REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

*Report on the Health of the Army for the Year 1922.* Vol. LVIII. London: H.M. Stationery Office. (3s. net.)

It seems a long time to wait for the Report for the year 1922; but, as the Director-General of the Army Medical Services says in his introductory letter, dated November, 1924, the necessary information from India and Commands abroad is not received till the middle of the year following. He hopes, however, that it may be found possible in the near future to arrange for the publication of the Reports within twelve or fourteen months from the year concerned. The Report under consideration contains a vast amount of information in the form of text and statistical tables. It is impossible to go into it at length; but we would note as a very important and gratifying feature the improvement in almost every direction on the record for 1921. That improvement will, the Director-General adds, be found in the Report for 1923 to have been maintained and increased. Early in the Report are some interesting findings as regards the diseases of the circulatory system. These were responsible for 14.3 per cent of the total number of invalids discharged from the Army during the year 1922. It is emphasised that a murmur does not necessarily indicate organic disease of the heart in cases where hypertrophy is absent and there are no signs of distress. It is also emphasised that if the soldier learns that he has been diagnosed V.D.H. or D.A.H. he is liable to reproduce some subjective symptoms of heart disease after his return to his unit. As regards tachycardia, about 90 per cent of the cases occurred in weakly and poorly built youths, who had only had one or two years' service; and it is suggested that these young soldiers were, during the years of the war, at an age when they were physically and mentally most impressionable, and that during these years they suffered from inferior food supply and lack of parental control and discipline. Such subjects found the regularity and discipline of Army life irksome, and these factors, acting on an inferior nervous system, induced the symptoms of D.A.H. A very small percentage of these cases became good soldiers. The figures for venereal diseases show an abatement at home. This is, however,
almost counterbalanced by the figures from the Army of the Rhine and in certain small isolated garrisons overseas. Under the heading of "Medical examination of recruits," it is noted that the highest ratio of rejections on examination is provided by Scotland. England and Wales furnished 823 per 1,000 recruits, and of these the ratio rejected was 366·31; the corresponding figures for Scotland were respectively 131 and 439·86; the figures for Ireland were 40 and 352·73. The most noticeable increases of rejections in 1921-22 as compared with 1920-21 were for under chest measurement, loss and decay of many teeth, and diseases of middle ear (including deafness). Rejections within six months of enlistment showed a large decrease from previous year in impaired constitution and debility, and defective intelligence. As regards prevention of disease, there was in 1922 a satisfactory improvement, influenza being the only disease whose ratio of admissions was appreciably higher than in 1921. Details of prevention of tropical diseases are mentioned in the reports on stations concerned. The Report is a gratifying record of medical work, and should be a source of satisfaction to the nation as well as of pride to the Director-General and his officers of the Army Medical Services.

Physical Fitness in Middle Life. By F. A. Hornibrook. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. (6s. net.)

This booklet of 116 pages is a plea for the remodelling of systems of physical exercise on the style of unspoiled native races in their dance exercises. The chief deduction is more belly movements, facilitating drainage, and resulting in three bowel evacuations per day. Rather oddly, in spite of these soft and semi-solid motions, a chapter is devoted to the proper position in using the modern water-closet, no doubt until we adopt the native posture. Various other topics are briefly discussed.

Alcohol in Medical Practice. By Courtenay C. Weeks, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1925. (3s. 6d. net.)

There is at the present time great diminution in the amount of alcohol used in medical practice, but the question of its value and use still remains a vexed one. Dr. Weeks fully and moderately discusses the subject in all its aspects. Much interesting information
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is given as to the amount of alcohol used in many large institutions throughout the Empire. The use of alcohol in pneumonia especially, and in other medical and surgical conditions, is very fully considered. The author does not believe that alcohol has any value in medical practice, and pleads, if not for its abolition, at least for the employment of the greatest care and discrimination in its use. Although many physicians in Scotland still use alcohol, the author may rest assured that it is not indiscriminately or carelessly prescribed there. The book is interesting and well written. It ought to be read by all medical practitioners.

Koby's Slit-Lamp Microscopy of the Living Eye. By Charles Goulden, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., and Clara Lomas Harris, M.B. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1925. (10s. 6d. net.)

The ophthalmic world is indebted to the authors for their translation from the French of Koby’s work. There have been many articles on slit-lamp research work in this and other countries, but no text-book by a British author has yet appeared. The chief works on this subject are in German and French. In this translation we have in English a work which brings before us the present state of knowledge of the value of this method of examination. The work gives us a detailed description of the slit-lamp and its method of use. The beginner will find it a difficult work to read, but those acquainted with the use of the slit-lamp will enjoy and find profit in perusing this book.

Lectures on Dyspepsia. By Robert Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1925. (5s. net.)

This collection of lectures by one who is well qualified to deal with the subject, and whose capacity for facile expression is well known, should prove valuable and suggestive to all practitioners of medicine. Naturally, the lectures are not all equally helpful, but one would unhesitatingly select those on the diagnostic significance of abdominal pain and the organic dyspepsias as of special value. The concluding lecture on the chronic abdomen has already been enjoyed by many readers of the British Medical Journal as a brilliant and witty exposition of a very difficult subject, and one which should rank as a classic in medical literature. The so-called “functional” dyspepsias, however, still remain a difficult problem, both as regards classification and treatment, and the author evidently experiences
this difficulty in arriving at definite conclusions with regard to this large and varied class of dyspeptics. The lectures form a very comprehensive course, and offer a good working compendium of our clinical knowledge of the condition in its varied forms and with its various accompaniments.

