NEW BOOKS

The Medical Bookman and Historian. Vol 2, No. 1. Edited by F. C. DALLER, M.D., M.R.C.P., and W. R. BETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 48 pages monthly. London: Harvey and Blythe. 1948. Price 2s. per copy.

This new venture has been running for a year. The greater part of the journal is taken up by reviews of new medical books. Some of these are done at considerable length, others are relatively short. The historical part of the journal occupies the central pages, so that, presumably, they may eventually be separated from the rest. This number deals with “The influence of Medical Poets on English Poetry,” “Some Thyroid Pioneers,” and “The Chloroform Centenary Exhibition at Edinburgh.” There is also a short article on “Medical Eponyms.”

The standard of production is good, but from the point of view of the purchaser there is one grave fault—that ordinary advertisements are strewn indiscriminately throughout the text.

The Kingdom of the Lost. By J. A. HOWARD OGDON. Pp. 256. London: The Bodley Head. 1947. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The author, who suffered from schizophrenia, was a voluntary patient for one year and a certified inmate for two years. He walked off and hid himself for fourteen days and thereby decertified himself.

He describes his disorder from the patient’s point of view, gives an account of living conditions in the institutions and of the people he met in them. He took up Yoga and claims that it enabled him to regain his mental balance.

The book is an interesting story and should help to a better understanding of the patient’s point of view.

Der Blutspender. By WILLENEGGER and BOITEL. Pp. 197, with 48 illustrations. Basel: Benno Schwabe & Co. 1947. Gebunden Fr. 10.

After a brief but adequate historical review of blood transfusion this book deals with the organisation of services providing blood and plasma in various countries. The psychological aspect of donor recruitment is dealt with and the comparative cost of blood and plasma in different centres is of interest. This book will be of value to those concerned in the organisation of a blood transfusion service.

The Occasion Fleeting. By HUGH BARBER, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii+200. London: H. K. Lewis. 1947. Price 15s. net.

One who has enjoyed practising in and around hospital medical wards for more than forty years should know something about some things, but he cannot be sure that it is worth the telling. Dr Barber has ventured to offer some of his thoughts and experiences in the hope that they may be instructive or interesting. He writes of many aspects of his experience, of his student-days, and of his experiences as a consultant, under such headings as “Clinical Acumen,” “The Spirit of the Family Doctor,” “Alcohol in its Place,” “Idle Words,” and so forth. The book is full of sound observations and wise sayings that should be very helpful to the young man commencing his career and no less of interest to the elder practitioner.

Genetics in relation to Clinical Medicine. By F. A. E. CREW, M.D., D.Sc., PH.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S. Pp. xii+111, with 16 figures. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1947. Price 10s. net.

Professor Crew has addressed himself primarily to the student of medicine. He recognises that in the overloaded state of the curriculum the undergraduate will
not be interested in the academic aspects of comparative genetics, as he is merely seeking to acquire a knowledge of things which promise to be immediately useful. In order to appeal to the student and make the subject attractive, Professor Crew lays emphasis on the special genetics of man, though adequate examples in this field are necessarily very limited.

The book offers an introduction to the subject and gives a good account of all the important facts and should form a sure foundation for further study.

Progress in Gynaecology. Edited by J. V. MEIGS, M.D. and S. H. STURGIS, M.D. Pp. xlv+552, with 72 illustrations. London: William Heinemann Ltd. Price 35s.

This volume of seventy papers, contributed by seventy-one North American gynaecologists, is published for the purpose of refreshing and bringing up to date medical men who have been out of touch with gynaecology during war service. This aim it will indeed fulfil but it has a wider appeal. Practising gynaecologists and endocrinologists, as well as graduates preparing for higher diplomas will find it collects together and summarises much of the most modern views and practice which have developed as the result of recent progress and research in all branches of gynaecology and the allied subjects. A large section of papers is devoted to endocrine researches and their relationship to the management of the functional disorders. These indicate there is still much to be elucidated. Most papers have a short bibliography appended.

Dealing with the growing edges of a subject it is helpful to have the present opinions of accredited experts on controversial points. This the editors have secured by asking each author to write on his or her "hobby" and many of the names are well known in the literature in connection with the subjects they have chosen to expound in this volume.

Personal Mental Hygiene. By Dom THOMAS V. MOORE. Pp. vii+331. London: Messrs William Henderson. 1947. Price 21s. net.

