NEW BOOKS

*Infra-red Irradiation.* By William Beaumont, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. x+140, with 29 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1936. Price 6s. 6d.

The author's intention is to give some instruction in the value and uses of infra-red radiation. Chapters on the physics and physiological effects are followed by descriptions of apparatus and technique. Then follow chapters on the treatment of some common symptoms and the application to disease. In the introductory part the author states that Finsen used the infra-red rays in the treatment of lupus and later states that the better results in lupus with the Finsen lamp as against the Kromayer are thought by many workers to be due to the preponderance of the infra-red. The author is badly at fault here. All Finsen's apparatus was designed to cut out the heat rays. Those workers who claim that the better results in lupus with Finsen's apparatus are due to the infra-red show little knowledge of the work of Finsen or his successors or the modern treatment of lupus with light. Beaumont quotes Sonne as stating that the infra-red rays raise the temperature of the subcutaneous tissues higher than do the luminous rays. Sonne stated exactly the reverse. Incidentally the depth below the surface was 0.5 cm., not 5 cm. as the author states. Such glaring mistakes tend to make one doubt the accuracy of the observations in the rest of the book apart from the relief of pain, which, it is well known, is relieved by heat.

*Medical Aspects of Crime.* By W. Norwood East, M.D., F.R.C.P., H.M. Commissioner of Prisons. Pp. x+437; with 9 illustrations and a number of tables. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1936. Price 18s.

The author has gathered together in a convenient form many papers already published, most of them revised and extended. Dr Norwood East has had the great advantage of an experience gained during a long apprenticeship as a Prison Medical Officer before being appointed to his present important post, and the outstanding gift of being a shrewd and careful observer has proved of the greatest value to the usefulness of the book. The chapter on attempted suicide with an analysis of 1000 cases is of special interest. Observations on exhibitionism may also be mentioned. This subject presents unusual difficulties to magistrates when attempting to decide upon adequate and suitable punishment. One notes that the age incidence of the author's cases is exactly what would be expected, but curiously enough in Scotland the reviewer has seen a larger percentage of cases at the male climacteric than appears to be the
New Books

author's experience in England. The remarks on the medical aspects of crime give a well-balanced opinion as regards the modern psychological treatment of delinquents and clearly indicate the need for punishment where it is merited. The book is a valuable contribution to prison literature and is admirably illustrated by cases carefully studied and described. There is a good index, and a useful bibliography follows each section.

Detachment of the Retina. By J. Cole Marshall, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 80, with 44 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1936. Price 7s. 6d.

This little book deals with detachment of the retina from the point of view of modern operative technique. The varying methods of operation are clearly described and the descriptions enhanced by numerous diagrams and illustrations. In addition to these diagrams of the operative technique, the instruments used by the various operators are also shown. The first chapter deals with the history and general examination in regard to detachment and the following chapters with the methods of different operators as regards the actual operation and localisation of retinal tears. It is a pity that the author did not add a final chapter regarding his own opinion as to the comparative value of the different operations and outline the technique which he himself would consider the best as a general operation for the condition.

An Enquiry into Prognosis in the Neuroses. By T. A. Ross. Pp. 192. London: Cambridge University Press. 1936. Price 10s. 6d.

Dr Ross, while Medical Director of the Cassel Hospital, had the opportunity of handling a large group of psycho-neurotic material. He has made a genuine attempt to assess the results of psychotherapy as practised by himself and his colleagues on 1186 cases between the years 1921 and 1933. The method of treatment is gone into in some detail and follows the lines laid down by Dr Ross's previous books, where a commonsense consideration of the patients' difficulties and a superficial form of analysis is preferred to the type of psycho-analysis favoured by Freudians. In spite of this, and the fact that the average duration of stay in hospital was only 4.1 months, the results obtained were good. The patients were circularised periodically and their written statements as to progress were made the basis of this study. The final figures obtained in 1934 showed that of the 1186 patients under consideration, 369 or 31 per cent. were well, 86 or 7 per cent. were improved, while 731 had been lost sight of. This, however, compares unfavourably with the shorter records mainly because of the number of patients who have been lost sight of. For instance, reports obtained one year after discharge showed that 547 or 45 per cent. were well, 306 or 25 per cent. improved, 236 or 19 per cent.
had derived no benefit from their treatment, while 97 had been lost sight of. The book leaves one with the impression that much can be expected from the results of psychotherapy, and will, it is hoped, help to dispel the prevalent feeling of inertia and pessimism where the neuroses are concerned which is present in the minds of most medical men. To many readers, however, it will appear that too definite a distinction is drawn between the psychoses and the neuroses, that too little attention is paid to constitutional and hereditary factors, and that the results do not apply to the general population but rather to a restricted middle-class group.

