NEW BOOKS

An Introduction to Psychological Medicine. By R. G. Gordon, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. (Ed.), N. G. Harris, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.M., and J. R. Rees, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.). Pp. x+386. Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. 1936. Price 10s. 6d.

The authors of this book have conceived an excellent plan for introducing the student to the abstractions of psychology. The relation of psychology to physiology is made clear and the way in which mental forces operate to produce the various neuroses and psychoses is illustrated by interesting case material. No one could read this book without acquiring a proper attitude to the patient mentally ill, a very important matter when the still prevalent attitude of aggressive scorn to these sufferers is borne in mind. The theorising is at times rather superficial, e.g. obsessional behaviour, although admittedly present in young children, is described as if it arose from conflict in an intellectual critical adult. Again, few psychotherapists believe that a persistent anxiety reaction is explained by conditioning after a fright in infancy. The concrete manner of presentation, however, and the wide scope of the book make it a useful introduction to the subject.

Health, Sickness and Psychology. A Study of the Mind’s Power for Health and Sickness. By Rev. R. H. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc. Pp. x+201. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1936. Price 3s. 6d.

This is quite a good little book of its kind, well-written and sane. The author is neither a medical man, nor, apparently, a psychologist, and he is at times less cautious than either would be in his statements and claims. Nevertheless the book is, on the whole, less dangerous and more helpful than such books usually are.

Essentials of Modern Medical Treatment. By Vincent Norman, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Edin., D.P.H. Lond. Pp. 200, no illustrations. London: Hutchinson’s. 1936. Price 10s. 6d.

This exceedingly useful book should be welcomed by a large number of general practitioners who find difficulty in keeping pace with the most recent advances in therapeutics.

It sets out clearly the established forms of treatment for each condition, incorporating all the new additions to our therapeutie armament as well as those trusty weapons which have been proved by wide experience.
New Books

The author has brought to the writing of this volume the results of his own observations in practice, the views of many experts culled from an exhaustive study of current literature and the fruits of modern research.

Its convenient size, concise form, and orderly arrangement commend this as a valuable book of reference for all medical practitioners.

*Legal Problems in Medical Practice.* By D. Harcourt Kitchin. Pp. 232. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1936. Price 10s. 6d.

This book is chiefly made up of articles which have appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, and in the main consists of a detailed consideration of legal problems affecting the practitioner, such as malpraxis, liability of surgeons and hospitals, consent to operation, professional secrecy, defamation, the medical witness and testamentary capacity, the general principles of which are to be found in the usual text-books of Forensic Medicine. The last section is a consideration of "Business relations between Doctors," and contains much of interest to practitioners.

A most excellent book, which also serves to emphasise that a doctor faced with any such legal difficulties would be well advised to consult a lawyer of repute.

*The Diagnostics of Pain.* By Th. B. Wernøe. Pp. 116. Translated from the Danish by Miss Annie I. Fausbøll, M.A. London: Oxford University Press. 1936. Price 7s. 6d.

In this book are published a series of lectures on pain which were delivered in 1934. Much of the work described is original and of interest to physiologists and physicians. The views expressed are based largely on clinical observation, and tests are described for demonstrating the sensitivity of bone, muscle, and other deeply-seated tissues. The discussion of spontaneous pain of central origin is particularly interesting, and the analysis of the method of radiation of referred visceral pain is instructive.

There are several errors in the text, but the translation, on the whole, is clear. Revision of the English by a neurologist would have been an advantage.

*The Last Thirty Years in Public Health.* By Sir Arthur Newsholme. Pp. 410, with 21 illustrations and diagrams. London: George Allen & Unwin. 1936. Price 15s.

This work, as the author states in his introductory chapter, is a continuation of his *Fifty Years in Public Health*. Of its three parts, the first is concerned with his official life at Whitehall. The second
New Books

presents his recollections of American public health and social work as observed after he demitted office. In the third he explores the increasing socialisation of medicine at the present time. Alike as a historical record of events in which he himself played some part, and as a critical appreciation of certain modern developments in the application of medical science to the service of the community, the book will be read with interest by many.

Sex in Religion: An Historical Survey. By G. Simpson Marr. Pp. 285. London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 1936. Price 7s. 6d. net.

It will be granted that amongst the major problems that beset the individual and concern society are those which have their origin in the sexual function. To-day the general public in increasing numbers is seeking instruction in these matters in order that they may understand the forces that mould their behaviour. The influence of medicine, however, cannot become really effective until other professions, and especially the Church, understanding the psycho-physiological basis of the problem, come to deal with those aspects which fall outside the immediate territory of medicine. Dr Marr is performing a very useful service in his attempt to persuade his colleagues in the ministry to consider these matters and to equip themselves with the requisite knowledge and understanding to play their part in the extermination of unnecessary disharmony. In this book he traces the historical relations of Church and sex, and builds up very effectively the plea that the churches, acting together, should set up a Commission that should consider and advise upon methods for the proper teaching of children in sex knowledge, and for the guidance of adolescents at the most critical period of their lives. An interesting book, written with a purpose. Dr Marr, the medical man, has convinced Dr Marr, the minister, that the Church can no longer disregard these matters, but must lead public opinion; but it is very much to be doubted that the author of this book can hope to persuade his colleagues in the ministry to the acceptance of this view.

