NEW BOOKS

A Short History of Tuberculosis. By G. Norman Meachen, M.D., B.S. Lond., M.R.C.P. Lond. and Edin. Pp. 91, with 5 illustrations. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. 1936. Price 3s. 6d.

This book is one of the "Short History Series," and the author has attempted to give, in 91 pages, an outline of the history of tuberculosis from 2698 B.C. to the present time. This he has done by the briefest possible record of the development of our knowledge of the subject along such well-known lines as the evolution of medical treatment, collapse therapy, the evolution of the control of tuberculosis, and several other headings, including the progress of education and research. The author has wisely inserted dates opposite most of the workers, to which reference is made. It is gratifying to note that in this brief summary due cognizance is taken of Sir Robert Philip's pioneer work in tuberculosis.

Graduated Muscular Contractions. By Sir Morton Smart, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.D. Pp. 31. London: Oxford University Press, Humphrey Milford. 1936. Price 2s. 6d.

This is a very useful little book for anyone interested in the electrical stimulation of muscles. Sir Morton Smart has been a pioneer in the treatment of muscles by graduated contractions, and this booklet should prove a sound and practical compendium. Although only thirty pages, it deals fully with the general technique, and in an introductory portion, with the physiology of muscle contractions and the effect of trauma and repair. Physiotherapists should gain a lot of useful advice in this little book.

Tuberculosis, Cancer and Zinc. An Hypothesis. By Douglas Barron Cruickshank. Pp. xv+75. London: Medical Publications Ltd. 1936. Price 7s. 6d.

As a member of the Research Staff of the Papworth Village Settlement the author has attempted to link up the incidence of tuberculosis and cancer. An attempt is made to show that the increase in cases of cancer in recent years is directly connected with the decline in new cases of tuberculosis, and on this assumption suggests that cancer may represent a resistance of the body to a tuberculous infection although the individual succumbs in this attempt at cure. The determining factor as to whether tuberculosis or cancer become manifest is supposed to depend on the zinc intake, a deficiency of this mineral rendering the community prone to tuberculosis. Criticism is disarmed by the fact that the theory is put forward as a pure hypothesis but the arguments based upon
the supposed cancer-tuberculous ratio fall to the ground when the corrected figures for cancer are taken. These show that there is in fact virtually no increase apart from the increasing longevity of the nation. The book is written in an interesting way but adds very little to our real knowledge of the matters concerned.

*The Eye and its Diseases.* Edited by Conrad Berens, M.D. Pp. 1254. 436 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd. 1936. Price 50s.

In preparing this volume on *The Eye and its Diseases*, Dr Conrad Berens, the editor, evidently holds that in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, as he has had to aid him in its preparation eighty-two distinguished contributors, each an authority, we are told, on a particular subject. That the didactic value of the book would be increased by a reduction in this number is probable, and at the same time its bulk would be lessened by the avoidance of repetition. As a whole the book presents as complete a review of modern ophthalmology as is possible in one volume. The chapters on Peripheral Vision and Perimetry, Diseases of the Cornea and on The Iris and Ciliary Body are of special value and stand out in sharp contrast to others where vague and often controversial statements pose as scientific facts. The index is adequate, an important point, because of the inevitably scattered distribution of information relative to such a subject as, say, Siderosis, which has eleven references. Emphasised type for the chief references might be used with advantage. The illustrations are not too numerous and photographic technique is good. Bibliographies might be extended with advantage, especially in those instances where only brief reference is made to a rare condition. The systematic presentation of a subject by an encyclopaedic authorship has been successfully done, but whether this type of handbook will displace those produced by individual effort remains uncertain. The book can be recommended to the practitioner who requires something more than is given in the smaller handbooks.

*Text-Book of Obstetrics.* By Edward A. Schumann, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 780, with 497 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd. 1936. Price 27s. 6d.

