Reviews

REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

A Short Text-Book of Surgery. By C. F. W. Illingworth, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed. London: J. & A. Churchill Limited. 1938. (21s. net.)

The author deserves much credit for publishing this text-book. It is designed for students and post-graduates and will no doubt be of great value, especially to the former.

It is profusely illustrated and clearly written, though perhaps too much space is given to relatively rare and unimportant conditions.

Surely in Scotland, at all events, Macewen’s name should be well enough known to avoid misspelling. (page 121).

Arteriovenous Aneurysm. By Emile Holman A.B., B.A. Oxon., M.D. New York: The Macmillan Company (Macmillan Surgical Monographs.) 1937. (21s. net.)

This excellent monograph deals experimentally and clinically with all manner of communications between veins and arteries. The first part is occupied with the results of a large number of experimental operations on dogs concerned mainly with the formation of arteriovenous fistulae in various situations and their subsequent closure after varying periods.

The author makes no new observations but amply demonstrates the effects on heart and circulation of these procedures. He confirms that an experimental fistula produces a fall in blood-pressure, tachycardia, and some increase in blood-volume associated with dilution of the blood. These effects are reversed when the fistula is closed.

The second part deals in detail with the surgical technique of repair of arterio-venous fistulae and with fistulae in special situations, acquired intracranial arterio-venous aneurysms, intrathoracic arterio-venous communications, and mycotic arterio-venous aneurysms. He discusses also the congenital arterio-venous communications and devotes special attention to the ductus-arteriosus, relating the clinical findings in this defect with the changes produced experimentally. A final section compares clinical observations of congenital intracardiac defects with the results of experimentally produced interventricular fistulae in dogs.

The latter half of the book is occupied with full clinical reports of the cases referred to. These are noteworthy for their completeness and
Reviews

clarity and also for their lack of irrelevant detail. Full protocols of the animal experiments are also included.

The monograph is well arranged and is written in a pleasant style which makes even the more technical portions very readable. It is profusely illustrated by excellent diagrams and photographs, and the printing and ensemble follow the traditions of the preceding Macmillan surgical monographs. The author was awarded the Samuel D. Gross Prize of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery for this work.

_The Physiology of the Kidney._ By Homer W. Smith, A.B., Sc.D., M.S.(Hon.). London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1937. (15s. net.)

This book is one of the Outlines of Physiology Series to which many distinguished American physiologists contribute.

The author of "The Physiology of the Kidney" gives a preliminary review of the various theories of kidney function which have been held in the past, and considers briefly the evidence which has been obtained for glomerular filtration, tubular reabsorption and tubular excretion. He then discusses the concept of renal clearance and its bearing on the problems of renal function. The author and his co-workers set out to apply the methods of clearance estimations to find a technique for measuring the process of glomerular filtration in the intact animal.

Various substances were investigated and it was found that the renal clearance of inulin was the most satisfactory when this central process can be measured exactly, accurate deductions can be made concerning tubular reabsorption, tubular excretion and associated problems. These are discussed in some detail.

The author says of Cushny's Theory that it enabled investigators "to put intelligent questions to the kidney and hope for intelligible answers." Professor Smith and his colleagues have facilitated this process very considerably.

This book is of great importance to physiologists and should be of considerable interest to clinicians, especially those who have been concerned with the study of renal clearance.

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_A Short Text-Book of Midwifery._ By G. F. Gibberd, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S., M.C.O.G. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1938. (15s. net.)

The author must be congratulated on presenting the subject in a concise and interesting form. His aim has been to stimulate the
natural interests of the reader rather than to provide a complete set of facts. Yet the book is quite complete and thoroughly up-to-date. The text is clear, and the abundance of illustrations and reproductions of x-ray photographs is a great aid in illustrating the text.

Of particular interest is the chapter on the anatomy and physiology of normal labour, in which theories of the mechanism of labour are given in detail and illustrated by means of helpful diagrams. Another chapter deals in a most refreshing manner with occipito-posterior positions of the vertex. The section on puerperal infections is in line with modern opinions and gives the latest views on treatment. Relief of pain on labour is fully discussed.

