BOOR REVIEWS.

Spot Diagnosis, Vol. 1, compiled by the editors of Medicine Illustrated. Pp. 128. 102 illustrations. Price 7/6. London: Harvey & Blythe Ltd. 1954.

This book consists for the most part of two or more photographs on one side of each page, each photograph illustrating some medical or surgical condition which is not stated in the legend. On the other side of the page the diagnosis is given, together with various clinical and pathological notes. Much of the material is taken from Medicine Illustrated. In their choice and quality the illustrations are variable. Some are very good and illustrate characteristic features of the respective diseases. Others, on the other hand, are not so good, and a few may even be misleading. The last thirteen pages of the book are devoted to a few miscellaneous notes on recent developments in therapeutics. In its general idea the book is excellent and it should provide a useful aid to revision for students, and indeed practitioners, of medicine. The value of the book would be enhanced by a more critical selection of the photographic material, but as it is, it provides excellent value in these days, for the modest price asked for it.

Peripheral Circulation in Man, a Ciba Foundation Symposium edited by G. F. W. Wolstenholme, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. and Jessie S. Freeman, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., assisted by Joan Etherington. Pp. 219. Price 25/-. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1954.

This book like an earlier one on Visceral Circulation (1952) is the verbatim report of the proceedings of a conference held under the auspices of the Ciba Foundation. The chairman of the conference was Dr. O. G. Edholm of London, and speakers from England, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and France—but none from Scotland—took part by invitation. The subjects discussed cover most aspects of the peripheral circulation in man but the emphasis is on the physiological rather than the clinical aspects. Anyone unfamiliar with techniques for recording peripheral blood flow in man will find the available methods critically presented and discussed. Photographs which is the classical technique and theoretically the method of choice is not the simple and accurate procedure which many workers who employ it imagine it to be. A new method described by Whitney in which a strain gauge is used appears to have many advantages. A somewhat surprising but most interesting inclusion is a description of the transparent chamber technique which allows direct inspection of the cutaneous blood vessels in mice. Two papers on adrenaline and noradrenaline follow; the first describes the secretion of the hormones from the adrenal gland and the second their actions on blood flow in skeletal muscle. The latter provokes the longest discussion of the conference; the sustained vasodilatation in muscle which follows the intravenous infusion of adrenaline is a most puzzling phenomenon for which no satisfactory explanation is forthcoming. The local and general effects of cold, the reflex control of cutaneous circulation and the neurohistology of cutaneous blood vessels are other subjects which are discussed. The thorny problem of vasmotor denervation with particular reference to sympathectomy comes up again; Hertzman reiterates the difficulty of performing a complete sympathectomy because of the extreme variability and unpredictable arrangement of the sympathetic outflow in any individual and Grant brings forward evidence that sympathetic nerves to human fingers contain vasodilator fibres which exert a tonic influence through the release of acetyl-choline. To a clinician the most interesting communication is that by Dible on the pathology of obliterator arterial disease.

This small volume is full of useful information on recent work on the peripheral circulation and can be thoroughly recommended to those who are actively interested in that field. It is not a book for those who do not know about the peripheral circulation but wish to learn. The papers and discussions are by experts who seldom come down to the level of the ordinary physician or surgeon. The volume is a convenient size, well produced and on the whole well edited although there are a number of rather irritating minor misprints. The purpose of the book as set out in the preface is to make the proceedings of the conference available throughout the world and to give to the reader 'a sense of participation in this informal and friendly occasion.' The editors and publishers are to be congratulated on the successful way in which they have achieved these aims.
Fanconi & Wallgren's Textbook of Paediatrics, edited by W. R. F. Collis, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.I. Pp. 1104 with 440 illustrations. Price 147/-.

London: Wm. Heinemann - Medical Books - Ltd. 1954.

Although paediatricians in this country are conversant with modern paediatric practice on the North American Continent it is probably true to say that European practice is not as well known. This may be due in part to the common language of Great Britain and the United States and to our close association in recent years. But quite apart from this, a comprehensive book representative of the paediatric practice in the various European countries did not exist until this volume was produced. The editors, Fanconi of Zurich and Wallgren of Stockholm, are therefore to be congratulated on its production. It was originally published in German under the title Lehrbuch Der Paediatrie and there are contributions from no less than ten countries in Europe including England and Eire. The English edition has been translated by Kawerau of St. Mary's Hospital, London, and edited by Collis of Dublin.

High praise is due to everyone concerned with the production of this comprehensive and authoritative book. Both British and Continental synonyms for the diseases are given. There are excellent introductory chapters on growth and development, the sociological aspects of paediatrics and on constitution, heredity and diathesis. Infant feeding, which many paediatricians believe has ceased to be a problem, is given succinctly and as one would expect, to some extent reflects the effect of the War years. It is interesting to note that they have not yet become so converted to the use of dried or condensed milk as we have in this country or the Americans have in the United States.

