NEW BOOKS

Tuberculosis of the Knee Joint. By J. MORTENS. Pp. x+550. London: H. K. Lewis. 1948.

We regret that when the review of this book appeared on page 373 of Volume LVI. the price was wrongly stated. It is sold for 37s. 6d. net.

The National Health Service. By CHARLES HILL and JOHN WOODCOCK. Pp. x+283+cl. London: Christopher Johnson. 1949. Price 16s. net.

Dr Hill and Mr Woodcock have rendered a most useful service to all, doctors, dentists, chemists and laymen alike, who have to do with the National Health Service. The book might be entitled "The National Health Service Acts Explained," for that is what the authors have successfully attempted to do. It would be wrong to suppose, and the authors do not claim this, that the Acts have been explained and made easy for the mass of detail in the Acts and Regulations is confusing even to those who have studied them. Here, however, are the provisions of the Acts set out in simple language with explanatory comment where necessary. Five chapters are devoted to the Hospital and Specialist Services, eight to the General Medical Services, six to other Services, including a most useful chapter on Superannuation. In fourteen Appendices covering 111 pages there is set out a great deal of factual information ranging from the names and addresses of clerks of executive councils to the regulations governing pay-bed accommodation. The index is very complete. The print is clear and the volume of convenient size. It can be confidently recommended to Health Service workers of all categories.

Sir William Gowers, 1845-1915. By MACDONALD CRITCHLEY, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 118. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1949. Price 17s. 6d.

Neurologists everywhere owe Dr Macdonald Critchley a great debt of gratitude for his painstaking and exceedingly attractive biography. To him has fallen the onerous task of showing those who follow what sort of man this was, whose example of industry, accurate observation and sheer competence, have inspired not only his own disciples but the next generation in turn. His published work, which is here carefully listed, was stupendous by any standard.

Everyone interested in disease of the nervous system should study this model pattern of not so very many years ago. Dr Critchley has executed his task uncommonly well.

Skin Diseases in General Practice. By F. RAY BETTLEY, T.D., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 256, with 96 illustrations. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode (Publishers) Ltd. 1949. Price 21s. net.

The author has found that over 80 per cent. of dermatological cases fall into some ten common diagnoses. His aim has been to present the practical problems involved in the diagnosis and treatment of those common disorders. With commendable courage he has refrained from even brief mention of the others.

The young general practitioner whose knowledge of dermatology is often not of a practical type and who finds that approximately 7 per cent. of his patients have dermatological complaints will find this book of inestimable value. The sections on treatment are especially helpful. The illustrations are unfortunately not in colour but the price is correspondingly low.
Coronary Artery Disease. By E. P. BOAS, M.D., and N. F. BOAS, M.D. Pp. vi+399, with 88 illustrations. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers Inc. 1949. Price 33s. net.

Although disease of the coronary arteries has existed for generations it is only in the past thirty-five years that our knowledge of this serious condition has been clarified. The authors have attempted to correlate the normal vascular pattern of the coronary arteries with the development of atherosclerosis and the resulting clinical features. The investigation, differential diagnosis and treatment of these cases are discussed at length. The bibliography contains over 400 references and is an important contribution to the literature about a subject which has assumed a serious significance in the causes of disability and death of the population of to-day.

The Sulphonamides in General Practice. By EDWARD D. HOARE, M.D. Pp. 90. London: Staples Press Ltd. 1949. Price 5s.

This small book describes the indications for sulphonamide therapy and gives practical guidance as to the choice of drug and dosage. The possible toxic manifestations are described and the relationship of penicillin to sulphonamide therapy is discussed. As a practical guide this book could not be bettered and it can be thoroughly recommended.

A Companion in Surgical Studies. By IAN AIRD, CH.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii+1060. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 63s. net.

At long last this remarkable book has arrived. Large numbers of post-graduates in Edinburgh have been waiting keenly for its appearance, which has been delayed in printing for over two years. This book is the "end product" of the lecture notes which the author used in his post-graduate classes before the war. It is a veritable encyclopedia of information and covers the whole field of surgery except plastic work and orthopaedic surgery. Each subject is dealt with in detail, including previous and present opinions which are given together with a most adequate list of references. For preparation for examinations there can be few, if any, books more helpful than this. It has the great advantage of including useful information on many of the rarer conditions—matters which can never be found in the average book and which are so important to the examinee. Professor Aird is to be congratulated on producing a work so detailed and comprehensive, which yet covers such a vast field.

A History of Oto-laryngology. By R. SCOTT STEVENSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.ED., and DOUGLAS GUTHRIE, M.D., F.R.C.S.ED. Pp. 155, illustrated. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 17s. 6d. net.

The authors point out that this is the first history of the specialty of oto-laryngology to be written. The completion of such a history entails a great amount of reading and also discrimination in which the authors have been thoroughly successful.