The Natural History of Mind. By A. D. Ritchie. Pp. vi+286. Longmans, Green & Co. 1936. Price 15s.

This book is based on the series of Tarner lectures delivered by the author at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1935. These have now been somewhat expanded. The book represents an attempt—successful in so far as it is possible with the data at present available—to study mind in a purely naturalistic way. Anatomical, physiological and other biological studies are utilised to obtain some evidence of the nature of mind, but the author shows rather conclusively that, so far, these contributions have added very little to our knowledge of the higher functions of the brain. Indeed it would appear doubtful if the experimental method, owing to the highly artificial conditions which it demands, can ever elucidate the nature of these higher functions. The book is written throughout in a lucid and challenging style. It is of especial interest to psychologists, and the chapter on “What does Psychology Study?” should be of interest and value to those engaged in clinical psychiatry. “All the information that can be got from dogs salivating and rats running in mazes does not make up for neglecting the way in which men behave towards their fellow-men.”

Surgical Emergencies in Children. By H. C. Edwards, F.R.C.S. Pp. vii+274. 99 illustrations. Size 9×6. Price 12s. 6d.

A book bearing this title may be written to satisfy one of three separate needs. Mr Edwards has not attempted to produce an all-inclusive treatise on the surgical emergencies of childhood—the rarer emergencies receive either no mention or only the most meagre reference. Nor can the book be recommended, as a complete guide in a difficult specialty, to the general surgeon who treats children exceptionally and in emergency; only five complications of appendectomy are considered, and arthritis is discussed only as it affects the hip. It must therefore be assumed that the author has intended to present for the student or house-surgeon the principles followed in a great children’s hospital, and considered in this light, the book has merit. The section on fractures is specially sound (skin-tight plasters
and traction pins are strongly condemned), and there is a wealth of experience in the consideration of abdominal emergencies. Even in a manual for the novice, however, other birth fractures than those of the skull deserve attention. Gradual coagulation by 2 per cent. tannic acid is advised for burns, and tannic acid jelly (which has a wide application in the less extensive burns of infants) receives no mention.

Recent Advances in Laryngology and Otology. By R. Scott Stevenson. Pp. x—346, with 128 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1935. Price 15s.

Another volume of the Recent Advances series is now published in laryngology and otology, and a summary of the literature in a condensed form is to be welcomed. It is not possible nor expected of a book of this size to give detailed information on the recent researches in such a large branch of surgery, but it serves to place before the reader a somewhat sketchy review of some of the work done at home and abroad during the last five years. Several subjects are fully and ably dealt with. The section on tuberculosis is extremely good and all the latest information as to the various forms of treatment is given. Carcinoma of the oesophagus and upper air passages is also dealt with, and in connection with the former, the various radical operations for dealing with growths in this locality are described. The results of these operations, however, have been so disappointing, both from the point of view of high mortality rate and the very low complete recovery rate, that a complete cure must be regarded in the nature of a rarity. Too much space has been devoted to the tonsils problem and the description of the operation for their removal, as the object of the book is to bring before the reader the recent advances in diagnosis and treatment; and again valuable space is taken up with the physiology of the labyrinth and the larynx, which could usefully have been included in another volume and its place could have been utilised for the description of such notable omissions as, e.g., the modern treatment of septic thrombosis of the lateral sinus, of aural blood infections, and of allergic conditions. The references which are given at the end of each chapter should prove a great help.