The use of the hydrostatic dilator is advised in selected cases of Placenta Prævia, delayed labour, and as a method of induction of abortion and premature labour. Agreement with this cannot be given nor its teaching advised.

The author devotes the three last chapters to the Infant—The Normal Infant, The Premature Infant, The Abnormal Infant. This must be commended, as many are apt to neglect the importance of this section of the subject.

This new addition to the very considerable list of works on the same subject can be recommended particularly to the post-graduate who wishes to refresh his knowledge and bring it into line with modern knowledge and opinions.

Food and Physical Fitness. By E. W. H. Cruickshank, M.D., D.Sc., M.R.C.P., F.R.S.E. Foreword by Sir John B. Orr, D.S.O., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1938. (5s. net.)

This book, based on the Thomson lectures at the University of Aberdeen for the year 1936-37, provides information in a very readable form on a topic very much in the public mind. There is no doubt that there is much unnecessary ignorance on the subject of nutrition and dietetics. Unfortunately, there is too much scope for the faddist. Dietetic panaceas are just as dangerous as other totalitarian remedies. Nevertheless, it is true that all of us would benefit by the application of knowledge which is already available, provided one recognizes that in the very nature of things it is comparatively small in relation to the vast unknown. It is of great importance that there should be at hand a simple statement of facts which are not clouded by a mass of verbiage and a host of undigested ideas. Professor Cruickshank has been very successful in obtaining this objective. The first four chapters deal with the supply of energy-yielding material to the body, a subject
Reviews

which is still of vital importance. Although man does not live by calories alone, unless the caloric requirements are satisfied not all the vitamins and minerals will lead to fitness. An interesting survey is given of the part played by minerals and vitamins with special mention of that almost ideal food, milk. To some of the remarks on the subject of infant feeding we would take objection. The use of lactic acid milk, admitted to be but one of several methods for the preparation of cow's milk, is given too much prominence. Under the effects of boiling the milk, it is stated that vitamins are lost. The only significant loss is that produced by destruction of vitamin C which is recognized to be in insufficient amount even in fresh milk. Special mention should be made of the last chapter on Under-nutrition and its Relation to Diet. We have nothing but praise for the clear and unbiassed approach to this subject, a matter of considerable importance when the country is being urged to achieve physical salvation by gymnastics and sport. The Tables throughout the book are easily understood, and we would recommend the volume to all who desire a concise but readable survey of the essentials of modern knowledge on the subject of food and its importance for man.

Occupational Therapy: An Addendum to the Handbook for Mental Nurses. Published for the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1938. (6d. net.)

A section in this handbook dealing with Occupational Therapy has been long overdue. This Addendum fills the gap.

Occupational Treatment of Mental Illness. By John Ivison Russell, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.M. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1938. (6s. net.)

The fact that the publishers can claim that this is the first book to be published on the subject in this country is a sufficient indication of its importance. Occupational Therapy as a formal method of treatment has established itself since the war in every progressive mental hospital. Dr. Russell has taken stock of the practice and theory which has grown up, and has, for the first time, made an explicit formulation of its aims and methods. The book is certain to be widely read; it ought indeed to be read by everyone who has a professional interest in the care of mental patients. To most of these it will not only prove a source of instruction but also of inspiration, because the reader
Reviews

cannot fail to be impressed by the zeal and thoroughness with which Dr. Russell and his staff have tackled these problems.

The first part of the book, in which the author deals with theory, provides a very helpful guide to administrators, while the second part, in which he deals with practice, will be of greater interest to nurses and therapists.

_Diseases of the Blood and Atlas of Haematology, with Clinical and Haematologic Descriptions of the Blood Diseases, including a Section on Technic and Terminology._ By Roy R. KnocK\-\-ke, M.D., and Hortense Elton Garver, M.S. Philadelphia, London, Montreal: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1937. (65s. net.)

