REVIEW.

NEW BOOKS.

The Surgical Treatment of Malignant Disease. By Sir Holburt J. Waring, M.S., M.B., B.Sc.Lond., F.R.C.S. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1928. (50s. net.)

When Sir Holburt J. Waring was preparing his Bradshaw Lecture on "The Surgical Treatment of Malignant Disease" he naturally amassed more material than he could possibly utilise in the time allotted for the address, and the present volume is the result of the wider use of this material. The first chapter is the Bradshaw Lecture, and it gives an interesting and fair presentation of the whole subject. In the succeeding chapters a regional arrangement has been adopted. Each region is dealt with primarily from the point of view of the author's own experience and from the records of St. Bartholomew's Hospital over a period of twenty years (1900-1919), but other authorities are generously quoted, and there is a useful bibliography at the end of each chapter. In a brief review one can give little more than a general impression. The author's experience has been wide enough to enable him to speak with authority: his opinions and preferences are clearly stated. In cancer of the oesophagus he prefers gastrostomy to intubation tubes; some patients have lived from nine to fifteen months with a gastrostomy, but death has generally occurred three to six months afterwards. This is the usual experience, and surely makes us long for the discovery of some real cure for cancer. He considers that clinical facts suggest that gastric cancer begins de novo in the majority of cases, adding, however, that "as chronic irritation or ulceration is frequently the precursor of carcinoma in other parts of the body, it is not surprising to find, in the case of the stomach, that a chronic non-malignant ulcer, after existing for some time, becomes malignant." The operations suggested for the various conditions follow closely those recommended in the author's "Manual of Operative Surgery." One is given the impression that the author's results with radium and irradiation are not very favourable, and yet, with lingual carcinoma, some excellent results have recently been obtained. Certainly our victory over malignant disease is not yet; results make pathetic reading, and hope after hope seems to be dashed to the ground. We are still only at the stage when the surgeon can say that early operation offers the best chance of prolonging
life. The book will appeal to all interested in the treatment of malignant disease; it is very easily read, and the duplication of several of the illustrations makes for comfort. The semi-diagrammatic illustrations of the lymph vessels and glands are excellent and very necessary in a work dealing with this subject.

**Lippincott's Pocket Formulary.** By George E. Rehberger, M.D. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1927. (15s. net.)

This pocket volume has been compiled as a ready reference book for the practitioner, and its store of information has been carefully arranged and tabulated with this end in view. It consists of three sections—the first presenting the treatment of diseases and symptoms, general and special, arranged in alphabetical order. This section, tested along various lines, is found to be reliable and remarkably complete. The second section contains practically a list of the U.S.A. Pharmacopeia, with the drugs and preparations in alphabetical order, and their various solubilities, dosages, and uses, as well as new and non-official remedies. The third section is a small and miscellaneous one, embracing tables of weights and measures (including the metric system), relative heights and weights, incompatibilities, eruption of teeth, obstetric calendar, &c. This type of book is no doubt useful as a handy reference, but in this country at least it will only appeal to a very limited clientèle, more especially as it is based on a foreign formula.

**Bacteriology and Surgery of Chronic Arthritis and Rheumatism.**

By H. Warren Crowe, D.M., B.Ch.Oxon., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (30s. net.)

This book, which is a supplementary volume to the author's work on Treatment of Chronic Arthritis and Rheumatism, is intended to give the reasons for and justification of his plan of treatment. After discussing the question of the classification of chronic rheumatic lesions, Dr. Crowe proceeds to develop his own thesis, which is simple. Rheumatoid arthritis is due to a staphylococcus infection, osteo-arthritis and non-articular rheumatism to a streptococcus, while cases suffering from mixed infection are numerous. In support of his view that staphylococci in general, and particularly a type to which he has given the name of micrococcus deformans, are the causative agents of rheumatoid arthritis, he adduces serological evidence based mainly
on agglutination tests. These, he admits, are not very satisfactory, and most bacteriologists would readily agree with this opinion. His views on the rôle of streptococci in the production of joint lesions are presented in a review of Price's work on dental infections and their relation to chronic rheumatic diseases. Further chapters deal with the author's bacteriological methods and with his observations on the thorny question of the classification of the streptococci. The chapter on surgical treatment is contributed by H. Frankling, who gives a clear account of the indications, contra-indications, and operative measures to be employed in different types of cases. The book is printed and bound in the usual finished style of the Oxford University Press, and contains a number of excellent coloured plates, showing various types of individual colonies of staphylococci. This, we presume, is responsible for the price. We regret that we find it difficult to conceive to what section of the profession a book of this nature will make an appeal. Beyond the chapter on surgical treatment, there is little in it to interest the general practitioner, while few bacteriologists will readily spend 30s. to read the presentation of a case which in our view might have with greater justification been confined to the pages of a scientific journal.

