigation is obvious, and the N.A.P.T., by fostering and publishing this research, has placed workers in tuberculosis further in their debt.

The Pharmacologic Principles of Medical Practice. By JOHN C. KRANTZ, Jr., and C. JELLEFF CARR. Pp. xv+980, with 94 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1949. Price 55s.

This American textbook combines pharmacology and therapeutics in one volume. The subject matter is arranged according to the physiological systems of the body. A synopsis is given of the physiology and biochemical functioning of each system and then the drugs which may be used are described and their pharmacological actions discussed. Finally the clinical use of various preparations is assessed. A carefully selected and purposefully limited bibliography is given with each chapter with special emphasis on monographs and recent publications.

The excellent presentation of the subject in this well-known book makes pharmacology a live and interesting study instead of a dull collection of facts and doses to be memorised. The British names of some drugs are not given but this is a minor defect which does not seriously affect the value of the book as a whole. This volume can be most heartily recommended to both medical students and their teachers.

Human Personality and Its Minor Disorders. By WILLIAM HARROWES, M.D. Pp. vii+260. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 15s. net.

This book, as the author states, is founded on the psycho-biological concepts identified with the name and teaching of Adolf Meyer. It is a more or less formal interpretation of Meyer's work and consists essentially of an analysis of his personality studies as shown by the Life Chart and the Scheme of Organisation of Action Potential. The assets of the normal personality are discussed in detail and the whole is brought into relation with the organisation of the person's life, especially the emotional and social factors. The chapter on treatment is disappointing and not informative. As a whole, however, the book can be recommended as a good account of Meyer's work and methods.
Blood Transfusion. Edited by GEOFFREY KEYNES. Pp. 586, with 110 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1949. Price 52s. 6d.

Blood Transfusion. By ELMER L. DEGOWIN, ROBERT C. HARDIN, and JOHN B. ALSEVER. Pp. 587, with 200 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 45s.

These two books, published almost simultaneously, and both founded on the experiences of the war years, inevitably invite comparison.

The English book is the work of seven contributors in addition to the editor who himself contributes an interesting historical chapter (40 pages; the subject is dismissed in 4 pages by the American authors). Dr Ronald Bodley Scott provides an excellent account of the indications and complications of blood transfusion and the technique is described by Dr A. Till, whilst Professor R. W. B. Ellis considers the special problems of transfusion of infants; Dr H. F. Brewer follows with a detailed description of the blood groups, the techniques employed in their detection and in the preparation of test sera, their inheritance, and their clinical significance; he also describes the organisation of the donor service (chiefly for "direct" transfusion) and of a hospital transfusion department and, with Mr F. W. Mills, gives an account of the particular service with which they are associated and of the psychology of blood donors (this chapter ignores too much the organisation and problems of the regional service organised by the Ministry of Health). Sir Lionel Whitby writes on storage and preservation (his account, based largely on his war-time work, might well have been made more general), Dr R. I. N. Greaves on the preparation of plasma, plasma fractions and substitutes. Considered individually the chapters—or, rather, essays—are good, yet the book as a whole leaves the reviewer unsatisfied; perhaps because of the piecemeal treatment, perhaps because the subject is changing so rapidly that no account can be wholly adequate; perhaps because so many of the present day problems are ignored or touched upon so lightly.

The American book, more uniform in character, covers similar ground but with different emphasis. The authors are concerned more with the practical details of transfusion technique in laboratory, hospital, and organising office, and the descriptions given are suited to workers of all grades. The clinical sections and that on the theoretical aspects of blood groups are brief—perhaps too brief, were it not that the book seems to be intended for those who supply a transfusion service rather than for those who use it. The descriptions of plasma preparation, etc., and of organisation are based exclusively on American practice (as those of Keynes’ book are on British).

The two books, because of their different origin, development and scope are complementary and both are needed by the transfusion officer.

Practical Aspects of Thyroid Disease. By GEORGE CRILE, JR., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xxviii+355, with 101 figures. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 30s. net.

In this admirably compact and readable little book Dr Crile presents current American views on the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease. Written as it is by a surgeon, the account has a natural bias in favour of the surgical approach, and some of his conclusions would be disputed by physicians in this country. The figure of 15 per cent., which he gives as the proportion of cases of hyperthyroidism showing a satisfactory response to thiouracil, seems unaccountably low, and the statement that all cases of discrete adenomata (even if symptomless) should be subjected to operation might not perhaps be accepted without question. Obviously considerably more importance is attached to determinations of the basal metabolic rate than is done in this country. Both diagnosis and assessment of progress may depend largely on it rather than on the clinical judgment of the physician. On the whole, however, the book is well balanced and practical. It is plentifully illustrated with diagrams and photographs, all of a high standard of excellence.