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*Favourite Prescriptions.* By Espine Ward, M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1926.

The prescriptions included by the author have been largely culled from various standard text-books of medicine, with certain modifications which from his experience he has found of therapeutic value. They are well chosen and cover a wide range of diseases. Dosage tables are also included, and useful hints for the treatment of poisoning cases. A number of the prescriptions are examples of unnecessary polypharmacy, some of them indeed being rather formidable, and notably those given for use in asthma and whooping-cough. The book is usefully interleaved, giving opportunity for further modifications and additions.

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*E. Merck's Annual Report of Recent Advances in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Therapeutics, 1917-1921.* Darmstadt, 1925.

For many years Merck's "Annual Report" has furnished to those interested in pharmacy and pharmacology a reliable and valuable summary of all new matters of current interest and progress in these subjects. Many of the new remedies recorded in it have had a very ephemeral existence, but there always remains a small residuum of more or less permanent value, and the volumes of succeeding years form a very useful reference library for specialists, to many of whom they must have spared the labour of hunting through numerous journals. We therefore welcome the resumption of the publication of the "Annual Report," the present volume of which embraces the activities of the years 1917-1921. In it are contained numerous synopses of investigations on the action and uses of new remedies, and of new and improved preparations of old ones, such as antimony, arsenic, and charcoal. Sera and organo-therapeutic substances are fully dealt with, as well as various dyes. The principal medical journals of all nations are laid under contribution, and practically every paper of pharmaceutical or pharmacological or therapeutical importance receives notice.
NEW EDITIONS.

Medical Ophthalmology. By R. Foster Moore, O.B.E., M.A., B.Ch.Cantab, F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1925. (18s. 6d. net.)

This edition has been thoroughly revised and enlarged. The subject-matter added includes defects of the visual fields due to lesions of the temporal lobe, the normal pupillary reactions, intracranial aneurysms and subarachnoid hæmorrhage, encephalitis peri-axalis, primary tumours of the optic chiasma, ictero-hæmorrhagic jaundice, juvenile and adolescent forms of cerebro-macular degeneration. This is a very useful book, and covers a field which is of value not only to the ophthalmologist but to any practitioner who uses his ophthalmoscope. It can be recommended as a useful edition to the library of any practitioner. The author is to be congratulated upon gathering together such an immense amount of material from his own clinical experience.

The Student's Pocket Prescriber. By David Mitchell Macdonald, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Ninth Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1925. (3s. net.)

Primarily intended for the use of students and young practitioners, this little book contains much useful and accurate information with regard to the construction of prescriptions, incompatibilities, dosage of drugs, tables of weights and measures, and also includes diet tables, and the regulations of the Dangerous Drugs Act. It thus makes a wide appeal as a handy reference book, and is so well arranged that its information is readily accessible. If one should seek to offer criticism it would be on the score of a tendency to polypharmacy here and there in the prescriptions given, which offers a bad example for students to copy.

Public Health Laboratory Work (Chemistry). By Henry R. Kenwood, C.M.G., M.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H., F.C.S. Eighth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1925. (12s. 6d. net.)

In this eighth edition, Professor Kenwood's Manual has been recast in places, and where necessary brought into line with recent knowledge. The additions made include bacterial tests for designated
milks and instructions issued by the Ministry of Health; summary of conclusions of the Departmental Committee on preservatives and colouring matter in food; method for determination of phenols, and the Admiralty test for germicidal value of disinfectants. The principal omissions are the section on soil, which formed Part III of the seventh edition, and the references to milk of diseased cows and the parasites of flesh. The Reichert-Meissl process is substituted for the Reichert-Wollny process. The Gutzeit test for arsenic merits a more detailed description. The illustrations, as heretofore, are good, the microphotographs of starches specially so, but the apparatus for Wanklyn's process survives in an obsolete form, and Plates I to IV, without magnifications specified, are rather unconvincing. The useful notes on the preparation of standard solutions remain. Professor Kenwood's book has long been known as a valued and trustworthy guide. The issue of an eighth edition is evidence of its continuing popularity.

A Manual of Pharmacology. By Walter E. Dixon, M.A., M.D., B.S., B.Sc., D.P.H., F.R.S. Sixth Edition. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1925. (18s. net.)

The present edition of this popular manual shows little material alteration in its general arrangement, but it has been completely revised to bring it into line with recent knowledge on the subject, both experimental and practical. In this work the author has had the assistance of Professor Mellanby, Dr. Inchley, and Dr. Copeland, and naturally additions to the text have been found necessary, while several new illustrations have been introduced. This is perhaps most noticeable in Chapter XXXII, which deals with ferment, cod-liver oil, internal secretions, and insulin and serum therapy. Several striking and excellent photographs have been included, illustrating very clearly the effects of lack of fat-soluble vitamins on the development of jaws and teeth of puppies, as well as on their growth generally. Throughout the book the main actions of drugs are clearly presented, with abundant illustrations, but the pharmacologist is liable to forget that laboratory results and those in actual therapeutic practice do not always agree. Particularly might we instance the case of cardiac stimulants, on the relative values of which there are such marked differences of opinion among clinicians to-day. The book still retains its position as one of the leading text-books on the subject, and is useful alike to student and practitioner.