The earliest reference goes back to Egypt in 3500 B.C., from which it appears that rhinology is the most ancient of the medical specialties. The volume includes chapters on ancient history, the middle ages and Renaissance, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the nineteenth century when otology became a science, and modern history.

It is interesting to learn that Curtis, who founded what became the Royal Ear Hospital in London was a quack; and to be reminded that Garcia, the "father of laryngology" was a singing teacher. Many Scotsmen find honourable mention among the foremost oto-laryngologists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many of whom will be known in person by readers.

Though a small volume, it successfully avoids being a mere catalogue. On the contrary, it is most readable and should give enjoyment to all who are interested in medical history, while being of particular interest to ear, nose and throat surgeons.
Clinical Aspects and Treatment of Surgical Infections. By Frank L. Meleney. Pp. 840, with 287 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1949. Price 60s.

Both surgeons and bacteriologists will welcome this monograph by Dr Frank Meleney whose pre-eminent authority to write such a review is unlikely to be questioned. It is a companion volume to his Treatise on Surgical Infections which dealt with the more fundamental problems, while this volume reviews the various "surgical infections" for the most part on the basis of an anatomical grouping. A full account is presented of the pathogenesis, pathology, bacteriology, clinical features and treatment of each. Publication of the work was postponed until an accurate appraisal of the value of chemotherapy and the modern antibiotics could be made, and this very valuable feature pervades every line on treatment and is no mere afterthought or footnote. The book can be recommended as a mine of interest and information.

An Account of the Schools of Surgery: Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, 1789-1949. By J. D. H. Widdess. Pp. 107, with 16 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 17s. 6d.

In 1789, the Dublin surgeons put into practice the resolve embodied in their first charter, "to establish a liberal and extensive system of surgical education in our said Kingdom." Although concerned chiefly with the education of surgeons, they sought to provide a sound training for the general practitioner by uniting surgery, medicine and midwifery, in spite of the fact that such training did not become compulsory until 1886, when an amendment to the Medical Act of 1858 was passed. The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has a long history, dating as it does from 1449. In that year the Guild of St Mary Magdalene, to which the Dublin barber-surgeons belonged, was incorporated by Henry VI. It may thus claim to be the first medical corporation in Great Britain to obtain a Royal Charter. The greater part of the present story, however, is concerned with the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The College held its first meeting in 1784, under the Presidency of Samuel Croker-King, and proceeded forthwith to set up a system of surgical and medical education. The steady advance since that day, and the work of some of those who were trained in the School—Abraham Colles, Robert Adams, Robert William Smith, Alexander Macalister and others—are well described in this little book of just over a hundred pages, by the Librarian of the College. It is elegantly produced, the paper and printing are excellent, the illustrations consist of 16 plates, and there is a list of professors, a bibliography and an index.

Care of the Surgical Patient. By Jacob Fine, M.D. Pp. 544. London: W. B. Saunders Company. Price 40s.

This is a somewhat unusual book. It is not intended to be a textbook of surgery. The author expects that it will serve "as a ready guide for the over all care of the surgical patient." It is written in an easy, informal manner and yet covers a large field of medicine. There are chapters on diabetes, skin disorders, pediatrics and even the treatment of common acute poisoning. This is a fault. It is doubtful if this book will be a help to the doctor for it is lacking in detail. Indeed it is not unlike a popular encyclopaedia in that all the subjects are presented as headings, but thereafter given only the barest outline. Thus cardiac disease and breast are each completed in three pages. The most useful part of the book is undoubtedly the section on clinical and laboratory methods in which details are given of the procedures. Because of the friendly style in which it is written and because it lacks the burden of detail, it makes very pleasant, if somewhat unprofitable, reading.
Diagnostic Tests for Infants and Children. By H. Behrendt, M.D. Pp. xvii+529, with 45 illustrations and 76 tables. London: Interscience Publishers Ltd. 1949. Price 45s. net.

This comprehensive book of reference on the principles, practice and interpretation of clinical and laboratory procedures in infancy and childhood will rapidly become an indispensable volume on the shelves of all engaged in paediatric practice. It is a great convenience to have, for the first time, all the technical information of current value in paediatrics collected together in one volume. It is written for a wide range of readers—the practitioner in a hurry for specific data, the clinician desiring detailed information for the investigation of a given problem, and the laboratory worker in search of technical data for immediate practical application. In attempting to meet such diversified needs, the author's main objective has been to bring out as clearly as possible the special considerations and technical data made necessary by the physiological peculiarities of the growing child; he has included all physiological functions which it may be desirable to test in children, even psychological testing, but he has omitted investigations of a morphological nature such as routine procedures of urine, blood and stool examination.

This book is the answer to the harassed worker's prayer for easier accessability of all relevant technical knowledge.

The Story of the Johns Hopkins. By Bertram M. Bernheim. Pp. 274, illustrated. Surrey: World's Work Ltd. 1949. Price 12s. 6d.

