NEW EDITIONS

Surgical Pathology. By William Boyd, M.D., M.R.C.P.Ed., Dipl. Psych., F.R.S. Can. Second Edition. Pp. 933, with 491 illustrations. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. 1929. Price 48s.

The second edition of this admirable work maintains its supremacy and meets—as no other book on surgical pathology does—the wants of the post-graduate, especially of those studying for the higher surgical qualifications. Its matter and the arrangement of it, even we might say, the limitation of it, is evidence that the author has intuitive recognition of what the surgeon requires for his instruction and guidance. Too minute pathology on the one hand, too much clinical surgery on the other, and too many debatable questions on either are avoided in this volume, and by steering this middle course Professor Boyd earns the approval and gratitude of his readers. The opinions expressed are moderate and unbiased, and if in one or two subjects it is apparent that the author lacks personal experience and clinical familiarity condonation is extended to the necessity for “completing” a text-book and doubtless this will be obviated in subsequent editions.

As a practical work on surgical pathology this book has reached its limit of size—nay, it might with advantage even be condensed; here and there a phrase left out, an expression modified, a sentence, in some places even paragraphs, omitted so that all suggestion of discursiveness should disappear. Only to the publisher does the size of a book recommend itself or suggest excellence because of its similarity to some other volume of already established success; but to the student handiness and conciseness are, with lucidity and accuracy, the main desiderata. The “References for further study” appended to most of the chapters is too exclusively American, which under the circumstances perhaps is not surprising, but if they be retained (and we think it desirable they should be) would stand revision as well as addition and, especially where monographs are mentioned, should be accompanied by the date and place of publication.

Clinical Laboratory Methods. Third Edition. By R. L. Haden, M.A., M.D. Pp. 317, with 73 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1929. Price 21s.

That this book is already in its third edition indicates the growing demand for such a work in modern medicine. Some years ago laboratory technique could only be read by searching through the pages of the
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larger text-books on general medicine, but today it is recognised that the clinical laboratory worker is an essential member of the staff of every well-equipped hospital, and with him we have the introduction of quite large works devoted entirely to his subject. Professor Haden is content to give only one method for each quantitative determination and only one for a qualitative test when a single one is adequate; the purpose of the book being to give a series of procedures which have been thoroughly tried and found to be accurate.

An attractive feature is the way in which the author gives his references at the beginning of each section. As in the previous editions, each test is dealt with under the headings of Principle, Procedure, and Remarks.

To the present edition there has been added the technique for the Kahn precipitation reaction, a test which has been proved to be most valuable in the diagnosis of syphilis. There is a full index and the book can with confidence be recommended to laboratory workers.

Recent Advances in Medicine. By G. E. Beaumont, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.) and E. C. Dodds, M.V.O., M.D., Ph.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Fifth Edition. Pp. xiv. + 442, with 49 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1929. Price 12s. 6d.

In the Recent Advances series the present volume takes the first place as regards number of editions, this being the fifth edition in five years. This fact is good evidence of the popularity of the book, a popularity well deserved both by its original merits and by the thorough revision of each new edition. In the present volume, among other new matter, is a clinical classification of the types of nephritis with the corresponding chemical data determined by analysis of the blood and urine, and also a full account of the treatment of pernicious anemia by liver extract. There are numerous other changes of a minor kind, and, for the subject it deals with, the book may be described as clear, authoritative, and indispensable.

A Manual of Diseases of Nose, Throat, and Ear. By E. B. Gleagson, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Otology, Medical Chirurgical College Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Sixth Edition. Pp. 617, with 268 illustrations. London & Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., Ltd. Price 21s.

This is a further edition of a well-known book on Diseases of the Nose, Throat, and Ear. It was first published in 1907, then essentially a reference book for students and post-graduates. Unlike many of the published books on the specialty no mention is made of endoscopy
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except to draw attention to the instruments used. The author has re-written much of the book and brought it well up to date. Some of the illustrations and descriptions seem to be superfluous but the author has persevered in his aim to provide a book for students commencing the study of oto-laryngology, etc. It is certainly a book to be recommended to students and post-graduates who wish a thorough grounding in the study of the affections of the Nose, Throat, and Ear.

