REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

Pathological Histology. By ROBERTSON F. OGILVIE, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1939. (27s. 6d.)

This is a text-book of morbid histology admirably adapted for students with little or no knowledge of pathology, and for post-graduates who aspire to a specialized knowledge of the subject.

Although elementary in character, this volume is singularly complete in detail and is much more than a handbook to pathological histology—in fact, it is a mine of essential pathological information and includes excellent accounts of such subjects as haemochromatosis, acute haemorrhagic pancreatitis, the rheumatic lesions of the heart, the aetiology of Ayerza's disease, asbestosis, and the modern trend of thought on nephritis, nephrosis and nephro-sclerosis.

The text comprises a lucid account of all the principal morbid processes which fall primarily within the domain of the histologist. Systematic treatment of the subject has been adopted, beginning with general nutritional and circulatory disturbances and with general and specific inflammatory processes, stress being laid on the rôle of mitochondria. These are followed by an adequate account of the histo-pathology of tumours, with typical examples. Anaplastic forms are not dealt with, and there is no mention of rhabdomyosarcoma, or of Broder's classification of squamous carcinomata.

The ensuing chapters contain excellent accounts of the special histo-pathology of the individual systems, with especial reference to recent work on the various subjects dealt with. The accounts given throughout are clear, concise and comprehensive, and include, not only descriptions of the naked-eye appearances of the organs in addition to their microscopic structure, but also explanatory notes as to how pathological changes are brought about.

There is an admirable account of haematoipoiesis but no discussion of the origin of plasma cells, though these are stated elsewhere to be derived from lymphocytes.

In describing the gliomata, the somewhat complicated classification of Bailey and Cushing is referred to, but the simpler classification of Greenfield and Carmichael is not mentioned, nor is there any reference to the work of Dorothy Russell on inclusion bodies.
Reviews

Such minor criticisms are not intended to be derogatory but are mentioned merely to suggest lines of possible improvement in future editions.

The outstanding feature of this volume, notwithstanding the excellence of the subject-matter of the letterpress, is the substitution of a series of beautiful photomicrographs in colour in place of the usual monochrome. To quote from the author's preface, "compared with monochromatic prints these coloured pictures will convey a much more realistic impression of what the microscope reveals in stained preparations." This is literally true, for while the colour-contrasts are convincing and helpful, there is little doubt that there is some loss in crispness of definition in cytological detail such as is obtainable with the ordinary black-and-white photomicrograph. Having enjoyed the privilege of examining the original transparencies as prepared by the Finlay process, we must admit that a certain loss of crispness is inevitably occasioned in the colour reproductions on paper through the process of block-making. Nevertheless, despite this unimportant defect, the pictures undoubtedly achieve the object for which they were intended, namely, to guide the student in the examination and interpretation of the microscopic appearances of his own class sections.

All the pictures, with few exceptions, are of a very high order of excellence. Figures 53, 75, 76 and 103 appear rather pale and lacking in crispness of definition, but this may in part be due to pale staining of the original sections. Figure 54 appears to show excessive graining, possibly due to secondary enlargement. The pictures illustrating the circulatory system are particularly good and could scarcely be improved upon by coloured drawings.

Complete and excellent as this work undoubtedly is, its value might be enhanced by the inclusion of photographs in colour showing the naked-eye appearance of the organs in various pathological states.

This book can be highly recommended to students as a guide to a basic knowledge of disease, and it deserves to become a classic of its type. The author is to be congratulated on his selection of subject-matter and on the technical excellence of the illustrations which merits due acknowledgment to photographer, block-maker, printer and publisher.
Reviews

The Abdominal Injuries of Warfare. By G. Gordon-Taylor, O.B.E., M.A.Aber., F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon, Middlesex Hospital, London. With 68 Illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1939. (10s. 6d. net.)

In his preface the author terms this "a small book of illustrations depicting war injuries of the abdomen." It is based on experiences in, and on specimens obtained from the War of 1914-1918, and is intended for a generation of surgeons younger than those who participated in that war.

It is stated that "the text purports to be little more than a companion-guide to the illustrations," which for the most part have been drawn from actual specimens in the War Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. Perusal, however, of the volume shows that the author has modestly under-estimated the scope and value of the text. Although concise it gives a good general account of the various abdominal lesions likely to be met with during a modern campaign, and it is ably supplemented by the descriptive legends under the various figures.

The illustrations themselves are well chosen and well executed, and their reproduction is of an excellence fully in keeping with the high reputation of the publishers. We recommend this "small book" to those of the younger generation of surgeons who may be posted to Field Operating Units or to Casualty Clearing Stations.

A Text Book of X-ray Diagnosis. By British Authors. In Three Volumes. Volume III. Edited by S. Cochrane Shanks, M.D., M.R.C.P., Peter Kerley, M.D., and E. W. Twining, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. London; H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. (£3 3s. net.)

Dedicated to Edward Wing Twining this volume upholds the high standard set by him in his contribution to Volume I. It is the largest of the three volumes, and is divided into six Parts.

