NEW BOOKS

Cardiology. By WILLIAM EVANS. Pp. xi+310, with 269 illustrations and 15 tables. London: Butterworth & Co. 1948. Price 35s. net.

It is explained in the preface that this book does not aim at exhaustive discussions of all cardiovascular disorders, but is based on a series of postgraduate lectures at the London Hospital. Nevertheless there is compressed into the compass of a volume of reasonable size a wonderfully broad account of such diseases. The book bears throughout the stamp of the author's well-known individuality and brings together much work previously published in scattered papers, e.g. on auricular tachycardia, phonocardiography, funnel-breast, the oesophagus in the radiology of the heart and vessels, and on digitalisation. Many of the views are individual and some may arouse condemnation (e.g. the summary dismissal of heparin in two lines as not justified, p. 302); others are unorthodox but provoke reconsideration of views long held as final (e.g. the definition of mitral stenosis as a comprehensive disease, p. 28, and the demolition of mitral incompetence as a clinical entity, p. 35). Certain of Dr Evans' points command the whole-hearted acquiescence of the reviewer, those on unwarranted cardiac invalidism, the management and employment of cardiac patients, and many others. It is particularly refreshing to meet in print the "self-catechism" of auscultation, which tallies closely with the method taught by a most respected clinical teacher in this school twenty-five years ago and still taught by his old pupils.

The manner in which radiology has become an integral part of a cardiac examination and the immense value of its findings, are abundantly clear from the text. In this book clinical observation of an exact type, radiology and electrocardiography are woven into a comprehensive fabric of diagnostic method.

The format, printing and reproductions are of a very high standard, the radiograms particularly showing detail with clarity.

As a survey of present-day teaching on cardiovascular disease the book has much to offer not only to the student of cardiology but to the general physician. 

Vascular Disease in Clinical Practice. By I. S. WRIGHT. Pp. 514, with 104 figures. Chicago: Year Book Publishers Inc. 1948. Price $7.50 net.

In this country the field of vascular disease has long been neglected by physicians, and even by many cardiologists, whose preoccupation with the arterial pump seems to blind them to peripheral events and processes. Our surgical colleagues have maintained their interest in the vessels, since it is to them that most cases of occlusive disease are referred.

The present volume comes as a welcome reminder that vascular diseases constitute a significantly large and highly interesting field in medical practice. Much of its value lies in the emphasis placed on exact diagnosis by simple methods of examination. Laboratory methods are described for completeness, but methods of clinical bedside investigation are admirably detailed.

Drawing from an extensive clinical experience, Dr Wright deals not only with the occlusive diseases of large vessels (arteriosclerosis and thromboangetitis) and with aneurysms and arterio-venous shunts, but discusses disorders of vascular function Raynaud's disease, scleroderma, acrocyanosis and erythromelalgia (now "erythemalgalia"). The vascular responses to cold and immersion are described, chillblains, frostbite, trench- and immersion-foot. Pariarteritis nodosa with temporal arteritis receive due notice. There is a chapter on the various shoulder-girdle syndromes formerly attributed to cervical rib. An extensive section of the book is devoted to diseases of the veins, with full discussion of modern views on the prevention and treatment of thrombophlebitis. There is similarly a section on lymphatic diseases. The author's use of dicoumarol, over long periods and apparently with safety, in the prevention of recurrent emboli in rheumatic and other cardiac cases is noteworthy.

Though one or two sections fall short of the general high standard (for example, those on aneurysms and on erythema nodosum) the book as a whole is very complete
and worthy of study by all engaged in clinical practice—whether surgeon, physician or general practitioner. The illustrations, which include several colour photographs, are of high quality.

*Unipolar Lead Electrocardiography.* By E. Goldberger. Pp. 182 with 88 figures. London: Henry Kimpton. 1947. Price 20s. net.

From the nature of the instrument, an electrocardiograph records the potential difference between the points to which it is connected. In a tracing by one of the standard Einthoven leads, we have a record of the variations throughout the cardiac cycle of the algebraic sum of the potentials of the two limbs to which the electrodes are applied. For many years these leads served well enough, and for the diagnosis of all but a few arrhythmias they still suffice. For closer analysis of the ventricular complex, however, precordial leads were introduced by Wilson nearly twenty years ago. In these, one electrode is placed on the chest, over the heart, and the other on a limb. It was soon apparent that though the potential variations of the precordial electrode were far greater than those of the limb electrode, the latter were by no means negligible and introduced a serious error in the curves. To obtain curves which reflect the potential of the chest electrode alone, the other must be connected to a point whose potential varies little if at all during the cardiac cycle. Such leads, introduced in 1934, are termed “unipolar” and their use is current practice in many centres in this country and the U.S.A.

The book under review, by one who has worked intensively in this field and who has made considerable contribution to our knowledge, is one of fundamental importance to all interested in electrocardiography.

After reviewing the present state of our knowledge of the polarisation of cell membranes and the genesis of action currents, the author discusses the theory of bipolar and unipolar leads. A large part of the work is very properly devoted to the curves from normal hearts and the effects on the tracings of varying positions of the heart. There follows a full analysis of the unipolar lead curves recorded in various pathological states, hypertrophy of one or other ventricle, bundle-branch block, infarct, etc.