The Nervous Child. By Hector Charles Cameron, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. vii + 249, with 8 illustrations. Fourth Edition. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1929. Price 7s. 6d.

This popular and useful book now appears in its fourth edition. Dr Cameron describes in picturesque detail the symptoms of "nervousness" in infancy and childhood, and the psychological conditions in parent and child (not seldom abetted by the doctor) in which these symptoms appear, grow, and persist. With equal precision and wisdom he outlines the mental attitude necessary in those who have the care of the child if its mental and nervous control is to be restored.

In the later edition, chapters have been added on certain physical stigmata to be found in association with types of nervousness, and also on the almost fashionable condition termed "acidosis" which may be found in the nervous child. On these mysteries Dr Cameron writes in a charming and plausible way but brings little evidence forward to support his ingenious theories.

Principles and Practice of Minor Surgery. By E. M. Foote, M.D., and E. H. Livingstone, M.D. Sixth Edition. Pp. xi + 787, with 420 illustrations. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1929. Price 35s.

This standard book makes a welcome re-appearance. We congratulate the authors on the thoroughness of their revision and on the manner in which they have incorporated the latest advances. The numerous illustrations are excellent.

The authors set out to describe "surgical lesions of a minor character" but include conditions which are hardly covered by this term. The operative treatment for internal derangements of the knee joint, for example, scarcely warrants the term minor. Similarly, the necessity for radical excision of a malignant tumour is not always indicated. Thus on page 535 the authors state: "it is worthy of emphasis that local removal of a carcinoma of the rectum before the
growth has penetrated below the skin or mucous membrane usually cures the patient.” Further, we have yet to meet the carcinoma which does not invade the deeper tissues.

The book is singularly free from errors, but the pathology of granuloma inguinale has been omitted in the two paragraphs on this condition, although in each the reader is referred to the other for the pathology.

Few conditions have been excluded, but among those not mentioned are Bennett's fracture of the thumb, Dancer's fracture of the fifth metatarsal, and Spur on the calcaneus. The measures to be adopted for the relief of retention of urine before resorting to catheterisation have been omitted, although surely as important as the various means given of disguising a black eye. These “minor” criticisms do not seriously lessen the value of a book which has been proved by the number of editions published to fill a useful niche in the surgeon's library.

Chemistry of Plant Products. Vol. II. Metabolic Processes. By Paul Haas, D.Sc., Ph.D., and T. G. Hill, D.Sc., A.R.C.S. Second Edition. Pp. viii + 220, with diagrams. London, New York, Toronto: Longmans, Green & Co. 1929. Price 10s. 6d.

When unable to decide whether a particular colour is yellowish red or reddish yellow, we may call it orange and similarly the border land between chemistry and physiology, variously known as physiological chemistry and chemical physiology, may suitably be called biochemistry. Yet, just as in orange either yellow or red may predominate, so in biochemistry the chemical or the biological aspect may stand out.

In the work under review each of these aspects is represented by a volume. The first, reviewed in these columns some time ago, was devoted to the descriptive chemistry of plant products; the second now deals with their behaviour in the living plant. In successive chapters the synthesis of carbohydrates, of fats and of proteins, respiration and growth are dealt with, in a manner which appears entirely attractive. As the book is intended for older students, there was no temptation to be dogmatic, as in the volume reviewed below. Thus, after marshalling the evidence in favour of Baeyer's well-known theory of carbon assimilation, the author writes: “But the attractiveness of a hypothesis, or of a witness, or of an item of evidence must not outweigh the many differences, the fulfilment of which is required for a relative scientific proof, an absolute proof being hardly possible; wherefore the conclusion is reached that the formaldehyde hypothesis is not proven.”

The book is well printed; we have only noticed one tiny typographical error (p. 133, bottom).
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*Text Book of Biochemistry.* By A. T. CAMERON, M.A., D.Sc. (Edin.), F.I.C., F.R.S.C., with a foreword by Professor SWALE VINCENT. Second Edition. Pp. xi + 482, with 14 illustrations. London: J. & H. Churchill. 1929. Price 15s.