The authors in the preface, state that they have been impressed with the need for an American treatise on hematology as most of the books of this type have been prepared in European countries. The result is a very large volume (532 pp.) beautifully produced, with a large number of coloured plates illustrating various blood abnormalities, and published at a price of sixty-five shillings.

It is perhaps more usual for the reviewer to make some laudatory remarks before indicating possible flaws, but in dealing with a first edition, criticism is more valuable than praise.

The earlier part of the book deals in encyclopaedic form with terminology, morphology and physiology of the blood cells. From a welter of words like “anerythroregenerative” and “hyper-hypercytosis” the author makes a plea for simplification and purity in haematological terms, but is himself snared by “fragilocyte” and “acidocyte.” The verbal Augean stables of hematology still remain to be cleansed.

The later chapters dealing with blood diseases are clearly expressed, easily readable, and show wide reading, even if terms like “a biopsied gland” and at first difficult to the English reader.

It is difficult, however, to avoid the impression that the reading or experience in treatment of blood conditions has been somewhat eclectic, otherwise one cannot understand the dismissal of splenic anaemia (Banti's disease _sic_) in a few and incorrect lines, and the complete omission of Hodgkin's disease in the descriptive test.

The section on technique is good. but on p. 515, in what purports to be a verbatim account of Beck and Hertz method for the demonstration of sickle cells, there is an omission which makes the whole description almost pointless.

The coloured plates in the main are good, though nuclear detail is
Reviews

seldom shown sufficiently clearly. The photomicrograph of marrow could be improved.

The text index needs some revision and the omission of an index for the Atlas is a mistake.

There is no doubt, however, that this book will be found most useful for reference and that the plates in colour help to impress appearances on the student mind.

A Survey of Chronic Rheumatic Diseases. Contributed by Contemporary Authorities in Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1938. (18s. net.)

The title of this book tells with more than customary accuracy what lies within, and generously covers more than merely Rheumatoid and Osteoarthritis, Gout and Fibrositis. The brief Foreword finishes with a sentence which, in view of its consummation in the book, seems worth quoting—"It is to be hoped that this volume will at once be a record of past achievement in elucidating the problems of chronic rheumatic disease, and a stimulus to those who are still working on these subjects to bring their labours to a successful conclusion." There are twenty-five papers, all in English, of which twelve have been contributed from abroad; despite this range there is practically no overlapping and almost every paper contains something of value. In a word, the contributors have been well chosen by capable editors.

To review each article individually would take too long, but the book as a whole commends itself, and not least in that it is not a text-book. The writers of a text-book, like the keepers of Youth, must hold an impeccable standard of truth; on the other hand, the medical graduate needs the periodic stimulus of a speculative symposium by authorities who themselves are above reproach. Men of eminence, released from the Draconian law of text-books and technical journals, with its rapid excision of any hypothesis not patently obvious from the facts presented, may and ought to indulge in speculation. They owe it to others to pool these thoughts, however reckless; much may spring from the fancies of a fruitful mind. Moreover they put a new light on old things and in the words of Montaigne, "The novelty of things doth more incite us to search out the causes, than their greatness."

Although this book contains much good sense, both practical and academic (the latter especially in Hench's paper), it is perhaps of especial value that it does discuss the borderline cases and the far-
fetched possibilities as well as the more usual syndromes and all the more respectable therapies. At the recent Conference, on Rheumatism at Oxford, it was pointed out that gout is becoming more frequent in America. If this should happen in Scotland, there would be few enough medicals with adequate knowledge of the disease; this book would fill part of the gap.

Many of the articles have a good bibliography, and the index, although giving Solagnum in mistake for Solganal, is otherwise accurate and fairly adequate; the editors are due thanks for this.

Actinomycosis. By Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). (15s. net.)