In reading this volume written for students and practitioners of medicine, it is obvious that the author is drawing on a wide experience in both the practice and clinical teaching of obstetrics. A mine of information, the accounts of the diagnosis and the clinical courses taken by various conditions, with the instructions as to selecting and executing a line of treatment are, for the most part, clear and concise. The text is profusely illustrated by beautifully reproduced drawings
and photographs. One feels, however, that certain subjects have been over-summarised, and although understandable by the informed practitioner would need to be expanded before the student and novice could adequately follow them. The description of the formation of the lower uterine segment, internal rotation of the foetus in the mechanism of labour and the operations of version and craniotomy are examples of this undue compression. Although in the preface the intention of the author to stress common conditions is stated, there is a tendency to lose perspective. This is seen in the detailed account of how to deal with an advanced ectopic pregnancy while the operative procedure of the case met with at the usual time in the early weeks is simply stated as "the tube is removed by the usual technique." The teaching throughout is very sound, and being conservative, it agrees closely with accepted modern British opinion. At the end of the book is an extensive bibliography. It is worthy of a second edition, when it is hoped the opportunity will be taken to expand, and so do full justice to, the wealth of subject-matter it contains.

Reports on Chronic Rheumatic Diseases. Being the Annual Report of the British Committee on Chronic Rheumatic Diseases, Appointed by the Royal College of Physicians. Number Two. Edited by C. W. Buckley, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. x+140. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1936. Price 10s. 6d.

This forms the second volume issued by the British Committee on Chronic Rheumatic Diseases. Strictly speaking it scarcely justifies the title of Reports, since the work consists rather of a series of monographs contributed by various authors. A wide and miscellaneous field is covered, the reader being translated with some abruptness from a treatise on the metabolism of joint tissues to the less tangible realms of psychology. A chapter of particular interest comes from the Mayo Clinic. In it an account is given of the most recent work on diseases of joints carried out in America. The book is one which we can commend to all who are concerned with the perplexing problem of chronic rheumatic diseases.

Vascular Disorders of the Limbs. By Thomas Lewis. Pp. xi+111. London: Macmillan & Co. 1936. Price 7s. 6d.

The author of this volume is not only a clinician but an experimentalist, and this fact alone is sufficient to recommend his works to critical readers.

He has written this particular book for the special benefit of students and those engaged in practice; and, in doing so, his aim has been to place the essential among new methods and ideas at the service of a greater number of sick people.
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He outlines the main conceptions of peripheral vascular disorders, explains how they were arrived at by experimental methods, and indicates how they are to be applied in practice. Of great importance is the description in the first chapter of tests of vascular function. By means of these tests, which are both reliable and simple, it is possible to differentiate the commoner peripheral disorders of circulation.

Distinct from the actual facts of the subject is the method by which they are elicited: the author excels as an expositor of methods of clinical investigation. He shows how methods of measurement can be applied to the study of a group of clinical phenomena; how, in other words, one can arrive at clinical evidence.

Unfortunately, uncontrolled speculation and dogmatism still bulk largely in the clinical aspect of medicine, and for this reason progress in clinical knowledge is comparatively slow. It is often argued that the clinician, unlike the experimentalist, cannot verify his deductions. The work of the author completely refutes this kind of argument. It shows beyond doubt that important deductions and hypotheses can be tested by performing controlled experiments on human beings. This fact is well illustrated by the experiments on Raynaud’s disease.

The presentation of the subject is clear and logical; established evidence is clearly differentiated from opinion, and opinion from ignorance. Those who read this book will learn not only a great deal about vascular disorders of the limbs, but also how to approach clinical work from an experimental standpoint.

Pre-operative and Post-operative Treatment. By Robert L. Mason, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant in Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Pp. 495, 123 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. Price 25s. net.

The number of books dealing with pre-operative and post-operative treatment is not many, but here is one which gathers together a considerable amount of very useful information and presents it in an arresting and interesting manner. The book is divided into two sections, the first dealing for the most part with post-operative complications that may occur with any case. There is a useful chapter dealing with the diabetic patient requiring surgical aid and the chapters dealing with acidosis, alkalosis and water balance are clearly expressed. Post-operative pulmonary complications are fully dealt with and the figures quoted are well criticised. The second part deals for the most part with the pre-operative treatment of specific cases and the section referring to cases of cholecystitis and the question of liver damage is well presented. Detail is a feature of the book and it will appeal to the house surgeon requiring help with a specific case, but in addition it will make a useful addition to the library of a surgeon.
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A Theory of Cancer and the Practitioner and Mnemotherapy. By Rudolf Roosen, M.D. Translated by C. F. Marshall, M.D. Pp. vi+75. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Price 3s. 6d.