The two American Medical Institutions best known on this side of the Atlantic are the Mayo Clinic and the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The foundation of a university and medical school at Baltimore by the morose Quaker bachelor, Johns Hopkins, who succeeded to his uncle's wholesale grocery business and made a fortune, is a truly astonishing tale, especially as Hopkins himself was neither student nor traveller, but simply a shrewd and determined man of affairs. There can be little doubt that the dramatic success of the medical side of Johns Hopkins University was the work of the four great doctors who appear in Sargent's masterly painting—Welch, Osler, Halsted and Kelly. Daniel Gilman and John Shaw Billings planned the new institution between them in 1876. Welch, the pathologist, came in 1885, and he brought Halsted, the surgeon, in 1889. Welch became a leader in bacteriology and public health, and in his later years he created the Institute of History of Medicine. Halsted, the great surgical technician, originator of rubber gloves and of much else, was joined by Finney. Osler, the physician, was perhaps the greatest of the four, and the quartet was completed by the gynaecologist, Kelly. How the four worked together in the celebrated Hopkins team, and how their work was developed and increased in surgery by Cushing, in urology by Young, in obstetrics by Whitridge Williams, and by others scarcely less eminent, forms a fascinating story which is well told in this book by a former member of the surgical staff. It is a work which deserves the attention of all who are interested in medical education.

Bedside Diagnosis. By Charles Mackay Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.D. Pp. xii+372. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1949. Price 17s. 6d. net.

In this small book Dr Seward discusses most of the common presenting symptoms of disease. The normal anatomical and physiological mechanisms of the body are enumerated, and the many derangements affecting these normal processes and their resulting symptoms and signs are discussed at length. The further investigations which may help to establish the diagnosis are described clearly and concisely.

This book presents the rational approach to the investigation of disease and exemplifies the method of sound diagnosis. It can be thoroughly recommended to all physicians.
NEW BOOKS

Varicose Veins. By R. Rowden Foote. Pp. xiv+225, with 181 illustrations. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1949. Price 32s. 6d. net.

Despite the fact that varicose veins cause much suffering and views on treatment are at variance, no volume devoted entirely to this important subject has previously been published in Great Britain. Rowden Foote has, therefore, filled an important gap with his publication. The author, whose experience in this branch of surgery is unrivalled, has produced a volume which surgeon, general practitioner and postgraduate student will find a useful addition to his library. The anatomy, physiology and pathology are fully considered and the controversial subject of treatment is discussed in great detail. The advantages and disadvantages of the commoner sclerosants and the operative procedures are presented in unbiased fashion. A suitable scheme of treatment for the various types of varicosity is suggested, a scheme which will find few antagonists. The complications of varicose veins are also discussed. Interesting notes on the historical landmarks in the treatment of varicose veins are included.

Discoveries for Medicine. By William H. Woglon. Pp. 229. London: Oxford University Press. 1949. Price 18s.

Throughout its long centuries of progress, medicine has owed much to the allied sciences; to chemistry, to physics, to biology and to the branches, now so numerous, of each of these sciences. Discoveries which have advanced medical learning have not always been the work of those engaged in practice. Some of the most noteworthy discoveries have been made by men outside the ranks of the profession, such as Garcia, the singing master, who contrived to see his own vocal cords and thus, unintentionally, founded the specialty of laryngology; Pasteur, the chemist, who gave Lister the idea which was to revolutionise surgery; Stephen Hales, the curate, whose enquiring mind led him to investigate the flow of sap in plants, and the blood pressure in animals; Benjamin Jesty, the farmer, who, as the writer correctly states, anticipated by twenty-two years Jenner’s discovery of vaccination; Röntgen, the physicist, who by a happy chance, discovered X-rays; and “the old woman in Shropshire,” of unknown name, from whom Dr Withering received the recipe for dropsy, and so discovered digitalis. These and other persons have been selected by the author for his work so aptly entitled, Discoveries for Medicine. It is fair and proper that medicine should acknowledge the debt to those, who, though not of the profession, have brought credit to it. There are eighteen chapters, ranging from respiration to heredity and from spectacles to phagocytosis. This volume of interesting essays forms an excellent introduction to that fascinating field of study, the history of medicine.

NEW EDITIONS

Diseases of Women. By Ten Teachers under the direction of Clifford White, M.D., B.S. Lond., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., F.R.C.O.G. Eighth Edition. Pp. viii+461, with 170 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1949. Price 25s.

The eighth edition of this well-known textbook written by ten London gynaecologists has been thoroughly revised and gives in a clear and readable way a very concise presentation of modern practice and opinion. Every care has been taken to overcome the difficulties of collective authorship by close collaboration at all stages of composition, so that the volume is well-knit together.

The chapter on the physiological action of the endocrine glands has been rewritten and gives a summary of the present position of that complex subject. In it is included a brief account of the diseases associated with pituitary, thyroid and adrenal dysfunction as these are of importance in gynaecological differential diagnosis. Here, as elsewhere in this textbook, opinion and fact are fairly distinguished.

The volume is essentially practical and clinical and can be confidently recommended to students and general practitioners.