Czerny's classification of nutritional disorders is still the popular one and a virus is accepted as the cause of infantile diarrhoea. No mention is made of the specific types of Bacterium coli which are regarded by some in this country as the true cause. In this modern textbook it may seem strange that rickets still accounts for over 20 pages when the disease is nowadays so rare and can so readily be cured and prevented, but it must be realised that an appreciation of the clinical and biochemical problems concerned in this disease so intimately connected with growth, is the basis of much clinical paediatrics; indeed, in the training of paediatricians rickets occupies the place in clinical paediatrics that typhoid fever held in general medicine fifty years ago.

Special chapters are devoted to surgical conditions and to diseases of the skin and the eye as well as an interesting chapter on diseases peculiar to hot climates by Eckstein of Ankara; this latter chapter includes an excellent account of malaria in the young child and should prove valuable to all readers, whether practising in hot climates or not.

Treatment is given adequate consideration and will prove informative to those accustomed only to British methods. For example, immune serum in broncho-pneumonia is regarded as of great value—gamma globulin in the pneumonia of measles and hyper-immune serum from adults in pertussis pneumonia. All doses are given in the metric system and in the English edition they appear to be almost completely converted to the use of ml instead of c.c.

The book is profusely illustrated with excellent photographs, many of them in colour. The pictures of the blood films will be familiar to some as the ones circulated to physicians by Sandoz Ltd., Basle. The references are, in contrast, rather meagre and are given, not at the end of the chapters, but at the end of the book just before the index. While this may arouse adverse criticism by some the text is so full and the references individually so comprehensive that to the reviewer it seems in keeping with the general make-up. The cost may seem excessive but the book is large (1,104 pages) and beautifully produced on glossy paper. It can be strongly recommended to everyone but especially to those working in hospitals and institutions where paediatrics is practised.

The Heart Beat: Graphic Studies in the Study of the Cardiac Patient, by Aldo A. Luisada, M.D. Pp. 540. Price 84/-.

London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1954.

This work summarises the various methods of graphic recording of heart action in health and disease. It is well written and most branches of the subject are amply dealt with, but as must happen with all summaries there is a lack of detailed description. This is particularly so with regard to Vectorcardiography. The bibliography is excellent. It is not a book for the medical student or the general practitioner but it would be of considerable value to those employed in a cardiological department.
Pharmacology, by J. H. Gaddum, Sc.D., F.R.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 4th edition. Pp. 560. Price 35/-.
London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. 1953.

The fourth edition of this work will be welcomed by all teachers of experimental pharmacology. The book is invaluable for students proceeding to science degrees in physiology, pharmacology and pharmacy. Its special merit lies in illustrating the application of scientific principles to the examination of action of drugs by means of experiments in the laboratory. The final chapter on General Pharmacology ranks as a classic and should be read by every student of pharmacology in the faculties of science and medicine.

It is generally said that pharmacology is a dull subject, but in Professor Gaddum’s hands cheerfulness keeps breaking through. His laconic humour is a sheer delight. With the delicacy of Agag he picks his way among the etymological stepping stones of his subject. He glances disapprovingly at the Philistines who assume that the aloe and cassia referred to in the Bible were purgatives; but the subtlety of Professor’s Gaddum’s humour is revealed by his propensity for mixing the most erudite pharmacology with the therapeutics of mythology.

Aids to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Children, 9th edition, by F. M. B. Allen, M.D., F.R.C.P. and O. D. Fisher, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.C.H. Pp. 300. Price 6/6.
London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1954.

This is the ninth edition of this popular little book. It has been largely re-written to include recent advances in paediatric knowledge, and for this edition Professor Allen of Belfast has enlisted the help of his Senior Lecturer, D. O. D. Fisher. A quite remarkable amount of fact is included within 300 pages and for the undergraduate preparing for examinations it should prove most useful. It is not a suitable book for the undergraduate to read during his clinical training; rather its use would be to provide him with an attractive and reliable summary of the common and important diseases of childhood prior to his final M.B. examination. A particularly valuable feature of the book is four appendices on Diets for Sick Children, Some Useful Tables, Indications for the Use of Chemotherapeutic Agents and Antibiotics, and some useful Prescriptions, all of which will prove most acceptable to the busy general practitioner. This little book is certainly very good value for the money.

BOOKS RECEIVED.
The Bible and Modern Medicine, by A. Rendle Short, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. 142. London: The Paternoster Press. 1954.

Outlines of Industrial Medicine, by James Burnet, M.A., I.L.B., M.D. 2nd edition. Pp. 122. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1954.