New theories of cancer are appearing in two forms—those in which fresh ideas are advanced as hypotheses, and those which have a new form of treatment tacked on to justify the views expressed. Dr Roosen's book is of the latter type and neither the theory nor treatment appear to stand on any sound basis of scientific reasoning or therapy. The word "mnemotherapy" is supposed to indicate a redevelopment in the individual of those methods of defence which obtained in the lowliest forms of life and which the higher animals have lost as their bodies become more and more differentiated. No proper explanation is given of how these "unrealized powers" can be made active and, as the author suggests, their full development will certainly require the exploration of a new and wide field of research.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Stomach and Intestines. By William Fitch Cheney. Edited by Henry A. Christian. Pp. 378. Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Price 32s. 6d.

This volume, one of a series of monographs on Diagnosis and Treatment, is the work of the Emeritus Professor of Clinical Medicine in Stanford University, and is produced under the general editorship of Dr Christian of Boston. Their object, as stated in the Foreword, has been to present the clinical features of Diseases of the Stomach and Intestines with sufficient detail and clarity to be of practical help in the problems of practice.

There can be no doubt that this object has been achieved, and indeed, in many ways the book may be regarded as a model of its kind. Throughout the book there is evidence of the author's wide clinical experience, and the descriptions of Clinical Features, Diagnosis and Treatment, frequently supported by notes of illustrative cases, all have the stamp of the practical man. Indeed, it is a justifiable criticism that Dr Cheney tends rather to emphasise clinical methods at the expense of laboratory procedures, as when, in the diagnosis of gastric ulcer, he makes no reference to the X-ray appearances, indicating that the details of X-ray interpretation are best left to the radiologist.

As is to be expected, in considering treatment, medical measures receive more attention than surgical. It is a pity, however, that more space could not have been devoted to the indications for surgery and to a discussion of the type of operation most suited to the particular
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conditions, for these surely are subjects with which the practitioner should be fully cognizant.

Probably Dr Cheney's experience of medical wards is responsible for the statement, with which all surgeons will strongly disagree, that cancer of the rectum, almost without exception, is inoperable. It may also be responsible for the fact that in acute obstruction the need for urgent operation is obscured by the prominence given to auxiliary medical measures; and surely it is unwise to suggest that enemas, if unavailing, should only be abandoned after 24 to 48 hours. The book is eminently readable, and can be heartily recommended.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Tract. By John Phillips, revised by Russell L. Haden, and edited by Henry A. Christian. Pp. 525. Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Price 32s. 6d.

This volume is one of a series of monographs on Diagnosis and Treatment, produced under the general editorship of Dr Christian of Boston. The original writer, Dr Phillips, lost his life in the Cleveland Clinic fire in 1929, shortly after completing the manuscript, and his successor, Dr Haden, has revised the book for publication.

Since the three men concerned in the work are all physicians, it is not surprising that the subject is viewed almost entirely from the medical standpoint, and that diseases of the liver receive thorough consideration, obviously based on wide experience and careful study. Diseases of the gall-bladder, on the other hand, receive a somewhat cursory treatment, which clearly derives more from a survey of the surgical literature than from the authors' own studies. In addition, a few of the chapters appear to have received little attention since the original author's death, and consequently reflect the views of 1929 rather than 1937.

These are, however, minor criticisms, and apart from them the book is excellent. The authors have a faculty for clear exposition, and have contrived to produce a book which forms a very readable account of the subject, and in which the scientific and clinical aspects receive equally careful treatment.

Le Bacille de Type Bovin dans la Tuberculose Humaine. Revue de la Documentation actuelle. Par Dr Marcel Gervois. Pp. 308. Lille : Imp. L. Danel. Rue Nationale, 93.

