NOTE

A QUARTERLY Meeting of the Royal College of Physicians was held on Tuesday, 7th November—Dr Alexander Goodall, President, in the chair. Dr David Dowie Dunn (Cape Town), Dr Jiwan Ram Maleri (Punjab, India), Dr Beatrice Annie Sybil Russell (Colonial Medical Service, Gold Coast), Dr George Robertson McNab (Birmingham), Dr Philip Wolfe McKeag (Bath), Dr Robert Patrick Anderson Macaulay (Trentham, Staffs.), and Dr Harry Winton Dryerre (Edinburgh) were elected Fellows of the College.

The Annual Meeting of the College was held on St Andrew’s Day, when Dr Alexander Goodall was re-elected President and the following were elected to form the Council for the ensuing year:—Dr Edwin Bramwell, Dr Charles McNeil, Dr A. Fergus Hewat, Dr D. M. Lyon, Dr W. D. D. Small, and Dr A. Graham Ritchie. Dr McNeil was nominated Vice-President.

NEW BOOKS

The Abnormal in Obstetrics. By Sir Comyns Berkeley, Victor Bonney and Douglas MacLeod. Pp. viii+525, with 6 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1938. Price 18s.

In presenting this book, which the authors hope will be found useful by those studying for the higher examinations in obstetrics and by junior obstetrical consultants, they have assumed a thorough knowledge of pelvic anatomy and physiology as well as the technique of operative procedures. Not only have the essentially obstetrical abnormalities been described but a large section of the book deals with pregnancy and labour complicated by medical and surgical diseases. Some are common and important problems such as heart and renal disease, pulmonary tuberculosis, glycosuria, anaemia, syphilis and gonorrhea, but in addition short notes appear on a host of conditions, constituting a review of the specific infections, many of which are tropical, disorders of the skin and diseases of the ear, nose, throat and eyes in their relation to child-bearing, so that the obstetrician is at least reminded of their existence. In a similar way over 50 pages have been devoted to diseases, injuries and deformities of the new-born. The subject matter is up to date and for the most part gives a faithful representation of modern expert opinion, although the advocacy of Bossi’s dilator and the employment of ergot before the actual delivery
of the placenta will not meet with general approval, while an important omission is the value of the Aschheim-Zondek Reaction in the diagnosis of early intra-uterine death. The book will be found most useful for all obstetricians.

*The Postnatal Development of the Human Cerebral Cortex.* Vol. I.
By J. LeRoy Conel. Pp. 114, with 98 plates. London: Humphrey Milford. Harvard University Press. 1939. Price 35s.

This excellent and well-illustrated study from the Department of Anatomy, Boston University, and the Department of Pathology of the Harvard Medical School, is intended to be a general survey of the postnatal development of the nerve cells in the human cerebral cortex for the purpose of observing what changes occur in the morphology of the neurons as development in behaviour of the growing child proceeds. The present volume considers the cortex of the newly-born nine-months fetus. The material consisted of six brains. No difference in structure between the sexes was found. The number and size of the nerve cells were examined by cresyl violet and Cajal silver, the axons and dendrites by Cajal silver and the Golgi-Cox method, and the myelination by Weigert-Pal. The cerebral localisation and findings of Campbell, Brodman and von Econemo were used and compared. It was found that the architectonics of the cortex presented the same general picture as in the adult. There was no Nissl substance in any cells; myelination was most advanced and neurofibrils were present only in the Betz cells related to the control of movement of the cervical vertebrae, scapula and humerus. The beautiful illustrations complete a comprehensive and useful work, and one looks forward with interest to the next volume.

*Social Service in the Clinic for Venereal Diseases.* By Dorothy Manchee. Pp. 96. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1938. Price 3s.

This small book is intended for the use of students and workers engaged in Social Service, and indicates many of the social problems which are commonly met in a large venereal diseases clinic. The author has rightly emphasised that the social worker is a member of the team who can very valuably supplement medical treatment.

*Essentials of Fevers.* By Gerald E. Breen. Pp. 274, with 24 figures. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1939. Price 7s. 6d.