**Food and Health.** By Mrs. A. B. Callow. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1928. (2s. 6d. net.)

This little book is one of the "World's Manuals" series, and should prove educative to those members of the public who seek information about foods and feeding. The chemical nature of foodstuffs, digestion, vitamines, and rickets are all dealt with in a lucid manner, and this is followed by useful advice as to the proper choice of foods and the arrangement of a diet. Patent foods receive only short notice, as is wise in a book of this kind, but diets for mothers and children are considered in an eminently sound and reasonable manner. Finally, the part played by dieting in the treatment of disease receives special attention. The whole is illustrated by useful tables showing vitamine content, chemical analyses, and energy values of common foodstuffs, and a modest bibliography is appended.

**The Care of the Patient.** By Francis Weld Peabody, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Harvard. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (4s. 6d. net.)

This little book is one of a series of talks by the professor of medicine to his students in the Harvard Medical School on "The
care of the patient," and the contents originally appeared in the columns of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He seeks first to impress upon his students the essentially personal element in medical practice, and shows that even in his hospital work as clinical clerk the student, by kindly sympathy and tact, may attain to a considerable degree of personal relationship with his patient. He emphasises the need for a more thorough study of and outlook on so-called "functional" diseases, as those will be found to bulk largely in private medical practice, where the personal element in treatment is so essential to success. He ends by stressing the time, sympathy, and understanding which must be "dispensed" in order to forge that personal bond which forms the greatest satisfaction in the practice of medicine. "The secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient." It is a delightful little book, and it places before the student a very useful and not unattainable ideal at which to aim in his medical work.

**Synopsis of Physiology.** By A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., and C. I. Ham, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1927. (10s. 6d. net.)

This volume is an addition to the already popular series of synopses in various departments of medicine which have been issued by the publishers. It aims at giving a fairly complete summary of modern physiology (especially human) within small compass. For the student at the outset it must be supplemented by lectures and larger books of reference, but for the purpose of rapid and reliable revision prior to examination nothing more is required. The authors have done their work well in this regard, and have provided a book which should prove valuable also to many who have passed beyond the stage of examination, and even to teachers of the subject preparatory to lecturing. For such a rapid survey of the matter to be dealt with is rendered easy, and forms a valuable stimulant to the memory.

**Diseases of the New-Born.** By James Burnet, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (6s. net.)

The author interprets "new-born" as the first month of post-natal life. Anatomy and physiology receive consideration in the first two chapters. A chapter for diseases of each system
in the body follows, and, as one would expect, most space is allotted to diseases of the digestive system. Finally, a chapter each is devoted to unclassified conditions, asphyxia neonatorum and the premature infant. The book is a small one, but in it a well-balanced choice of pathological conditions has been made. Descriptions are brief and clear. For a summary of our knowledge of diseases of this period of life it can be heartily recommended to the practitioner and student.

Some Principles of Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment: A Trilogy. By Robert Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. (2s. 6d. net.)

It is impossible in a brief review to give an adequate appreciation of the three delightful lectures which go to make up this book. They are interesting, practical, full of shrewd advice and common-sense, yet with sufficient humour to free them from the blemish of formal dogmatism. The Trilogy is dedicated to G.T.H., with the hope that he may be guided by these principles throughout his life as a doctor. We think that the dedication, and especially the realisation of this hope, should be extended to embrace the whole of the younger members of the profession.

NEW EDITIONS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Its Etiology and Treatment. By David Muthu, M.D. Second Edition, Enlarged. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1927. (12s. 6d. net.)

This somewhat remarkable volume is well worth reading even by those who are not specially interested in the subject of pulmonary tuberculosis. Its author is an independent thinker and worker, who is by no means bound by the traditions of the various schools. He refuses to follow the dictates of the masters of the profession, and there is much to be said for the position he takes up. "The world is built on a larger scale than microbes," he states. "The pathologist is inclined to see infection in every germ, and disease in every abnormality, because he surveys life's processes from the artificial surroundings of a laboratory." The place, he claims, so long usurped by bacteriology, is being challenged by such sciences as biochemistry, biology, psychology, and sociology, which are knocking at the door of medical research to place their contribution for a wide conception of life and disease processes. The volume shows an unusual width of vision, and deals with the biochemical, physiological, psychological, and ethical factors
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in the etiology and therapeutics of the disease. Dr. Muthu has certainly read extensively whatever has related to his specialty, as the bibliography at the end of each chapter indicates. His claims and statements are the outcome of a lifetime of study and work relative to tuberculosis. It is a pleasure to get hold of a medical volume such as this, that is so original in its outlook, so sound in its teaching, and so eminently practical withal.

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Surgical Ward Work and Nursing: A Handbook for Nurses and Others. By Alexander Miles, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.S.Ed. Fifth Edition. London: Faber & Gwyer, Limited. 1928. (8s. 6d. net.)