Though it deals with a somewhat difficult subject, the text is lucid and easy to follow. Throughout the author returns consistently to first principles in explaining the genesis of various types of curve. It is to this logical approach that much of the clarity of the text is due.

The book is recommended as a vade mecum to all those engaged in this field of study.

*Textbook of Chiropody.* By Margaret J. McKenzie Swanson, b.litt., f.ch.s. Pp. 208, with 168 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1948. Price 20s.

This admirable book, produced by the co-founder of the Edinburgh Foot Clinic and School of Chiropody, should be invaluable to the student or practitioner of chiropody and should also prove useful to general practitioners or workers in any out-patient department where variety of foot conditions is encountered. The text is well written and lucid and the many illustrations, which are mostly photographs, are clear and informative. The final chapters on clinical procedures and padding and strapping should prove especially useful to those who have had no expert training in this important branch of surgery.

*The Skull, Sinuses and Mastoids.* By Barton R. Young. Pp. 328, with 141 illustrations. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc. 1948. Price 36s.

This is one of a series of handbooks in röntgen diagnosis published by the Year Book Publishers. Companion volumes have already appeared dealing with the arthropathies, chest, gastro-intestinal tract, osseous system and urinary tract.

This latest publication forms a most welcome addition to the series. It presents the röntgen appearances of the normal skull, sinuses and mastoids at significant
stages of development from birth to adult life, their normal variants, anomalies and diseases. The author is to be congratulated on this valuable contribution to a subject which has been comparatively neglected. The third section, which deals with the mastoids, is particularly good. The illustrations are of a high standard throughout and, while the text is brief, there is a valuable bibliography. The absence of a chapter on ventriculography is disappointing, but there are few other points for criticism.

This is an excellent little book, which can be recommended to all interested in the subject.

_Treatment of Heart Disease._ By WILLIAM A. BRAMS. Pp. 195. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1948. Price 17s. 6d.

A deliberately dogmatic summary of the author's experience is presented for the student and general practitioner. The first section, one-third of the book, deals with pharmacology; the remainder outlining in detail the treatment of almost all cardiac conditions, contains much unnecessary repetition.

It is stated that digitalis can safely be used in all forms of congestive heart failure, no mention is made of the established danger of such therapy in "cor pulmonale."

There is little fresh knowledge to be gained from this book; clear concise statements, however, will recommend it to those unwilling to sift evidence for themselves.

_Manual of Leprosy._ By ERNEST MUIR, C.M.G., C.I.E., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Pp. viii+208, with 70 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1948. Price 17s. 6d. net.

This "small handy book" will be valuable to physicians in this country caring for patients returned from contact with leprosy overseas as well as to workers abroad at closer grips with the disease.

Up-to-date information includes sulphone treatment and the classification adopted at the Havana conference 1948.

The description of the centripetal and centrifugal systems of control will recall to Scottish readers the elaboration of both methods in one Mission Field, at Itu and Uburu.

While over-simplification has been avoided, illustrations, cross references, extensive bibliography, adequate index and scarcity of slips add to the use and interest of this book.

_A History of the Heart and the Circulation._ By FREDERICK A. WILLIUS and THOMAS J. DRY. Pp. 456, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1948. Price 40s.

Cardiology, or the study of the heart and circulation, is of peculiar interest to the medical historian. Conversely, almost more than in any other branch of medicine, a knowledge of history is useful and even essential to all who practise cardiology.

Drs Willius and Dry, both of the Mayo Clinic, have stimulated the reader's interest by adopting various angles of approach. The first half of the volume is devoted to a chronological account of the evolution of knowledge regarding the heart and circulation. This section consists of eight chapters and, at the end of each, there is an ample list of references to guide the reader who wishes to study the matter more deeply. The second part of the book is devoted to 21 special biographies, from Hippocrates to Sir Thomas Lewis. The third, and shortest section of the book, deals with the various subjects included in cardiology; the anatomy, the arrhythmias, the diagnostic aids, the congenital malformations, the surgery of the heart and other topics.

This welcome treatise is clearly and attractively written, and may be regarded as a most scholarly account of the progress of cardiology down the ages.

_Practical Section Cutting and Staining._ By E. C. CLAYDEN. Pp. vii+129, with 21 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1948. Price 9s.

The author states that this book is essentially for technicians with little or no
experience, and accordingly he has gone into the details, not omitting the simplest procedure. For this very reason the book fulfils its purpose admirably. The usual methods of fixation, cutting and staining are given and, while these may vary as compared with similar procedures in different laboratories, the general details given are all sound. The illustrations are clear and helpful; one showing how a section should not appear is very useful for the beginner. This little book ought to prove very useful for junior technicians learning their work and preparing for examination, and even for those more senior the details are available for handy reference. The book is well produced, has a useful index, and can be commended for the purpose intended.

The 1947 Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology. Edited by HOWARD T. KARSNER, M.D., HERBERT Z. LUND, M.D., and ARTHUR HAWLEY SANDFORD, M.D. Pp. 558, with 103 illustrations. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers. 1948. Price 21s. net.