This short book gives a readable account of the common infectious diseases met in the modern fever hospital as well as a rapid survey of infection, its spread and control, and general remarks on treatment.
New Books

and prognosis. We have detected few serious omissions, and though the treatment of some subjects is a little superficial the book might form a useful introduction to the student's ward work. We doubt, however, if it is detailed enough to act as a work of reference to the junior practitioner.

*Shock and Related Capillary Phenomena.* By Virgil H. Moon, A.B., M.Sc., M.D. Pp. xviii+442, with 30 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1939. Price 2s.

This book is a very useful contribution in many respects. The exhaustive survey of the literature of shock and of capillary physiology will prove valuable to all interested in the problems involved. The author's thesis serves to emphasise the importance of the minute vessels and tissue anoxia in many pathological processes. To the clinician he presents a well-argued plea that shock must be diagnosed and treated before the blood pressure falls, and advocates, with abundant evidence, that haemoconcentration is the most valuable early criterion of developing shock.

*Modern Mental Nursing.* By Douglas Hay Scott, M.B., Ch.B., Jessie F. Masterton, S.R.N., S.M.N., S.C.M., Mildred Hainsworth, D.N., S.R.N., and William S. Mayne, R.M.N. With a Foreword by Professor D. K. Henderson, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Three vols. Pp. 911, with plates and illustrations. London: The Caxton Publishing Co. Ltd. 1939. Price £3, 3s.

This is a comprehensive survey of mental nursing which will be of value to all mental nurses preparing for their examinations, but which goes beyond this function. The work is built round certain fundamental principles which are constantly emphasised. Mental nursing is treated not as a separate entity but as a specialised form of nursing in general, and much information on general nursing is given. Similarly, mental hospitals are treated as specialised forms of general hospitals, which must approach and are approaching the standards of the latter.

The first volume deals with the general principles of nursing in detail; the second with the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, the special duties of the mental nurse, a summary of general diseases, and the investigation of the mind. The third volume gives a full description of all forms of mental illnesses and their causes and treatment, with special emphasis on the nursing treatment and on occupational therapy. The text is supplemented by numerous instructive illustrations. The work is rather long for the student nurse to read, but the clarity and simplicity of the writing should overcome this difficulty.
New Books

The Dysenteric Disorders. By Philip Manson-Bahr. Pp. xiv + 613, with 129 illustrations. London: Cassell & Co. 1939. Price 25s. net.

This monograph is the outcome of thirty years' study by the author, during which time he has investigated the bacteriological, pathological and clinical aspects of the problems. The book opens with chapters dealing with the investigation and examination of cases, historical survey of the dysenteries, geographical distribution of the dysenteries and their classification. The great importance of this group of diseases will be realised from a statement in the introduction which says: "It was bacillary dysentery and not the Turk that drove us out of Gallipoli." At present we are living in critical times and might have to face similar problems in the near future, and all medical men who may be liable to be called upon to deal with them will find a perusal of this monograph particularly helpful.

Sir Thomas Roddick: His Work in Medicine and Public Life. By H. E. MacDermot, M.D. Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd. 1938. Price 6s. 6d. net.

For nearly fifty years Sir Thomas Roddick was an outstanding figure in the medical and social world of Canada. In this volume we have attractive pictures of his life as student at McGill, surgeon at Montreal General Hospital, and of his many and varied social activities. Roddick was chosen to be Director of Medical Services in the campaign directed to the suppression of the Louis Reil Rebellion in 1885. To Roddick, more than to any other man, must go the credit of securing the unification of medical registration throughout Canada. After a very long struggle the chaotic conditions prevailing were swept away by the "Roddick Bill," with its immense benefit to the profession generally, and especially to the cause of improved medical education. An interesting and attractive volume, obviously written by one who found his subject "easy."

Fractures and Dislocations in General Practice. By John Hosford, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. Pp. 274, with 71 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1939. Price 12s. 6d.

