REVIEWS.

Practical Obstetrics. By E. Hastings Tweedy, F.R.C.P.I., and G.T. Wrench, M.D. Fourth Edition. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1919. (21s. net.)

This book has now reached its fourth edition. Dr. Tweedy, who has revised this edition, has been associated in the work of the Rotunda Hospital during the absence of the Master on war work, and he has renewed his acquaintance with the clinical teaching of the Institution, teaching which is embodied in this book. The author claims the right to be dogmatic, and he certainly is. An author who has the right to do this from his great practical experience is infinitely to be preferred to one who has merely compiled a book from the experiences of many. We are in cordial agreement with many of his statements, but not with all. For instance, we do not believe that accidental hæmorrhage is nearly always toxæmic in origin; neither do we agree with him as to the advisability of rupturing the membranes in concealed hæmorrhage. In the dealing with occipito-posterior cases he objects to manual rotation of the head and shoulders. This is generally a simple procedure, and the subsequent delivery with forceps is much simplified. In face cases he makes no mention of converting the mento-posterior ones into vertex cases by manual flexion of the head. Schatz’s method, which he describes, is useless in mento-posterior cases, and mento-anterior cases where it may be used are generally best left to nature. He is a strong advocate of leaving things to nature, and interfering as little as possible, but this can be overdone. For instance, in a face presentation there is no justification in waiting until signs of distress arise and there is tonic contraction of the uterus with impending rupture. We believe in interference in mento-posterior cases by flexion of the head as soon as the os is fully dilated. It is safer for the child, and saves the mother from hours of suffering.

At the end of the book there is an appendix with some
interesting statistics, and also two papers on eclampsia and one on the lower uterine segment.

The book is a very valuable one, and we have much pleasure in recommending it.

_Traitement de Psychonévroses de Guerre._ Par G. Roussy, J. Boisseau, M. D'Oelsnitz. Collection Horizon: Précis de Médecine et de Chirurgie de Guerre. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1918. (4 frs.)

This volume is in a sense a sequel to that by Roussy and Lhermitte, in the same series, entitled _Psychonévroses de Guerre_, but it is also a résumé of the former work, of which the conclusions are now modified, now confirmed, on the basis of a more extended field of observation. The greater part of it is given to treatment, but it opens with a clinical summary, and goes on to the discussion of etiology and prophylaxis. This is followed by an elaborate and clear statement of the various methods of treatment, psychotherapeutic and other, which leads to an investigation of the nature of certain war neuroses in the light of therapeutic results. This includes a long discussion of Babinski's theory of "reflex contracture" incurable by psychotherapy, a theory which the authors consider untenable, and to which they prefer the view that such "reflex" palsies form a syndrome indicative of prolonged immobilisation or faulty use of a limb. A chapter on prognosis concludes a volume which for breadth of view, for range of experience, and for abundance of practical detail could not easily be rivalled in so brief a compass. It should be in the library of every neurologist and military medical officer.

_Nouvelle Méthode de Vaccination Antityphoidique._ Le Lipo-vaccin, T.A.B. Par E. Le Moignic et A. Sezary. Paris: Librairie J. B. Baillière et fils. 1918. (2 fr.)

The authors of this little volume, after discussing the principles of vaccine treatment, point out the disadvantages of aqueous
vaccines. Of these the chief are their toxicity, which compels the use of repeated small injections; the gradual production of immunity as a consequence of this protracted treatment; and the sometimes severe reactions which may follow the use even of restricted doses. For such aqueous vaccines they have substituted a suspension of typhoid and paratyphoid bacilli (2 mgrm. typhoid, 1.75 mgrm. each paratyphoid A. and B. per ccm.) in an oily medium. Of this a single injection of 1 cc. is sufficient to immunise against typhoid and paratyphoid fevers. Its toxicity is much lower than that of aqueous vaccines, the antigen being more slowly absorbed, and its efficacy has been abundantly demonstrated, not only by animal experiment, but on bodies of troops exposed to epidemics of enteric fever. Details of the method of preparation and of the technique of vaccination follow, and the book ends with a study of the reactions produced. Local reaction is slight, and in the great majority of cases there is no general reaction or merely a mild febrile disturbance, with, in a few instances, slight toxic phenomena. The method would seem to have already proved itself, and it is obviously capable of extension to many other infections. The authors, should its value be substantiated by other workers, will have rendered material service in the prophylaxis of the infections.