The author points out that it is not sufficient to attain mental health to deal only with emotional conflicts, but that there is a higher and more spiritual side which the psychiatrist would do well to cultivate. It is natural that the author should think in the above manner, because as priest as well as psychiatrist, he is well equipped to present his point of view. In general, the book is stimulating and thought-provoking, and a strong plea is entered for less individualism and selfishness and for greater charity. It may be that too much reliance is placed on intense exORTATION and some of the suggestions made are altogether too sweeping, e.g. the rise in cerebral arteriosclerosis connected with the great increase in the problems of smoking.

Pharmakologie. By K. O. MOLLER. Basel: Benno Schwabe. 1947. Price 48 francs.

This large textbook of pharmacology by the Professor of Pharmacology in Copenhagen was first published in Danish about five years ago and there have already been three Danish editions. It has now been translated into German and published in Switzerland. It is a sound work in the classical tradition. The actions of practically all the drugs used in medicine are clearly and accurately set forth for the benefit of students and practitioners of medicine. Substances without therapeutic action are only included when they are of toxicological importance. The preparations available in the German and Swiss pharmacopoeias are briefly described with doses. Recent famous discoveries such as streptomycin, paludrine, thiouracil and DDT are fully discussed, together with various drugs used on the continent of Europe and little known here. There is a list of over 2000 references to original work and many other references to reviews. The book will no doubt be a standard source of information, but it is not very easy to read. It concentrates on the results of
pharmacology without much emphasis on the methods by which these results were obtained. It thus tends to present the subject as a mass of facts scarcely more interesting than the facts of anatomy.

*Mental Health.* By J. H. Ewen, F.R.C.P.E., D.P.M. Pp. 267. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1947. Price 12s. 6d. net.

This short textbook incorporates a chapter on special treatments and their practical technique, by C. Friedman. Mental health is discussed in an orthodox manner and consists essentially of a descriptive account of the various mental states comprised under the terms psychoneuroses, psychoses, and mental deficiency. The preventive and social aspects are not sufficiently stressed or elaborated. There are a number of small typographical errors which will no doubt be corrected in any subsequent edition, e.g. Kraepelin’s date was 1896 not 1869. The book, however, may be regarded as an accurate synopsis of psychological medicine, but is more adapted for the use of undergraduates and psychiatric social workers than for post-graduates.

*The Doctor and the Difficult Adult.* By William Moodie, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. Pp. 296. London: Cassell & Co. Ltd. 15s. net.

Moodie believes that psychiatry does not attract the normal intelligent student. "It is a vague and indefinite subject—time consuming—tedious—irritating to those who like to do jobs quickly." While the author takes this point of view yet he has many wise things to say, and is essentially conservative and wary in relation to recent developments. The book is rather a puzzling one as the author seems to be a little perplexed as to how best to present his material. Much of it is the ordinary descriptive psychiatry found in any textbook, and one would like to have had the benefit of Moodie’s large experience in regard to the problems of the more normal, but yet difficult adult.

*Inter-Allied Conferences on War Medicine, 1942-45.* Edited by Maj.-Gen. Sir Henry L. Tidy and J. M. B. Knutschbach. Pp. 531. London: Staples Press Ltd. 1947. Price 50s. net.

During the war large numbers of troops from various countries were stationed in Britain from time to time and it was natural that the medical officers should be brought together to exchange information and views. A series of conferences were held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Medicine, at which many valuable papers were read. No reports of the meetings were published at the time but they have now been brought together in this volume.

The papers cover a wide range of medical interest and are grouped together in various sections. Some deal with purely administrative matters; others are of general medical interest and describe advances in knowledge and practice. There are records of achievement and, not the least interesting, stories of personal experiences.

This valuable collection of papers should be of interest not only to those who were privileged to serve but also to those whose obligations compelled them to remain at home.

*Ethics, with Special Application to the Nursing Profession.* By Joseph B. McAllister, S.S., Ph.D. Pp. xii+442. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1947. Price 14s. net.

The author points out that his book is an effort to satisfy a growing demand for an approach to ethics which stresses principles and attempts to give some understanding of the speculative basis behind the principles. Contemporary life is unmoral and there is a great need for the development of basic convictions about moral principles. Nurses have social responsibilities beyond the average, and they must be familiar with deeper reaches of moral conduct and be able to defend right conduct as a firmly held conviction.

The book is well written in simple language and contains a vast amount of common sense and opinions with which any right thinking person would readily agree.