The bulk of the book is taken up by Part One, on the Central Nervous System, extending to 195 pages, and by Part Three, on the Bones and Joints and Soft Tissues, extending to 426 pages. These parts alone would make Volume III. notable. The contributors have taken a wide view of their responsibilities, and with their radiological data have combined a generous amount of anatomical, pathological, and clinical material. The general line of their treatment merits the highest praise, and it has not been achieved at the sacrifice of detail. The scope is comprehensive to a degree which should satisfy the demands of the most exacting. The whole
Reviews

scheme and presentation demonstrate the wisdom of the editors in securing the collaboration of both clinicians and radiologists.

Part Two gives a thoroughly good presentation of the radiology of the Accessory Nasal Sinuses, Labyrinth and Mastoid Process, giving special prominence to radiographic technique and to anatomy.

Part Four, on the Teeth and Jaws, is a valuable one. It gives a full survey of the normal and pathological aspects of dental radiology, and the facts are well marshalled.

Part Five, on the eye, is of course mainly concerned with the localization of foreign bodies in and around that organ, while Part Six sketches the various methods of Cineradiography and their clinical applications.

The volume is generously illustrated, and the radiographic reproductions are of first-class quality throughout. Frequent bibliographies occur in Parts One and Three, and Parts Five and Six have their own bibliographies. It is, in the circumstances, surprising that Parts Two and Four are both devoid of bibliography, and the omission should be rectified in future editions, as these inclusions enhance the value of the book as a work of reference. For the rest, criticism could be of only minor points, and is far outweighed by the praise which this volume undoubtedly deserves.

Radiologists and clinicians who desire to have ready access to radiological methods and interpretations will be grateful to the editors of these three outstanding volumes. They are comprehensive and in parts even exhaustive, but they are always readable. The work takes its place automatically in this country as the standard text-book of diagnostic radiology, and it will be surprising if it is not adopted in an even wider field. The whole production redounds to the credit of British Radiology and British Radiologists, and as a tribute to them it promises to be enduring.

Functional Diseases of the Intestines. By Gustav Singer, M.D.
London: Oxford University Press. 1939. (8s. 6d. net.)

This monograph is an expansion of the lecture delivered by the author to the Hunterian Society in 1938. Although he lays no claim to its being a complete description of the subject, it is nevertheless a comprehensive summary of a branch of Medicine which had, for many years, suffered from lack of investigation and consequent lack of proper understanding, although, almost certainly, the last word on it has not yet been said. The author insists on the necessity for physiological thinking as opposed to purely anatomical.
thinking in this sphere. The book is easily read and easily understood, and the productions of x-ray plates are particularly good. There are, as might be expected, some points in the book which are controversial, but, on the whole, it is well worth the attention of senior students and practitioners for whom it is primarily intended: the book could be read and studied with advantage also by physicians, particularly those devoting their attention chiefly to diseases of the gastro-intestinal system.

Minor Surgery. By R. J. McNeill Love, M.S., F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1940. (12s. 6d. net.)

The reader is taken from the initial examination of the patient through technical operative details, haemorrhage, wounds, inflammation and similar subjects, genito-urinary instrumentation, minor surgical procedures, fractures and bandaging, to the final field of anaesthetics.

After reading this book one is tempted to ask—what exactly is the field of minor surgery?—as so many of the procedures and operations are of a major nature; the author or rather the editor—for it is a composite volume—frankly admits that "it is not an easy task to define the limits of minor surgery." The subject-matter is apparently complete and right up to date, with remarkably few omissions, but one takes away the impression that too much has been attempted in a small scope, especially in the chapter on Fractures.

The print is clear and the general arrangement satisfactory; many of the illustrations—of which there are 155—are good, but several of the line drawings are weak. The book compares not unfavourably with works of a similar type and we feel that it may prove as helpful to the Final Year Student as to the Hospital Resident.

Illustrations of Bandaging and First-Aid. By Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N., Nursing Editor "Nursing Illustrated." Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1940. (6s. net.)

This unique book has been divided into four sections. The first section deals with Triangular Bandaging, the second with Roller Bandaging, the third with First-Aid in Haemorrhage, and the fourth with First-Aid in Fractures. There are 290 specially prepared illustrations with a small explanatory note to each, and in addition there are many short notes of a simple nature on the various bandages and haemorrhage.

All nurses, first-aid workers, and A.R.P. workers will find this book
Reviews

indispensable. The illustrations are excellent, showing the various steps to be taken in the bandaging of nearly every form of injury and in the control of haemorrhage. The book enables one to master the art of bandaging and first-aid in a rapid and facile manner.

The text and general arrangement are good, and the book can be recommended as the most complete and best illustrated guide on the subject.

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. LVII.
Edited by Walter Estell Lee, M.D., Recorder of the Association. 1939. J. B. Lippincott Company.

The present volume represents the Transactions of the 60th meeting of the Association, held in May, 1939, at The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va. As usual, it contains a number of papers on various present-day questions of interest to practical surgeons.

