BOOK REVIEWS.

*Diseases of the Nervous System*, by W. Russell Brain, D.M.(Oxon), F.R.C.P.(London). 3rd edition. Pp. 987, 79 illustrations. Price 37/6d. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. 1947.

The third edition has appeared after an interval of seven years, including the period of the war, during which much new material of neurological importance has been collected. This material is incorporated in the present edition. It concerns particularly peripheral nerve injuries, deficiency syndromes, herniation of intervertebral discs, penicillin therapy and electro-encephalography. The sections on brachial neuritis and on syndromes associated with cervical rib have been revised, and new sections have been added on equine encephalitis, myelopathy, spinal radiculitis, and platybasia. There is a final chapter on the psychological aspects of neurology. Apart from the new and revised material the book follows its previous lines.

This is a comprehensive though not exhaustive treatise on neurology: almost everything is mentioned, but the serious student of neurology will frequently desire a fuller account than is to be found here. This criticism, however, is met by the provision of a list of the more important references at the end of each section. By itself the book is valuable, especially for rapid reference, and if use is made of the bibliography, its value is enormously enhanced.

*Gardiner's Handbook of Skin Diseases*, revised by John Kinnear, O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.P.Ed., D.I. 5th edition. Pp. 250. Price 15/-. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1948.

Since the appearance of the previous edition of this useful little book in 1939 there have been several notable advances in the treatment of dermatological states, while a great World War, with all its opportunities for the advancement of medical knowledge, has taken place. The author's experience in the field appears in his references to cutaneous diphtheria and eruptions due to mepacrine. He also gives prominence to the uses respectively of vitamin D2 (calciferol) in the treatment of lupus vulgaris, of the antihistamine series of drugs (e.g., benadryl) in that of exudative and erythematous states such as urticaria, of DDT in the treatment of pediculosis and of penicillin in infective conditions.

The black and white illustrations and coloured plates have been increased in number and are on the whole very good. An exception is plate VI, which is obviously reproduced from a moulage, purports to portray verrucose tuberculosis of the skin of a hand and, in point of fact, bears a strong resemblance to scabies involving that part. The belief that impetigo contagiosa and imperigo of the newborn are essentially of streptococcal origin is open to considerable doubt, as is the wisdom of exhibiting sulphonamide drugs in cases of acute lupus erythematosus and erythema multiforme. In the latter connection there is now a good deal of evidence to show that sulphonamides may well play a considerable part in the causation or aggravation of such conditions. The reviewer, moreover, cannot agree with the statement that acute pemphigus ' commences without much general upset.'

These criticisms apart, the general format has been retained as in previous editions and the subject matter is well and concisely arranged and classified. The book can leave little to be desired on the part of students and general practitioners for whom it is primarily designed and among whom it should maintain an already well-deserved popularity.
**Libido and Delusion**, by Louis S. London, M.D., Washington, D.C.
Enlarged second edition. Pp. 259. Price $3.50. Washington, D.C.: Mental Therapy Publications. 1947.

The author divides his book into four parts—the libido, the libido in the neuroses and psychoses, pathogenesis of delusions, and lastly, studies in schizophrenia including analysis of a case of schizophrenia in 353 sessions.

He postulates in the libido, homo-sexual, hetero-sexual, narcissistic, and perverse components. His viewpoint is betokened in his preface which states; 'The Libido to the psychiatrist may be compared with the scalpel in the hands of the surgeon. The greatest life's conflict is the bisexual conflict which holds the central spotlight of life's drama. Since there is an element of bisexuality in all of us, it is not surprising to find a latent or unconscious homosexuality in the neuroses, psychoses, and in cases of marital discord. Perhaps more consideration should be accorded to this character trait in men and women than is commonly done.'

This book does not make any real addition to psychiatric theory, but at the same time it shows an understanding and dynamic approach to interesting and difficult cases.

**Child Psychology**, by Arthur T. Jersild, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University. 3rd edition. Pp. 623. Price 30/- London: Staples Press Limited. 1947.