This book presents a most complete review of the present state of our knowledge in relation to the extent of disease produced by the bovine type tubercle bacillus in Europe and America.
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The author has made a careful study of 221 articles published on this subject and classifies the viruses examined as to the type of bacillus. The work is divided into six parts.

Part 1 deals with the differentiation of the types human and bovine, and atypical types are also considered.

Part 2 reviews the incidence of disease due to the bovine type in various countries.

In Part 3 the question of age and tissue distribution is considered, while a chapter is devoted to the subject of the pathogenicity of the bovine type to the human subject.

Part 4 contains much information on the geographical distribution of the bovine type disease and discusses the incidence of rural and urban cases.

Part 5 reviews the work done in the examination of milk, butter and cheese in various countries, while Part 6 discusses Prevention of Disease due to the bovine type.

The legislation of various countries towards a clean milk supply is given in summary. This whole volume is full of interest and gives a very complete and documented history of the various contributions to the subject of disease produced by the bovine type. The earlier works of Fraser and Mitchell are considered down to the recent contributions of Griffith, Munro and Blacklock. To those observers the figures now shown from Denmark, Holland and Germany must be of special interest. It is only in recent years that detailed investigations have been made on the Continent and such figures as are given do not differ much from those in England, and show an incidence of bovine type disease only slightly lower than the recent figures from Scotland.

*Surgical Pathology of the Thyroid Gland.* By ARTHUR E. HERTZLER. Pp. xviii+298, with 238 illustrations. Philadelphia, Montreal and London: J. B. Lippincott Company.

This is one of a series of monographs on Surgical Pathology which Dr Hertzler has published in recent years. It is mainly a personal exposition by a clinician of long and extensive experience in the surgery of the thyroid. The author is of the opinion that a toxicity of degeneration associated with the simple forms of goitre must be recognised as distinct from the ordinary forms of toxicity associated with hyperplasia. He is convinced that after early adult life the simple colloid and nodular forms of goitre, without any elevation of the metabolic rate, have a slow but steadily increasing toxic effect on the heart muscle. This he attributes mainly to changes in the colloid, characterised by a basophilic staining reaction. It must be admitted that, while the author is confident of the association
between functional changes in the colloid and what he describes clinically as the "cardio-toxic heart," the evidence as presented from the pathological point of view in support of his theory is not convincing.

Dr Hertzler is now also certain from his own experience that total thyroidectomy is not followed by symptoms of myxoedema unless performed in adolescents. He believes, therefore, that there is a much greater scope for total thyroidectomy than is usually admitted, particularly in cardiac cases associated with old-standing simple goitres without evidence of increase in the basal metabolic rate.

Dr Hertzler is a master of virile, if unorthodox, English which is sometimes startling and is frequently amusing. The whole field of thyroid pathology is more or less covered. The illustrations are numerous and excellent in quality. While the author's ideas are always interesting and stimulating, it is doubtful if the pathologist will learn much from his observations.

Modern Dietary Treatment. By Marjorie Abrahams, M.A.,
   B.Sc., and E. M. Widdowson, B.Sc., Ph.D. Pp. x+328,
   cloth, size 7½×5. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 7 and 8
   Henrietta Street, W.C. 2. Price 8s. 6d.

This book begins with a brief introduction on general nutrition, which is followed by chapters outlining the principles underlying the dietary treatment of various diseases.

Detailed menus and recipes are given and tables of food values include the more recent figures published under the auspices of the Medical Research Council. The information given is up to date and practical. In their effort to be concise the authors tend to over-tabulate some diets, making them rather difficult to follow. It would perhaps be more convenient if the menus for various diseases immediately followed the principles of the diet in each case; one is continually referred from one section of the book to another.

With the exception of the Lawrence line ration the diabetic diets are all low in caloric value with about 100 gm. of fat. The diet given for ulcerative colitis and acute diarrhoea seems hardly suitable for the acute stages. It is, however, a very useful and practical book, and should prove very helpful to physicians, medical students, nurses and dietitians.