The author begins by describing necessary general principles and goes on to deal very clearly with all the common and many of the more uncommon fractures. A very valuable feature of the book is the inclusion of the small details of plaster technique which are so frequently and regrettably absent from many text-books, but which make all the difference between success and failure in the treatment of a case. There are a few points in treatment, however, to which we cannot subscribe; for example, the routine use of skeletal traction.
rather than skin traction in fractures of the shaft of the femur. In any case we can thoroughly recommend the book as giving at one and the same time a simple, lucid and sound exposition of the involved subject of fractures and their treatment.

*The Physiology of Anaesthesia.* By Henry K. Beecher. Pp. xiv + 388. London: Oxford University Press. 1939. Price 17s. 6d.

Much of the work reported here is concerned with observations on animals, and a stronger lead from the author as to how far these results should be transferred to mankind and utilised by the anaesthetist in the operating theatre would have been an advantage. The book gives a good survey of the work that has been done in anaesthetics, and at the same time points out clearly many directions in which further investigation is needed. There is a wholehearted condemnation of ethyl chloride, which will not be universally accepted. On the other hand it is pleasing to see emphasised in no uncertain manner, in the section on chloroform poisoning, that pregnancy confers no immunity to the action of this drug. The value of the experimental observations referred to in this book must inevitably vary considerably, and here again the author might well have been more lavish of his own views; instead of which, work is quoted as authoritative which one would hesitate to accept without considerable confirmation. Unfortunately every experimentalist who rushes into print cannot be regarded as an authority.

The book should be of great value as a work of reference to any anaesthetist, and its value is enhanced by the extensive and well-arranged bibliography at the end, which will form an admirable basis for further reading in any particular subject.

*The Functions of Human Voluntary Muscles.* By Norman D. Royle, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.A.C.S. Pp. 42, with 11 illustrations. Sydney: Angus & Robertson Ltd. 1939. Price 3s. 6d.

It is difficult to ascribe a place in current medical literature to this monograph which attempts to deal with the function of the voluntary muscles in 25 small pages of text. The value of the book would have been enhanced if photographs had been included rather than simple line drawings, where it was intended to illustrate the action of muscles and the movements at joints.

*Trial of Field and Gray.* Edited by Winifred Duke. Pp. 302, with 9 illustrations. London and Edinburgh: William Hodge & Co. Ltd. 1939. Price 10s. 6d.

This is one of the latest additions to the famous Trials series published by William Hodge & Co. Ltd. It deals with the mysterious death of a young London typist at Eastbourne in 1920. She went out for a walk with two men with whom she had never been seen
before, and never came back. Her body was found about thirty hours afterwards, lightly buried in the shingle and showing evidence of murder by violence inflicted to the head and face. The medical evidence is not important, the main interest of the book lying in the identification of the two accused.

*The Morphology of the Brachial Plexus.* By Wilfrid Harris, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xviii+117, with 87 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1939. Price 25s.

Almost forty years ago Dr Harris commenced his comparative study of the brachial plexus. The results of his early dissections so developed and stimulated his interest that he then decided to investigate the brachial plexus in all animals above fishes. Dr Harris has cast his net widely, so that the 130 dissections, on which this monograph is based, have been made on animals as rare and diverse as the Echidna and the Giant Panda. The plexus of each animal is described in a concise but detailed manner and the figures which accompany the descriptions add much to the value of the work. The figures in themselves form an outstanding contribution to comparative anatomy and the author is to be congratulated on their execution. Some interesting generalisations on the plexus are included in the work, and there is also a section on the detailed cutaneous distribution of the ulnar and median nerves which should prove of value to the clinician.

*The Language of the Dream.* By Emil A. Gutheil, M.D. Pp. 286, with 40 figs. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1939. Price 15s.

In the belief that all existing works upon dream interpretation are either too voluminous or too uninstructive, or else out of date, the author has here attempted to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date exposition of this medically significant branch of psychology. His account of the structure of dreams is inevitably based upon Freud’s classic researches; but the principles of interpretation which he advocates are rather those of Stebsel than those of Freud. He is thus the advocate of an “active” type of analytical technique. Such a technique is discountenanced by orthodox psychoanalysts; but it appeals to the author on the grounds that, in skilled hands, it enables the duration of treatment to be shortened without compromising therapeutic success.

*Relation of Trauma to New Growths.* By R. J. Behan, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii+425. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1939. Price 22s. 6d.