This book deals with various aspects of childhood psychology. The child's behaviour development, aspects of living and learning, physical development, social behaviour, feeling and emotion, language development, growth of understanding, make-belief, dreams and imaginative activities, ideals, morals and religion, interests, the growth of intelligence, personality and problems of adjustment, form the different divisions.

It is written largely from the educational point of view, but each chapter contains a bibliography which is wide in range and includes medical and analytical works. The statistics and researches are interesting though sometimes lacking in perspective.

It is an excellent book of its kind. Yet disconcerting is the reflection that a modern 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' are customarily chronicled by a more statistically inclined recorder than, paradoxically, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson himself.

**Materia Medica**, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Therapeutics, by William Hale-White, K.B.E., M.D.(Lond.), M.D.(Dub.), LL.D.(Edin.). 27th edition revised by A. H. Douthwaite, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. IX plus 549. Price 15/- London: J. & A. Churchill. 1947.

In this latest edition of Hale-White's Materia Medica, Dr. Douthwaite has included a reasonable and accurate account of the drugs recently introduced into modern therapeutics. The antibiotics, curare, anticoagulant drugs and D.D.T. are well presented and brief notes on Benadryl and BAL are given. But the major defects of this hand-book persist and one doubts if revision is enough. The grouping of the drugs is unsatisfactory; adrenaline and other sympathomimetic amines are to be found in the section on endocrines; so also is liver extract. But more important is the perpetuation of numerous inaccuracies of former editions, of which 'boric acid and borax are excellent antiseptics,' 'magnesium salts except the sulphate increase the alkalinity of the blood and alkalise the urine,' 'benzoinated lard is a common basis for ointments'—are but a few examples. The modes of clearance of the barbiturates are scarcely mentioned, and the mechanism of action of the acid-producing substances is vaguely and inadequately described. Despite the popularity of this book (now in its 27th edition) it cannot be recommended as a satisfactory hand-book except for the newer drugs.
Essentials of Fevers, by Gerald E. Breen, M.D., B.Ch.(N.U.I., Dub.), D.P.H., D.O.M.S.(R.C.P.Lond., R.C.S., Eng.). 2nd edition. Pp. 351. Price 15/- Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1947.

This book, which is intended for those without experience of fever work, is of convenient size and clearly printed text, but there is little in its pages which could not be read in a standard textbook of medicine. The courses of the acute infections and their common complications are described briefly, and there are some useful paragraphs drawing attention to the mistakes which may be made in diagnosis from inadequate inspection and history-taking. Greater space might profitably have been given to details of treatment.

Those who desire a comprehensive knowledge of fevers for practical purposes will require more information than is contained herein.

The Parathyroid Glands and Skeleton in Renal Disease, by J. R. Gilmour, M.R.C.P. Pp. 157. Price 18/-. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. 1947.

A summary of clinical and pathological findings in 90 cases of renal disease is furnished as an appendix to this work, which is mainly a study of the parathyroid glands in these cases, particularly of their size and microscopic structure. The first part of the book contains a statistical analysis of the weight of the glands and glandular parenchyma and a description of the different histological types of gland found in the series. In more than half the cases the abnormal histological changes could be regarded as secondary to the renal impairment.

The second part deals with the changes observed in the skeleton, such as osteitis fibrosa and, in young subjects, renal rickets. A chapter is devoted to metastatic calcification and calcinosis, and to changes in calcium and phosphorus metabolism. The cause of parathyroid hypertrophy and skeletal changes in renal disease is discussed in the latter section.

The text is finally illustrated and the work as a whole is well produced. It contains an extensive bibliography, and it can be recommended especially to those engaged in the study of pathology.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Conquest of Brain Mysteries, by George Bankoff, M.D., F.R.C.S. Price 6/-. London: Macdonald & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1948.

Sex Fulfilment in Married Women, by Helena Wright, M.B., B.S. Price 5/-. London: Williams & Norgate Limited. 1948.

The Secret Instrument, by Walter Radcliffe. Price 10/6. London: William Heinemann—Medical Books—Ltd. 1947.