The author states in his Preface that this "little Text-Book" is based on lectures given to students of medicine. It is certainly not so large as some, but probably contains quite as many facts as that of Brailsford Robertson, for instance, and more than that of Benjamin Moore. Evidently biochemistry occupies a very much larger part of the medical curriculum in the University of Manitoba than it does in that of Edinburgh. This is probably not unconnected with the common American practice of having a separate Chair of Biochemistry, usually occupied by a trained chemist.

In Professor Cameron's book "a sufficient knowledge of organic chemistry is assumed. The requisite physical chemistry is introduced ... as it becomes necessary." So catalysis and pH come in the first section. The language is not particularly lucid or elegant, e.g. on p. 23: "The degree of diminution increases the larger the number of H+ ions added." Starting from first principles, a great deal is included in a small compass, and, in order not "to puzzle the student in his early years of medicine," a somewhat dogmatic treatment has been adopted. Thus, in the section on biochemical catalysis, the student is presented with a micro-photograph of Sumner's urease crystals, without any indication that their interpretation is doubtful. Fewer facts, "diversified by doubt," might provide a better scientific training even if the doubt were puzzling.

That Professor Cameron has been successful in other respects is proved by the call for a second edition after eighteen months. It would be interesting to know what fraction of the sales took place in Britain, and in particular how many copies were sold in the author's Alma Mater.

We have tested this edition with regard to a number of the most recent developments and found it in each case quite up to date. The value of the book is increased by (as yet) unusual sections on the application of biochemistry to immunology, industry, and pharmacology.

*Recent Advances in Tropical Medicine.* By Sir LEONARD ROGERS. Second Edition. Pp. x + 439, with 16 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1929. Price 12s. 6d.

The early demand for a second edition of this work indicates its popularity. New sections have been added on oroya fever, verruga peruana, additional helminthic infections, granuloma inguinale, and climatic bubo along with some new illustrations. However, the book
Notes on Books

has not been enlarged as much old material has been eliminated. Some misprints have been noted, which may be corrected in future editions. Thus on page 24, Neostan should be Neostam, on page 67, Schaudinn not Schaudin, on page 93, Sieli not Siele, on page 94, the formula for plasmochin compound is not correct, each tablet contains 0.01 not 0.1 grm. plasmochin. The latter is particularly important. In connection with the plasmochin treatment of malaria the use of glucose to eliminate the toxic symptoms is not mentioned. A statement in connection with ancylostomisis, viz., “That the most experienced workers now consider the very light infections to be of no importance,” requires some amplification. Such slight infections, which can only be detected after a special examination, such as the Clayton Lane direct centrifugal floatation method, show marked clinical improvement after disinfestation.

To those who require a condensed summary of the recent literature on tropical diseases in convenient form this book by its distinguished author can be confidently recommended, and it is safe to prophesy that a new edition will soon be required.

Manual of Pharmacology. By WALTER E. DIXON. Seventh Edition. Pp. 486, with 97 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1929. Price 18s.

Another edition of this work is welcome, being an exposition of the subject by an acknowledged authority. The volume is only slightly enlarged, and most of the additions are noted under the chapters on iodine, pituitary, vitamins, liver extract, and ephedrine. The publication of this new edition affords an opportunity of recommending Professor Dixon’s book to the student, as a carefully written and therefore easily read and interesting guide to the study of pharmacology.

NOTES ON BOOKS

The layman for whom Mr J. Menzies Campbell, L.D.S., has written Those Teeth of Yours (Heinemann, 3s. 6d.) will need to be enthusiastic to read it to the end. The author offers some most excellent advice, but also makes so many bold assertions that are not true or that are at least open to question that the reader may be gravely misled.

Elementary Materia Medica: A Text-book for Students of Nursing, by Walter W. Krueger, Ph.B. (Saunders Co., 8s.). Beginning with a short account of the history of drugs the author gives the preparations commonly used in practice, and the constitution of the