In this comprehensive volume Dr Behan discusses in all its aspects the rôle of injury in the production and development of
tumours. The book is concerned mainly with the medico-legal aspects, and cases are quoted in numbers which suggest that litigation on this aspect of injury is much more common in the United States than in Great Britain. Valuable indications are given of the lines of argument which may be followed by counsel for and against the claimant in such cases. In the scientific analysis of the effects of trauma on tissue, and particularly in the section which deals with the conversion of a benign to a malignant tumour, Dr Behan quotes extensively from the best authorities and will well repay close study. No general conclusion is reached, but it is impossible to contest the opinion that trauma is the responsible factor in the production of a small number of sarcomata. The evidence for a similar causal relationship between carcinoma and repeated minor episodes of trauma, with or without additional chemical carcinogenic influence, is fully debated and references are given fully for the benefit of those who may be called upon to discuss these matters in Courts of Law. From this aspect the book has considerable value.

*My Testament of Healing.* By J. Ellis Barker. Pp. vi+345. London: John Murray. 1939. Price 8s. 6d.

Although this book is devoid of interest as a subject of medical study, it undoubtedly serves to expound the views of Mr Barker and that section of homœopathy which accepts him as a teacher. It is a matter of some little importance to know how far Mr Barker speaks for homœopathy as a whole, because the virulence of his statements about the qualified medical profession will surprise those who have become accustomed to regard the homœopathists as at least well-meaning if not always well-informed. The writer is very frank about the business side of his professional affairs. The book is written for a section of the public and not for doctors. We are compelled to accept Mr Barker's statement that the orthodox medical profession is hostile both to his methods and to his claims.

*Clinical Electrosurgery.* By G. M. Blech. Pp. xx+389, with 34 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1939. Price 21s.

With the increasing employment of diathermy in the various surgical fields the author has no doubt felt prompted to write this monograph; one cannot avoid the impression, however, that he is endeavouring to build up a specialty around a technical method. Operations are dealt with regionally and there is much repetition of standard operative technique. In many instances the author makes out a good case for the more extended employment of electrosurgical methods, but many will disagree with some of the claims made. Statistics are offered seldom and vaguely. The book suffers from a
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diffuse style, and a section on radium therapy seems out of place in a work dealing with electrosurgery. There is much, however, that will prove of interest to those who are using diathermy in their operative work.

NEW EDITIONS

Transactions of the Institute of the British Surgical Technician. Vol. III., No. 1. Pp. 90, with 58 illustrations. London. 1938. Price 30s.

This is a journal of the recently formed Surgical Instrument Manufacturers' Association, and consists of a full syllabus of the new curriculum for the instruction of surgical technicians. Lectures by well-known surgeons on surgical technique form a large part of this issue. The illustrations of instruments are excellent. The most important aspect from the surgeon's point of view is the emphasis which is placed on co-operation between surgical technicians and members of the medical profession.

The Medical Annual. Edited by H. Lethaby Tidy, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Pp. 660, with 124 figures and 72 plates. London: Simpkin Marshall Ltd. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1939. Price 20s.

The general arrangement of this annual review is similar to that of previous issues. Among the items selected by the editors for special mention pre-eminence is given to the sulphamidines. There is good evidence to show that they may be employed with benefit in many conditions apart from streptococcal infections. Serious toxic manifestations appear to be rare, when the widespread use of these drugs is taken into account. Blood transfusion provides a number of points for consideration. These include the use of stored blood, cadaver blood and placental blood. The pages devoted to legal matters merit careful study, for the past year has produced an unusual number of important decisions. Other special articles are concerned with Maternity and Child Welfare, Clinical Pathology and Sex Hormone Therapy. The present issue fully maintains the high standard set by its predecessors.

Dental Surgery and Pathology. By J. F. Colyer, K.B.E., LL.D., F.R.C.S., L.D.S., and Evelyn Sprawson, M.C., D.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. Seventh Edition. Pp. 1067. London: Longmans, Green & Co. Price 35s.

A new edition of this excellent book is particularly welcome as a period of seven years has elapsed since the last edition. While the