NEW EDITIONS

Forensic Medicine. By SYDNEY SMITH. Sixth Edition. Pp. xvi+654, with 169 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1938. Price 24s.

Professor Sydney Smith’s text-book is too well known to require an extensive review, as the issue of a sixth edition in a matter of thirteen years indicates. The present work is substantially a reprint of the previous one, with two important modifications. The treatment of the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of 1933 is greatly improved by the omission of a good deal of detail relating to the sellers and the amplification of those parts which relate to the medical practitioner both as prescriber and as dispenser. As a result the provisions are much clearer than in the previous edition. The increasing importance of alcoholic intoxication in reference to the Road Traffic Act is reflected in a considerable expansion of the article on alcohol poisoning, especially of those parts which deal with the estimation of alcohol in the blood and urine and the conclusions to be derived from the test. Several illustrations have been withdrawn and replaced by others (not always on the same subject) but the pictorial quality is still not up to the standard of the text, although the new blocks are for the most part a considerable improvement.

X-rays and Radium Treatment in Diseases of the Skin. By GEORGE M. MACKEE. Third Edition. Pp. 830, with 308 illustrations, 31 charts and 2 coloured plates. London: Henry Kimpton. 1938. Price 45s.

During the eleven years that have elapsed since the second edition appeared many changes have been made in apparatus and technique. In the present edition all dosage is discussed in terms of roentgens in accordance with modern custom. The author has had the assistance of nine other experts in the preparation of this edition, and their names appear at the head of the chapters in which they have collaborated. He insists that X-ray treatment should not be used to the exclusion of general medical measures, and deplores the tendency of some workers to use X-rays too freely. He believes that the Grenz rays are less satisfactory than X-rays but admits that they have a greater safety margin. Statements have not infrequently been made—usually by interested manufacturers—that ultra-violet rays administered subsequent to X-rays will tend to counteract the effect of the latter and that ultra-violet rays can therefore be usefully employed to prevent the effects of X-ray overdosage. MacKee is
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strongly opposed to this view and holds that experimental evidence does not support it. A whole chapter is devoted to the question of the treatment of hypertrichosis with X-rays. He is of the opinion that such treatment ought not to be administered for this condition, a view which will be endorsed by all dermatologists in this country. MacKee's book is undoubtedly the standard work on treatment with X-rays and radium in dermatology.

Medicine for Nurses. By W. Gordon Sears, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. Pp. 425. London: Edward Arnold & Co. Price 8s. 6d.

The second edition of this book in so short a period is an indication of its value. The author has set out to cover the syllabus laid down by the General Nursing Council, and the result is a very useful book, not only for nurses in training, but also for the qualified nurse, and for those giving medical lectures to nurses. There is a fairly brief but comprehensive account of common diseases and their treatment, with emphasis laid on the signs and symptoms which can be observed by the nurse. The text is written in such a way as to stimulate interest in and create a proper understanding of the diseases described. In the section on diabetes there is a useful table showing the differential diagnosis of diabetic and hypoglycaemic coma. There is very little actual dietetic treatment set out, and the specimen diet shown seems poor. Altogether, however, it is an excellent little book, and the diagrams, which are simple and clear, are particularly useful.

A New Dictionary for Nurses. By Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N. Fifth Edition. Pp. 390. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1938. Price 3s.

The fact that this little book is already in its fifth edition speaks for itself. It is a convenient pocket size, and contains much up-to-date information in the smallest possible space. There are numerous illustrations and about fifty pages of appendix, which include interesting and historical medical facts in tabloid form, urine testing, poisons and their antidotes, etc. In this new edition a brief section on Gas Warfare Precautions has been added. Can certainly be recommended to nurses.

Diathermy. By E. P. Cumberbatch. Third Edition. Pp. 574, with 170 illustrations. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1937. Price 21s.

This is an enlarged edition of Dr Cumberbatch's well-known book. Experience with short-wave diathermy has proved that some of the early claims made for this treatment in deep-seated inflammatory
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conditions were optimistic; on the other hand, justice is hardly done to the great utility of the method in the restoration of function after minor soft tissue trauma. In his enthusiasm the author hardly gives due credit to other forms of treatment; to say that in squamous cell carcinoma "radium or X-rays has its advocates and cures seem to have been effected" is to say the least of it a meiosis. None the less this remains by far the best book on the subject. Its value has been considerably enhanced by the addition of chapters written by specialists in their own subjects, such as "Electrothermic Methods of Treating Prostatic Obstruction" by Kenneth M. Walker, and similar passages covering pulmonary, rectal and ophthalmic lesions.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Edited by BAILEY, HAMILTON, F.R.C.S.Eng. Pye's Surgical Handicraft. Eleventh Edition. (John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol) 21s. net.

BERRY, RICHARD J. A., M.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E. A Cerebral Atlas. (Oxford University Press, London) £5, 5s. net.

BOENHEIM, Dr CURT. Practical Child Psychotherapy. (John Bale, Medical Publications Ltd., London) —

BROWNING, ETHEL, M.D. Health in Middle Life. (Rich & Cowan Ltd., London) 3s. 6d. net.

HAM, B. BURNETT, M.D., D.P.H. Handbook of Sanitary Law. Twelfth Edition. (H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd.) 7s. 6d. net.

Edited by BUROS, OSCAR KRISSEN. Research and Statistical Methodology. Books and Reviews, 1933-1938. (Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick) $1.25

Edited by S. J. CAMERON. A Glasgow Manual of Obstetrics. Third Edition. (Edward Arnold & Co., London) 21s. net.

CLAYE, ANDREW M., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.C.O.G. The Evolution of Obstetric Analgesia. (Oxford University Press, London) 6s. net.

COLE, LESLIE, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Dietetics in General Practice. In Two Parts. (John Bale, Sons & Curnow, Ltd., London) 6s. net.

COLYER, J. E., K.B.E., LL.D., F.R.C.S., L.D.S., and SPRAWSON, EVELYN, M.C., D.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. Dental Surgery and Pathology. Seventh Edition. (Longmans, Green & Co., London) 35s. net.

CUMBERBATCH, ELKIN P., M.A., B.M., D.M.R.E., F.R.C.P. Essentials of Medical Electricity. Eighth Edition. (Henry Kimpton, London) 12s. net.

DILLING, WALTER J., M.B., Ch.B., M.P.S. The Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the Materia Medica. Fifteenth Edition. (Cassell and Co. Ltd., London) 10s. 6d. net.

ELMER, A. W., M.D. Iodine Metabolism and Thyroid Function. (Oxford University Press, London) 30s. net.

FINDLAY, G. M., C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc. Recent Advances in Chemotherapy. Second Edition. (J. & A. Churchill Ltd., London) 21s.

GRADWOHL, R. B. H., M.D. Clinical Laboratory Methods and Diagnosis. Second Edition. (Henry Kimpton, London) 50s. net.

Edited by LEE, WALTER ESTELL, M.D. Transactions of the Fifty-Ninth Meeting of the American Surgical Association, 1938 (J. B. Lippincott Company) —