This book contains selected articles from the pathological literature published during 1947. In certain instances some authors have written concise reviews of their own articles. The medical applications of radioactive isotopes are discussed at length, and although widely divergent subjects such as the sludged blood syndrome and penicillin and streptomycin sensitivity tests are included yet this book contains a complete survey of all the recent advances, with references, in the fields of pathology and clinical pathology.

The Clinical Apprentice. By J. M. NAISH, M.D., M.R.C.P., and J. APLEY, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. xi+200, with 70 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1948. Price 15s. net.

This book has been planned to meet the needs of the young student passing from the orderly domain of science to the strange empirical atmosphere of the wards. It is largely concerned with methods of examination and their difficulties.

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with examination at leisure, the second the investigation of acute cases. It is simply and clearly written and should prove of the greatest assistance to the student beginning his hospital experience.

Cardiography. By WILLIAM EVANS, M.D., D SC., F.R.C.P. Pp. ix+140, with 211 figures. London: Butterworth & Co. 1948. Price 25s.

This book deals with clinical electrocardiography and phonocardiography and replaces the author's earlier work, A Student's Handbook of Clinical Electrocardiography. It is planned to help those who are preparing for examinations.

An interesting feature is a series of electrocardiograms for testing the reader's knowledge. Legends are not given under these illustrations but are collected together in later pages. The section on heart sounds is particularly good and should be of the greatest assistance.

This useful book should prove extremely popular with those intending to take a higher qualification.

Nursing Pathology. By RAYMOND H. GOODALE, B.S., M.D. Pp. 416, with 71 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1948. Price 15s.

No one would envy the author his task of compiling a comprehensive yet simple textbook of pathology suitable for the student nurse.

This book has sections on general pathology, applied pathology and clinical pathology and a useful glossary of terms. The section on clinical pathology is well written and should prove of value to nurses in all spheres of professional duty. The other sections are more in keeping with the standard of knowledge demanded of medical students, but sister-tutors, for whom the book will have the greatest appeal, could use them as a basis for lecture courses. The illustrations are good.
Nursing in Tuberculosis. By Louise Lincoln Cady. Pp. vii+481, with 62 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. Price 20s. net.

This book deals with tuberculosis in all its aspects and is written by one who has a full understanding of the disease and its problems as they affect the individual and the community. It deals effectively with the practical issues of nursing, and explains briefly but clearly the pathology and epidemiology of the disease and the many surgical and medical methods of treatment which the nurse may have to carry out herself and at which she will assist. It is full of sound instruction and good advice, and the author's solicitude for the patient is everywhere evident. The integration of the hospital and health services is emphasised and chapters on psychological, social, and economic problems, and on rehabilitation are excellent.

Tuberculosis workers of all grades will find it of value. There are minor errors in places and we in this country feel that the work of the Prophit Trust demands correct spelling of its name.

Oral and Dental Diseases. By Hubert H. Stones, M.D., M.D.S., F.D.S.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. xix+896, with 926 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1948. Price 90s.

This book is excellent. It is clear, concise and well illustrated and has full references at the end of each chapter. The author avoids the tendency, so often displayed in dental textbooks, of treating dental diseases as something occurring independently from the rest of the body, both as regards cause and effect. He emphasises the fact that dental disease covers a much larger field than is often realised and much of the subject matter is therefore of interest not only to dental students and dental practitioners but also to medical practitioners.

A full description is given of recent research and this adds to the value and interest of the book. It might have been an advantage, from a student's point of view, if the author had been more definite in his conclusions as the application of research findings to clinical practice requires considerable experience.

It is not possible in the space available to refer to the book chapter by chapter, but special attention has been paid to the etiology, the histopathology and clinical features of conditions met with in the teeth and their supporting tissues, in the jaws and in the oral mucosa. Descriptions of operative procedures are necessarily brief but broad lines of treatment have been laid down.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the manner of presentation and on the excellence of the illustrations.

The Acute Bacterial Diseases: Their Diagnosis and Treatment. By Harry F. Dowling, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. ix+465, with 55 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1948. Price 32s. 6d.

In his preface the author notes that the old order is changing in regard to our attitude to the acute bacterial diseases. This has occurred particularly in treatment since the introduction of the sulphonamides, penicillin, and streptomycin, but also owing to the more easily overlooked improvements in methods of laboratory diagnosis. The result has been that it is imperative to identify each disease according to its etiological agent and this book has been written with a view to combining the new order of diagnosis with what is worth while in the old. Apart from one or two curious defects in observation such as the statement that "Peeling begins most often on the tips of the fingers or toes. . . ." in scarlet fever the author has succeeded handsomely in his subject of providing clear clinical pictures with up to date and really balanced accounts of the possibilities of treatment by the newer remedies. Those in search of a diagnosis will derive stimulus from this work although we confess to a mild scepticism in respect of the author's hope that his grouping of the conditions described will "aid the physician in narrowing the presumptive diagnosis to one group of diseases." In our judgment this is a first-class contribution to the literature of the acute infections.