A Manual of Physical Diagnosis. By Austin Flint, M.D. Seventh Edition. Revised by Henry C. Thacker, M.S., M.D. Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febiger. 1917. ($2.50.)

Very well known in America, where its merits have caused a demand for edition after edition, Austin Flint's Manual of Physical Diagnosis is not as widely known in this country as it deserves. As its name implies, it does not discuss any of the accessory methods of diagnosis which the laboratory has brought to the aid of clinical medicine, but deals solely with the fundamental means of investigation of the patient by eye, ear, and fingers. The greater part of the book is given to percussion and auscultation. It opens with a discussion of their
physical basis, and of the anatomical, physiological, and pathological principles involved in their practice; it proceeds to a detailed description of the phenomena observed by them in health and disease; and it then applies what has been learnt to the physical diagnosis of diseases of the respiratory organs and heart. A brief chapter on examination of the abdomen, so brief that it might have been omitted without substantial detriment, concludes the volume. The most conspicuous merit of Professor Flint's work is that it combines lucidity and thoroughness, and that it insists throughout on the essential importance of methods of examination which it is the tendency of the modern student to regard as accessory to laboratory investigations and to radiography. It cannot fail to be of great service to those who make themselves masters of its contents.

Amputation Stumps: Their Care and After-Treatment. By G. Martin Huggins, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer to the Government Schools, Salisbury, Rhodesia. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1918. (7s. 6d. net.)

There is at the present day a large number of surgeons engaged in the treatment of cases in which amputation has been performed, and this small book has been written for their information. The author held the post of Surgical Specialist to the Pavilion Military Hospital in Brighton, and had exceptional opportunities there of seeing and treating large numbers of amputation cases. This experience was supplemented by regular visits to Rockhampton House, where he saw his own and other surgeons' cases fitted with artificial limbs.

We have read the book carefully, and find that the results of Mr. Huggins' observations are very clearly set forth. It is impossible for us to go into detail; but we may indicate that the whole subject is passed under review in a thoroughly practical fashion, and the book abounds with useful directions and hints as to the best sites for division of the various bones, the method of "bearing" appropriate to individual stumps, septic complications such as sinus and necrosis, and the different kinds of artificial limbs which have been found to be of most practical use.
The text is freely illustrated by reproductions of photographs, skiagrams, and drawings.

The book is an admirable one, and should be in the hands of all surgeons. It is furnished with a full index, which renders easy a reference to its contents. It is one of the best of the "Oxford War Primers," and we do not know what higher praise we could bestow.

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The Treatment of Joint and Muscle Injuries. By W. Rowley Bristow, M.B., B.S.Lond., F.R.C.S. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1917. (6s. net.)

Those who are familiar with Mr. Bristow's reputation as a practitioner of electro-therapeutics will welcome an opportunity of possessing his teachings in printed form. In his new book he treats of medical electricity, massage, exercises, and therapeutic heat. The work is necessarily technical; but the author's clear and orderly exposition of his subject-matter places it at once within the grasp of the average medical man. Students who are seeking diplomas in massage and electricity may confidently accept The Treatment of Joint and Muscle Injuries as a textbook of great value for their purpose.

Perhaps the most important section of Mr. Bristow's book is that which deals with the technique of graduated contraction. Those who have studied only the older works on electricity will appreciate the decided change from the empirical to the scientific basis on which the subject is coming to be founded.

The remainder of the book is taken up with the treatment of particular conditions.

We have pleasure in recommending Mr. Bristow's volume.