Disinfection and Sterilisation. By Ernest C. McCulloch, M.A., D.V.M., Ph.D. Pp. 525, with 53 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1936. Price 25s.

Disinfection and sterilisation occupy a large place in the practice of medicine. Yet few measures are less critically employed. Often the choice of a disinfectant rests on the authority of tradition or on the extravagant claims put forward by its sponsors.

A knowledge of the mode of action of disinfectants in destroying bacteria, the manner in which they affect and are affected by tissue
cells, body fluids and other organic matter, and the value of various
tests in assessing their efficacy, will enable them to be used in a more
critical and effective manner.

Unfortunately such information has been hard to obtain. The
investigation of disinfectants has been conducted largely in piece-
meal fashion and references are widely scattered throughout the
literature.

Dr McCulloch has performed a valuable service in collecting our
present knowledge of disinfection and sterilisation and presenting it
in an ordered form. He deals not only with chemical disinfectants,
but also with physical methods of sterilisation, with pasteurisation
and the treatment of water and sewage.

His book is intended to be a work of reference. From its
completeness and ample lists of references it should serve this purpose
well.

*Paget's Disease of the Nipple.* By Keith Inglis, M.D., Ch.M.

Pp. xii+233, with 237 illustrations. London: Humphrey
Milford, Oxford University Press. 1936. Price 36s.

Much of the extensive literature which has collected round this
subject is of interest only to the specialist, as it is more concerned
with the controversial aspects of a comparatively rare disease than
with the wider implications of tumour growth. This monograph
of Professor Inglis, as its sub-title, "The Relation of Paget's Disease
to Surface Cancers and Pre-Cancerous States in General," indicates,
places the subject on a broader basis. The earlier chapters are
devoted to an account of the nature, origin and mode of spread of
Paget's disease of the nipple, based on a clinical, anatomical and
histological study of a considerable series of cases. There are two
schools of opinion regarding this disease, one of which considers it a
primary epidermoid malignancy, the other, a secondary skin involve-
ment from an underlying glandular carcinoma. It is a little difficult
to be certain with which group the writer takes his stand. Lesions
of the nipple, malignant and non-neoplastic, which simulate or
differ from Paget's disease are discussed, as well as Darier's and
Bowen's diseases, extra-mammary Paget's disease and melanoma.
Other chapters deal with hyperplastic epidermoid conditions and
surface cancers in various organs and in the skin generally.

While some of these sections will appeal mainly to those with
specialised knowledge there is much of interest and value to all
students of malignant disease in the discussion of the "pre-cancerous"
conditions, amoeboid activity and other methods of malignant spread
and allied subjects. The book is beautifully produced and the
numerous illustrations, clinical and microscopical, are particularly
clear and instructive.
Addendum 1936 to the British Pharmacopœia 1932. Published under the direction of the General Medical Council. pp. xxv+132. London: Constable & Co., Ltd. 1936. Price 5s.

The appearance of this addendum is a recognition of the fact that advances in medical science are occurring too rapidly to wait for a pharmacopœia that in future is to be published every ten years. The 1932 Pharmacopœia represented a minor revolution since nearly half the contents of the preceding edition were scrapped, and it is gratifying to note that it has only been found necessary to restore one substance which was then deleted, namely stramonium.

The addendum adds 25 new substances to the Pharmacopœia, and the chief classes are 5 sera, 4 arsenic or bismuth compounds, 3 purified vitamins, and 3 alkaloids.

The fact that it has been possible to define suitable standards for such recently discovered substances as ascorbic acid and ergometrine is in itself gratifying evidence of an acceleration of the process of bringing scientific advances into general medical usage.

The greater portion of the volume is occupied with minor amendments and corrections of the monographs in the 1932 Pharmacopœia. The appendices include a valuable account of several new methods of bio-assay, which includes calculations of the limits of error of the various methods employed.

The Pharmacopœia Commission is to be congratulated on the energy it has shown in bringing out this volume, which incorporates the results of so many recent advances in medical science.

Bones: A Study of the Development and Structure of the Vertebrate Skeleton. By P. D. F. Murray, M.A., D.Sc. pp. 203, with 45 illustrations. Cambridge University Press. 1936. Price 8s. 6d.

The title of this little book is ambiguous, for it makes no attempt to be a complete study of the development and structure of the skeleton, but is limited almost entirely to a consideration of the relationship between the structure and development of bone on the one hand, and the extrinsic mechanical factors acting upon it on the other. The book is, however, noteworthy for the clear and concise way in which it tackles a difficult and controversial subject, making us wish that the author had written the complete treatise which his title suggests. While all the seven chapters are good, the one on the mechanical structure of bone is worthy of special mention for the admirable way in which the various theories are explained, for the simple way in which the more technical mechanical parts are presented, and for the clear and unbiased way in which the subject is finally discussed and summarised. The book is well written and contains an excellent index and an extensive bibliography.