This little book has now reached its fifth edition, and has been brought up to date by the introduction of new illustrations and letterpress. The instructions regarding sterilisation of dressings, preparation for operation, anaesthetics, after-care, &c., are given in a clear, interesting manner. The illustrations are excellent and those of instruments are specially valuable, being put alongside a short description of the operation in which they are employed. The book has been well known to us in its previous editions, and we know of no other which fills a gap in surgical teaching so well. Although intended primarily for nurses, Mr. Miles' book should find a ready sale among students in their final year, and among recently qualified men engaged in hospital practice. As an aid to passing a clinical examination it would be of great value.

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Clinical Researches in Acute Abdominal Disease. By Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. Second Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (10s. 6d. net.)

In the second edition of this little book the author has added chapters on extravasation of bile and a rare form of ascending enteritis causing intestinal obstruction, and also one on shock. The value of Mr. Cope's work on muscular rigidity, cutaneous hyperesthesia, and phrenic shoulder-pain, &c., is well recognised, and these chapters are worthy of close examination by all interested in acute abdominal disease. The chapter on shock is stimulating, and gives food for discussion. When the condition immediately following perforation of a gastric or duodenal ulcer is denied by some to be one of shock because the pulse may be slow and the blood-pressure not lowered, then Mr. Cope's plea for a wider definition of shock, embracing such a condition, is one
that will appeal to many. The pathology of shock is obscure, but, as Bayliss pointed out, "the chief, if not the only really important, factor is a deficiency in the volume of blood in circulation." As Mr. Cope indicates, "such depletion must be very great in order to affect the blood-pressure, on account of the adaptive reflex vaso-constriction which automatically makes compensation." Thus a lowered blood-pressure indicates a much-diminished circulating blood-volume and a serious state of shock. Clearly the possibility of a patient suffering from shock should be recognised at an earlier stage, and this can better be done, in the present state of our knowledge, by adopting a clinical rather than a pathological definition of shock. Mr. Cope has given us an excellent survey.

Tuberculosis: Its Prevention and Home Treatment. By H. Hyslop Thomson, M.D., D.P.H. Third Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1928. (2s. 6d. net.)

The third edition of Dr. Hyslop Thomson's book has undergone thorough revision, and some new material has been added. It is intended for the use and instruction of patients, and embodies the views of an experienced physician. The book is well and clearly written, and the opinions expressed are in accordance with the best teaching. Especial emphasis is laid on the necessity for continued and efficient home treatment. The book can be confidently recommended to all patients. There is none better.

A Study in Tubercle Bacillus, Polymorphism, and the Treatment of Tuberculosis and Lupus with Oleum Alii. By William Minchin, M.D. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1927. (25s. net.)

This book by Dr. Minchin will not meet with universal acceptance by those competent to judge from special experience of the disease from the laboratory or the therapeutic aspect. It is really two volumes bound together. The first deals with the causative factor in tuberculosis and makes a claim that certain spheres are the main cause of the disease, filter passers which are produced from the tubercle bacillus. "The bacillus envelope," he states, "appears to be nothing more than a carrier of the deadly yeasts which work the real mischief." He ends his discussion by stating that the subject requires a great deal of further investigation, which is obvious. Probably it would have been better to have investigated the matter further before publishing. The second
part of the volume deals with the treatment of tuberculosis with garlic or its essential oil. It quotes numerous cases in which this drug apparently has produced wonderful results. When it fails, he claims it is because there are shut off collections of pus in the tissues. The treatment, he states, is applicable for every form of tuberculosis. It seems, in his hands, to have almost a specific action on local forms of the disease particularly. Dr. Minchin’s book certainly represents original work, and merits the consideration of all whose special work it is to deal with tuberculosis in its various forms. The volume is very well produced. It would have been enhanced if it had had a bibliography and an index.

Post-mortem Appearances. By Joan M. Ross, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S. With a Preface by E. H. Kettle, M.D. Second Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1928. (7s. 6d. net.)

The call for a second edition of this little book within three years shows that it has met with the support it deserved. The new edition is not appreciably larger, but has been revised and improved by a few additions to the text. During the interval which has elapsed since the publication of the first edition we have tested the book in teaching students in the post-mortem room, and can thoroughly recommend it. A few of our former criticisms still stand, and we would suggest that “cerebral haemorrhage” should include specific mention of that variety due to aneurysm of the main branches of the circle of Willis. We would commend the book to the notice of all medical students and to practitioners who have to do an occasional post-mortem.

How to Become a Nurse. Eleventh Edition. London: Faber & Gwyer, Limited. 1927. (3s. 6d. net.)

This compendium of information for those desirous of entering on the profession of nursing was edited by the late Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., from 1899 to 1915, and has now been brought up to date in this edition. The choice of a particular training school is, of course, for most candidates, largely determined by local circumstances, but for any who are in doubt and require guidance this volume offers a wealth of reliable information about all the schools, large and small, general and special, in the British Isles. It is good to see the work to which Sir Henry Burdett devoted so much care and attention being perpetuated and carefully revised.