The author states in the preface that monographs on actinomycosis have been published in several European languages, but not in English, and that it is his object to remedy this. He has presented an account of the disease which will prove of value not only to the specialist but also to the general practitioner. For the latter, the lucid account of the condition in its common sites accompanied by both pictorial and case illustrations makes very interesting reading. For the former, the detailed account of the bacteriology of the organism, the concise account of the disease as it affects the rarer sites, the differential diagnosis and perhaps, above all, the very full bibliography will make the book almost indispensable.

The first chapter of the book is an historical introduction. It is interesting to note that the disease is really as old as the hills and that Moodie, from his examination of the jaw of a fossil rhinoceros, has concluded that it had suffered from the disease. It is pointed out that the common woody tongue of cattle is not really due to actinomycosis but is actually caused by a gram negative bacillus called actino-bacillus; and that this organism will produce the disease if it be experimentally introduced into other animals. Bostroem’s view that the streptothrix found in certain vegetable matter plays a large part in the causation of the disease is weighed in the balance and found wanting; for this fungus is really non-pathogenic and cannot develop in animal tissues. It is admitted however, that the vegetable matter may help to cause the entrance of the true organism by traumatizing the part, and moreover, as has been shown by Naeslund, may help it to survive longer that it otherwise would.

The relationship between the streptothrix actinomyces and salivary calculi is interesting. Naeslund found that if salivary calculi were
Reviews
decalcified by trichloracetic acid, a coherent, organized stroma of interwoven actinomyces and leptothrix plants was left. In the treatment of salivary calculus, if the stone only be removed, the infection of the gland may not clear up; and for this reason complete removal of the gland with the calculus is advisable.

The strictly anaerobic type of streptothrix is a normal member of the mouth flora. There are some interesting illustrations of the methods of entry of the organism. The author records a case in a boxer who struck his fist against his opponent’s diseased tooth. A slip of a dentist’s drill has caused the necessary trauma in the case of the jaw.

The description of the disease in its various manifestations suggests, and most surgeons will agree, that it is much commoner than is suspected. It is probably at the root of many chronic swellings or sinuses which eventually disappear in spite of treatment.

At the end of the book the various methods of treatment are referred to. Treatment by iodine, salvarsan, yatren, vaccines, extract of lymph gland, deep x-ray and radium is discussed. The place of surgery in treatment is also evaluated.

The book has many illustrations, eight of which are coloured plates. These are very clear and specially valuable in the bacteriology section. We compliment the author on this, his latest work, and feel that it will take its place as one of the standard text-books in the English language.

A Text-book of X-ray Diagnosis. By British Authors. In Three Volumes. Edited by S. CochranE Shanks, M.D., Peter Kerley, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.M.R.E., and E. W. Twining, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E. Vol. I. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1938. (Price in Great Britain, 50s. net.)

The Editors of this work have set themselves the task of producing “a comprehensive survey of the present position of x-ray diagnosis.” Volume I. is subdivided into three parts, dealing respectively with the cardio-vascular system, the respiratory system, and the urinary and male genital tracts. It extends to 591 pages and has 398 illustrations.

The radiographic reproductions are a feature of the book. They are of extremely high quality. Each section is provided with a bibliography which, in Part II., is exhaustive. The index is comprehensive and well-arranged.

In an excellent volume, Part II. is outstanding. Here we have no mere catalogue of radiological appearances. Considerable attention is given to etiology, to normal and pathological anatomy, to the correla-
Reviews

...tion of pathological and radiological findings, and to the clinical condition. Part I. and, to a lesser extent, Part III. are open to criticism in this respect. They lack the breadth of conception which distinguishes Part II., and which it is hoped will be displayed in subsequent volumes. Such treatment leads to expansion and to increase in expense of production, but the book is not intended to be an elementary text-book, and it is just such treatment that will enhance its value as an authoritative book of reference.