The presidential address, by Dr. Phemister of Chicago, on the development of national surgical societies with the advent of modern surgery, outlines the history of various surgical societies in America and Europe. The aims of such societies are sketched, and their value in disseminating knowledge of modern practice is indicated. The individual papers deal with cranial, thoracic and abdominal (a large group) conditions; anaesthesia is well represented in the programme, and there are papers on non-visceral superficial lesions of various regions. The contents of the volume furnish interesting reading for a varied clientèle, and in many cases the text is ably helped by illustrations of a high degree of excellence.

Tuberculosis of Bone and Joint. By G. R. Girdlestone, M.A., B.M.Oxon., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1940. (30s. net.)

This book, which is appropriately dedicated to Viscount Nuffield, represents the views and opinions of one of the foremost orthopedic surgeons in this country. It is not only based on Mr. Girdlestone's wide personal experience at the Wingfield-Morris Hospital at Oxford, but the author has also gone to considerable pains to include opinions from surgeons all over the world on various specific and debatable points of his subject.

The first five chapters are devoted to diagnosis and treatment on general lines, reference being made to much interesting material such as the diagnosis of tuberculosis of the joints by diagnostic
Reviews

arthrotomy and section of the neighbouring lymphatic glands and the prevention of renal stone in prolonged decubitus, &c. The remaining chapters deal with individual bones and joints, and an appendix is devoted to the description of various orthopaedic appliances, such as the Robert Jones Frame, The Carshalton Frame, tables of statistics, &c.

The book is beautifully illustrated and the printing and paper are both excellent. It is universally recognized that Mr. Girdlestone is a master of his subject and his book should appeal to a large circle of medical men. It can be recommended as being easy to read and as containing an up-to-date exposition of a subject of widespread interest and importance.

The Ear and its Diseases: The Prevention of Deafness and its Alleviation by Modern Means. By Dr. Edgar Whitaker, late Aural Surgeon in the Palmerston North General Hospital, New Zealand. With a chapter on Electrical Apparatus and Principles by Barnard Way. London: J. Whitaker & Sons, Limited. 1940. (7s 6d.)

This book is written jointly by a retired aurist and an electrician, but seems divided in its aim. Sometimes it seems to be written for the student (p. 9), sometimes for the layman (passim). Thus, on page 19 we read—"You have come to consult the surgeon about your ear and he is taking your history down." Both authors know about hearing aids and the snags connected therewith. The best part of the book is that dealing with these and their use for and by the deaf. The structure of the two electric types of these aids—the carbon microphone type and the thermionic valve type—is explained, together with the advantage of the latter for portable use. The authors emphasize the comparatively small cost in the manufacture and repair of these, and justly expose the sharks who prey on the deaf by making extravagant claims and charging extravagant prices. The advice both to student and to laymen is good.

Less can be said for the earlier part of the book. To take just three instances. On p. 45 it is stated that "the stapes is embedded in the round window membrane." The correct position is given in the borrowed diagram on page 33. On pp. 14, 45, 47, 55 the semicircular canals are credited with otoliths! On p. 31 we read "Surgeons will recall that suppurating war wounds were packed
Reviews

with B.I.P. which is Bismuth, Lead and Iodine" (italics ours). Had Dr. Whitaker confined himself to dealing with hearing aids for the deaf, both the profession and the laity might have had a really useful book.

NEW EDITIONS

Operative Dental Surgery. By J. B. Parfitt, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.D.S., and W. E. Herbert, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.D.S. Fourth Edition. London: Edward Arnold. 1939. (25s.)

This is an enlightened book.

From the authors' ripe experience it relates the "How" and "Why" of the whole range of its subject, and it is not easy to say which of these is the better done.

"How" from any man must always be matter of opinion, but the "Why" at Parfitt's hand is winning.

Just occasionally the authors contradict themselves in minor matters. But though, in terms of the pace at which we live, "To-day is yesterday" there seems but little excuse for the omission from such a book of any mention of N₂O analgesia, the more so since so much space is devoted to description and condemnation of methods well known to be valueless.

Our hint to students and practitioners alike is to buy this book. Read but a few pages and you will read to the last.

Minor Surgery and the Treatment of Fractures. By Gwynne Williams, M.S., F.R.C.S. Twenty-Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1940. (12s. 6d. net.)

In the latest edition of this well-known book there has been a complete revision of the text with some re-arrangements, up-to-date illustrations have replaced old ones, and the high standard set by previous editions has been maintained.

The book covers a wide but complete field. Pre-operative treatment, practical points during operation, and the pitfalls of the post-operative stage are dealt with confidently. Then follow solid chapters ranging from wounds to so-called minor operations, touching on regional haemorrhage, genito-urinary emergencies, acute abdominal
conditions, "punctures" and aspirations, and simple infections. The list of minor operations is complete, but we do not agree that septic infection of the fingers and hand and several orthopaedic operations fall within the scope of the average House Surgeon for whom the book is intended.

A full chapter on bandaging, profusely illustrated, forms a suitable introduction to the subject of Fractures, which are dealt with very conservatively, and in conclusion there is an excellent chapter on all forms and devices of anaesthesia.

This is a readable book, the author having a fluent style, and it maintains the high standard of Churchill publications. We can recommend it with confidence as leading to a sound foundation in surgical technique.