NEW EDITIONS

Forensic Medicine. By SYDNEY SMITH, M.D., D.P.H. With an Introduction by Professor HARVEY LITTLEJOHN, F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E. Second Edition. Pp. xvi + 602; 166 figures. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1928. Price 24s.

Edinburgh has always been to the fore in the teaching of forensic medicine in this country, and it has been a matter for regret that no text-book originating from this school has been available. This is no longer the case as Professor Sydney Smith's book represents in concise form the present teaching in Edinburgh. With its introduction by the late Professor Littlejohn, Sydney Smith's Forensic Medicine is already so well known that it is little wonder a new edition has been called for. Fresh legislation and recent advances have resulted in a slight increase in subject-matter, but the text is to a large extent unaltered. Opportunity has, however, been taken to increase the number of illustrations, and old Edinburgh students will recognise many never-to-be-forgotten photographs. The student will find this excellent book a most interesting and comprehensive work, easily read, full of detail, yet at the same time not too expanded for his purpose. It is a book on which thorough reliance can be placed, and one which the student will retain and consult when in practice.

Modern Medicine. By Sir WILLIAM OSLER, Bart., M.D., F.R.S. Third Edition re-edited by THOMAS McCRAE, M.D., and ELMER H. FUNK, M.D. Vol. vi., pp. ix + 964, with 65 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1928. Price £12, 12s. per set of 6 volumes.

This volume completes the Third Edition of Osler and McCrae's System of Medicine, and is devoted to the study of diseases affecting the nervous system. Some forty pages comprise a chapter on diseases and abnormalities of the mind. The addition of such a chapter adds to the value of the book, but it must be realised that only an introduction to mental disorders can be attempted in a text-book on physical medicine. The opening chapter on the study of the nervous system is very comprehensive, but almost too full of facts, and it would have been more useful if the writer had been allotted more space. Brain tumours are dealt with in a masterly fashion, and it is significant that this chapter had to be largely rewritten on account of the recent rapid advances made in this subject. The chapter on topical diagnosis of diseases of the brain is written in a clear and most interesting fashion. To what extent should a patient with disseminated
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sclerosis be informed of his condition? The advice given by the writer on this disease is frank and honourable. We congratulate the editors on the completion of this new edition of our standard textbook on medicine, and on the skill with which they have accomplished their task.

Gynecology. By William P. Graves. Fourth Edition. Pp. 1016, with 689 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., Ltd. 1928. Price 48s.

The new edition of this well-known American text-book of gynecology has been thoroughly revised and many sections have been entirely rewritten. Endometriosis is treated as a single monograph and is very complete. The beginning of the book is unusual, 200 pages being devoted to the relationship between gynecology and the general organism, which is of especial value both to the specialist and the general practitioner. The treatment of cancer by radium is based on the work of the French school and is exhaustively dealt with. Several important changes are included in the operative treatment recommended for procidentia and retroversion, but one is disappointed to find that methods in general use in this country, such as the Manchester operation for procidentia devised by Donald and Fothergill, fail to be even mentioned. Such omissions tend to minimise the value of the book in this country for students, and especially for those reading for the higher examinations. The illustrations drawn by the author are excellent and are of especial value in the operative section. The book can be cordially recommended as a thoroughly up-to-date work on gynecology.

The Clinical Examination of the Lungs. By E. M. Brockbank, M.D.(Vict.) and Albert Ramsbottom, M.D.(Vict.). Fourth Edition. Pp. viii + 112, with 39 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1928. Price 5s.

This edition has been brought up to date by the inclusion of new methods of clinical investigation or useful variations in old methods. As one would expect from authors so well known as clinical teachers, the subject here is well and comprehensively treated, the principles underlying the routine method of examination are clearly stated, and the physical signs of common pulmonary disease are described in an easily understandable manner. Some very good X-ray plates of abnormal conditions in the lungs are to be found at the end of the book.
Notes on Books

Recent Advances in Physiology. Third Edition. By G. Lovatt Evans, D.Sc. Pp. 403. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1928. Price 12s. 6d.

In this edition new chapters dealing with excitability and chronaxia and the nature of nervous impulse have been added. The reader who starts at the beginning of the book will soon decide that it appeals mainly to the specialist. The chapters on oxidation and reduction are also highly technical. The section on postural and conditioned reflexes is clear and interesting. The chapter on the blood cells is commonplace and we note that Jenner's stain is attributed to May. The ductless glands, insulin, blood reaction and the capillary circulation are discussed. The preparation of this edition has obviously entailed much work. We would welcome a brief summary at the end of each chapter.

NOTES ON BOOKS

An Introduction to Experimental Pharmacology (Saunders, 20s.) is an adaptation of Sollmann's Laboratory Guide in Pharmacology. This latter book has for the last decade formed a most useful work of reference for pharmacologists and physiologists.

The present volume is intended partly for the use of students but also for the use of teachers, for the writers have devoted a large proportion of the volume to the description of demonstrations as opposed to description of student experiments.

They point out that the student learns little from practical work unless the experiment is sufficiently simple to enable him to get a result that is approximately accurate. On the other hand, the authors recognise the ever-present danger of drifting into a purely didactic form of instruction.

The bulk of the volume is devoted to the detailed description of student experiments and demonstrations, and the course outlined is far more ambitious than any attempted in this country. The appendices form a notable feature of the book. The most important are those on operative anaesthesia, methods of administering drugs to animals, doses of drugs for animals, dilutions of drugs for excised organs, composition of physiological salt solutions. The compilation of these appendices must have involved an enormous amount of labour, but the information thus collected will be found invaluable by all those engaged on experiments on animals. The book can therefore be recommended as a most valuable work of reference for all laboratories in which animal experiments are performed.