The volume deals as occasion arises with special aspects of radiological technique, such as orthodiagraphy, screening of the chest, bronchography, tomography, urography, vesiculography, &c., while other specialized procedures, such as kymography and arteriography, are given in broad outline. It is a pity, perhaps, that in a work of this scope arteriography does not receive more detailed consideration than is accorded it in Part I. Part III. includes a detailed account, extending to a whole page, of the production of artificial perirenal emphysema—a technique rarely, if ever, employed in this country. Some lack of proportion is evident when the same Part dismisses in five lines the useful and frequently employed technique of urography with compression. The reader is left with the impression that the authors are not alive to the possibilities of this procedure when correctly employed.

While criticisms of this kind are justified, they must not be allowed to obscure the main issue, which is that the volume gives every promise that the completed work will stand alone in British radiological literature, and will be indispensable to practising radiologists. A book of this kind has long been in demand, and nothing less ambitious than the present one would have met the case.

Advice to the Expectant Mother on the Care of her Health. By F. J. Browne, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S.E., F.C.O.G. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1938. (6d. net.)

The title of this booklet is the key to its contents. It will serve as a useful guide to the practitioner who is undertaking the antenatal care of the pregnant woman. Its chief recommendation is its simplicity. It is questionable whether it is wise to place a book in the hands of the expectant mother which apprises her of all the ills that may befall her in a pregnancy, even when the book is written so carefully as is this one. There is, however, no doubt that a practitioner giving routine advice along the lines of this booklet will provide the most useful type of antenatal advice in a form most easily understood by the patient.
NEW EDITIONS

Body Mechanics in the Study and Treatment of Disease. By Joel E. Goldthwait, M.D., LL.D., and Others. Second Edition. London: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1937. (18s. net.)

This work is dedicated to the chronic patient, but on perusal of the book there would seem to be no reason why the principles enunciated in it should not be applied to all types of invalids. The authors would seem to assess the causation of all disease on a physical basis, but it will remain to be seen whether the incidence of disease will diminish as the result of the present campaign for Physical Fitness.

While there is much of interest and importance in the book, there is a certain tendency to overstatement of results to be obtained from the methods advocated.

Chemical Methods in Clinical Medicine. By G. A. Harrison, B.A., M.D., B.Ch.Cantab. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (21s. net.)

This book has been thoroughly revised and several new sections have been added. It covers a wide field, includes all the more important methods of investigation and is completely reliable.

Except as a book of reference it is too elaborate for the undergraduate, but it is ideal for the purposes of those engaged in laboratory and research work.

The lists of references supplied will be greatly appreciated.

The Principles and Practice of Rectal Surgery. By William B. Gabriel, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. Second Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1937. (28s. net.)

The first edition was most favourably received and now, after a lapse of five years, we have the opportunity of reviewing the second edition of Mr. Gabriel's book.

Three new chapters have been added; an introductory chapter on surgical anatomy, and chapters on injuries and sarcoma of the rectum.

We unhesitatingly declare this book as being a standard work of considerable value written by an authority on an important branch of surgery.
Reviews

Adequate consideration is given to all the important conditions which may be encountered and their pathology and treatment lucidly discussed.

As before, the book is suitably illustrated, clearly printed and neatly bound.

Histological Technique. By H. M. Carleton, M.A., B.Sc., D.Phil., and E. H. Leach, M.A., B.Sc. Second Edition. London: Oxford University Press. 1938. (16s. net.)

The authors of this popular vade-mecum are to be complimented on the publication of their second edition. The general arrangement has not been altered, yet, although much new material has been added, the size of the book is if anything smaller. This reduction is apparent and really due to the fusion of the original two chapters, aided by alteration of fount and spacing. There is a helpful innovation in the form of a synopsis of recommended methods for general histology on the front end paper. More precision is emphasized in the use of standard chemical terms, and the nomenclature corresponds to that suggested by Gustav Mann; Xylene, Toluene and Formaldehyde, for example, is substituted for Xylol, Toluol and Formalin. Some new inclusions are recent marrow stains, identification methods for cholesterol, lipines, and vitamin C. This new edition of "Carleton" is thoroughly recommended to those in search of recent histological technique.