In conclusion, this volume should prove useful, but is somewhat disappointing on account of its incompleteness and the admixture of scientific and clinical work, to the detriment of the latter.

Tonsils and Naso-pharyngeal Sepsis. By E. A. Peters. Pp. vii—92, with 8 illustrations. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. 1935. Price 5s.

The author has succeeded in compiling a short and able volume on the tonsils and naso-pharyngeal sepsis. Many large and voluminous books have been written on the tonsils, and a short and
lucid book is therefore welcomed. The object of the writer is to present the association of naso-pharyngeal disease and early respiratory disease as providing the portal for most infections of the present day. The various ills to which the tonsils are subject are discussed, and many a sound practical hint is thrown in. The importance of chronic inhalation and descending infection from the throat is rightly stressed. Vaccine treatment as the prophylaxis of acute catarrhal conditions of the upper respiratory passages is stated to be effective in about 50 per cent. of the cases so treated. The author's own operative technique for tonsil removal is fully discussed. The only criticism we may offer is that the specific infections of the tonsils are included in the chapter on acute tonsillitis.

**Great Doctors of the Nineteenth Century.** By Sir William Hale-White, K.B.E., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. vii+325. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1935. Price 15s.

Here is a fresh book on some of the ablest practitioners of the art of Medicine from the time of Edward Jenner to that of Ronald Ross by one well qualified to perform such a duty. It is fortunate that some men when they retire from active participation in their professional work devote their well-earned leisure to historical research and literary production. We are indeed grateful to Sir William Hale-White for this admirable review. He has presented in handy compass critical biographies of seventeen outstanding personalities, all of whom are worthy of a permanent place in the hall of honour. Many of the facts recorded here appear for the first time in print or in a form easily available to the general reader. The author, with his knowledge of medical history of that period, has produced a very illuminating background for each of his subjects, thereby making the whole a worthy tribute to the men he and his readers wish to honour. The student will find heroes to worship, the man in active practice will get encouragement to continue his observations and records, the retired man will find one example of how to use his time, and all will derive pleasure and recreation from reading this delightful volume.

**The Microscopic Anatomy of Vertebrates.** By George G. Scott, Ph.D., and James I. Kendall, Ph.D. Pp. 306, with 167 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1935. Price 17s. 6d.

The authors have prepared their manual with the view of presenting the study of histology, not as for a medical student with the emphasis on human or mammalian histology, but so as to include the tissues of a wider range of vertebrates. While mammalian histology necessarily forms a prominent part of the work, good use is made of tissues of the frog and of certain tailed amphibia and a few interesting
examples are included from the reptilia, but the fishes and the birds are rather scantily represented.

In addition to good photomicrographs and drawings of tissues, there are useful diagrams, for instance of the structure of a lymph-node, the spleen and the liver, which will assist the student in understanding the microscopic anatomy of these organs. The diagram of the placoid scale is, however, lacking in detail.

A chapter is added on fixation, section-cutting, staining and mounting and an appendix contains a list of useful works of reference— in addition to those at the end of each chapter. An adequate index completes the work.

Practical Points in Anaesthesia. By H. K. Ashworth, M.B., Ch.B., D.A. Pp. vi+156, with 16 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1936. Price 7s. 6d.

Dr Ashworth has made a commendable effort to cover the whole field of anaesthesia in this pocket volume. Theory has been minimised purposely. Consequently, much practical detail has been included—a feature which will appeal to the “infrequent” anaesthetist to whom the book is addressed. There is much sound, albeit dogmatic, teaching in this book. Space might have been found, however, for (a) descriptions of other methods of induction as alternatives to the semi-smother method with chloroform and ether advocated on p. 31 et seq., and (b) a description of the use of rectal paraldehyde, which is probably a safer basal narcotic to recommend to the occasional anaesthetist than avertin.