

NEW BOOKS

Radiological Atlas of Chronic Rheumatic Arthritis (the Hand).
By S. Gilbert Scott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R. and E. Camb. Pp. 76, with 30 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1935. Price 25s.

Stimulated by the adage that "the hand is the visiting-card of the rheumatic patient," Dr Gilbert Scott has happily suggested that radiographic examination of the hand should be included in the investigation of all cases of chronic rheumatic arthritis. The hand, he points out, presents itself as perhaps that part of the body most frequently involved in this disease and certainly as that part from which a standardised radiograph is most conveniently obtained. The author shows in the most graphic form the bone changes occurring in the various types of arthritis and aims at simplifying their classification by this means. What is, moreover, of greatly added interest, is that he shows how some estimate can be made of the stage of activity from the appearance of the bony structure, and, furthermore, how prognosis can usually be determined. The investigation was carried out at the British Red Cross Hospital for Rheumatism, where it has no doubt proved of great value primarily in establishing a correct diagnosis and secondarily in instituting the appropriate therapy. While this exquisitely illustrated atlas is primarily of interest to the radiologist the subject matter should appeal to all those interested in rheumatic disease.

An Introduction to Comparative Zoology. A Text-book for Medical and Science Students. By F. G. Sarel Whitfield, F.R.E.S., F.R.M.S., and A. H. Wood, M.A. Pp. x+354, with 141 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1935. Price 15s.

The authors have had in mind the closer linking of Biology and Medicine and the examples of invertebrates chosen for study have been selected as far as possible from those of medical or economic importance. A general introduction to the structure of animals and a chapter on classification precede the chapters on the groups, beginning with the protozoa. Approximately one-half of the work (162 pp.) is devoted to a consideration of the invertebrates of which the insects and arachnids occupy about 66 pp., and this latter is the best part of the work. Of the vertebrates, the dogfish, frog and rabbit are selected for description. The illustrations are on the whole successful but some of those in the vertebrate section require certain
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emendations and the terminology of some of the blood vessels requires revision. Brief chapters on metabolism, on heredity and evolution and on ecology, a glossary and an adequate index complete the work. This volume has been prepared primarily for use in the Kitchener School of Medicine, Khartoum, and with the special needs of the authors' teaching in view, we see no reason to suggest that it may be used in place of other already well-known works for first year medical students in this country.

_The Theory and Practice of Anaesthesia._ By H. D. Nosworthy, M.A., M.D., B.Ch. (Cantab). Pp. 223, with 35 illustrations. London: Hutchinson. 1935. Price 12s. 6d.

The form in which this book is presented is by no means its least merit. It is of convenient size, and the print is so clear that to read it becomes a pleasure. The matter of the book is as good as the format is attractive. The arrangement is both logical and convenient, and the author's views, delivered with admirable clarity of expression, must commend themselves to those who are concerned with the administration and especially the teaching of anaesthetics. One is grateful for Dr Nosworthy's insistence on the necessity for mastering the older methods with ether and chloroform alone, before embarking on newer and more complicated procedures. It is refreshing too to read so sane and balanced a chapter on chloroform, and the place that chloroform still holds in modern anaesthesia. In his preface the author states that the book is primarily intended for beginners, a claim which errs only in being too modest; for this is a book which will be a welcome addition to any anaesthetist's library.

_Hugh Owen Thomas, His Principles and Practice._ By D. McCrae Aitken, M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.) F.R.C.S. (Ed. and Eng.). Pp. 96, with 8 illustrations. Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. Price 12s. 6d.

This work is a companion volume to Mr Frederick Watson's personal study of the Life of Hugh Owen Thomas. It marks the intention of the late Sir Robert Jones to record the centenary of the birth of Thomas by recording his life and work, and to commemorate for future generations the place of Thomas in the history of surgical practice.

The author deserves high praise for the interesting book he has written, and it can confidently be recommended for a place in every surgeon's library.

The book gives an account of Thomas's commencement in practice and affords a fascinating glimpse of his records of cases along with the drawings of the various splints he employed so effectively. We
owe it to Sir Robert Jones, whose surgical knowledge of injuries was rooted in the principles of Owen Thomas, that the teaching and methods of Thomas have received world-wide knowledge and acceptance.

Thomas the surgeon is better known now than Thomas the physician, because he invented a series of splints more efficient and more simple than those in common use in his time. He was no mere mechanical inventor of splints, however, but a physician of wide experience and keen clinical acumen. Principles never change although technique may, and Thomas's principles, so sound basically, must always be found present in any so-called "new" methods of value which may come into existence to-day or to-morrow.

This volume, so well worthy of its subject, is a lasting contribution to the history of surgery. In the fundamental rules which it teaches, many a surgeon of the future may well establish his ideas of the treatment of disabilities of bones and joints upon a sure and sound foundation. Thomas deservedly achieved fame because he was a great physician and diagnostician, and it was to his understanding mind that great truths were revealed.

NEW EDITIONS

A Text-Book on the Nursing and Diseases of Sick Children for Nurses.
By various authors. Second Edition, edited by Alan Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond. Pp. xvi + 580, with 112 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1935. Price 15s.

The authors of this book are authorities in their special branch of children's medicine and surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Five years ago they prepared their first edition with the aim of giving to the nurse, who is entering for her Final State Examination, a text-book which was comprehensive. The volume was well received and now enters its second edition. The whole contents have been completely revised and partly rewritten. It includes much useful information in the theory of the subject as well as in the practical details, so essential for the making of a good nurse, and is for her an excellent book of reference. Most of the subject matter is clear and concise; there are many lucid sketch illustrations, as well as a useful Appendix containing facts about drugs, the treatment of poisoning, recipes, and questions, which have appeared in previous examinations of the General Nursing Council. To the practitioner this book would be useful, as it contains in detail the nursing points so important to him in his daily work with children.

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