NEW BOOKS

An Introduction to Clinical Perimetry. By H. M. Traquair, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Pp. viii + 264 with 164 illustrations and a coloured plate. London: Henry Kimpton. 1927. Price 30s.

Every ophthalmologist and many physicians and surgeons will wish to possess this book, in which Dr Traquair gives not only the results of his own original investigations, but also a comprehensive summary of present day knowledge of perimetry in its clinical aspects. The Edinburgh School of Ophthalmology has done much to make the quantitative method of perimetry which is essentially the method of Bjerrum, known to English-speaking ophthalmologists. Berry's communication in 1890 was followed by two important papers by Arthur Sinclair, and since then the painstaking work of Traquair has given him an established reputation as one of the foremost and most authoritative exponents of this form of visual field testing. This book is an amplification of the author's Middlemore Essay for 1920, on "Perimetry (inclusive of Scotometry): Its Methods and its Value to the Ophthalmic Surgeon." It does not attempt to deal exhaustively with perimetry, but aims at introducing the reader to its essential principles considered in their clinical aspect. The first part deals with the normal field of vision and the various instruments and methods employed in perimetry. The difficulties are not physical but subjective, and Traquair wisely insists that the perimetrist must never allow the excellence of his apparatus to govern his interpretation of the results obtained. "Simple tools properly used are much less productive of wrong conclusions than undue reliance on the dicta of an elaborate instrument." The second part of the book is devoted to the interpretation of the various pathological changes that may occur in the field of vision. It consists of chapters dealing with the choroid and retina, glaucoma, the optic nerve, the chiasma, the suprachiasmal pathway, and functional changes. The author quotes with approval the saying of Roenne, the disciple and follower of Bjerrum—"It is a peculiarity of perimetry that its outward technique is so simple as apparently to make no demand but to be feasible to the least experienced assistant of a clinic, and yet of all ophthalmic examinations it is perhaps the one which in reality requires the most experience and detachment." Traquair himself while insisting upon accurate observation and careful charting of the defects in the field occurring in different diseases, constantly warns his readers that these changes must always be considered in their relation to the clinical picture as a whole, because no
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single sign or symptom, no matter how important it may be, if considered by itself affords conclusive evidence in diagnosis or prognosis.

We can heartily recommend this book and wish it the success it deserves. The publishers have done their part well—the printing and the illustrations are excellent.

Practical Methods in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

By David Lees, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S.E. Pp. xvi + 605, with 87 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1927. Price 15s.

As a handy little volume to give the student an introduction to the study and treatment of venereal diseases Dr Lees' publication will doubtless fulfil its function. There are assigned to syphilis 289 pages, to soft sore 6 pages, to gonorrhoea and its complications 245 pages, and a short pharmacopeia in conclusion occupies 26 pages. It is supererogatory to preface that this manual is not a book of reference.

The volume is modelled on the well-known Thomson and Miles' Manual of Surgery and with such restriction in size it is necessary that every word be selected with care, that every phrase be attuned, and that every sentence be turned to the best advantage for the instruction of the reader and that no space be wasted that might be utilised. These provisos are not altogether fulfilled in this edition. Take, for instance, the first sentence in chapter II. "Syphilis is an infectious disease" (would "contagious" not better describe this attribute?) "of which there are two main types" (why "main"?) Are there subordinate types?—"(1) Acquired syphilis . . . (2) Inherited syphilis . . ." On the next opportunity, only eleven lines further on, and elsewhere almost throughout the book the second type is "congenital syphilis." Is not "inherited" the more accurate? This may seem meticulous criticism, but Dr Lees' book is so sure of an extensive vogue that no effort should be spared to enhance its instructional value.

No fewer than six chapters are devoted to the treatment of syphilis. They fairly represent the antisyphilitic regimen of to-day. The principles enunciated seem sound, the tone is optimistic, but perhaps the prescription of "courses," the indications for dosage and the specification of drugs suitable to certain conditions are a little too hard and fast to give the future practitioner scope for initiative.

Some of the illustrations are quite good but a good deal of valuable space might be gained for additional text by docking many of them of unessential parts. In a few the blurred railings and paraphernalia of an operation theatre are too much in evidence, and in some a panchromatic plate with suitable filters would have given
less blackness to red surfaces. To photograph penile manifestations of syphilis or other venereal disease is extremely difficult and the author has not overcome these difficulties. Little can be learned in a $73 \times 58$ mm. picture (Fig. 1) of the characteristic appearances of a sore where the essential organ measures only $14 \times 5$ mm., and it does not take half a woman and her hat to illustrate a chancre of the lip (Fig. 3) in which moreover the important enlargement of adjacent lymph glands is not demonstrated. To one who has seen the condition Fig. 6 will recall the appearances, but it is scarcely a picture to instruct a novice. Original photographs are evidence of experience which the author can dispense with and in his next edition might see his way to substitute drawings for such photographs—they would be infinitely more instructive.

The chapters on gonorrhoea and gonorrhoeal complications are redolent of practical knowledge, and the chapters on the anatomy of the male and female genito-urinary organs might be replaced by more of it, but should they be retained should have their terms brought into accord with modern nomenclature.

In many cases Dr Lees' ideals for the treatment of gonorrhoea will be unattainable, but that is no reason why ideals should be burked. It is doubtful if from chapter IX the student will appreciate the importance of non-gonorrhoeal valvo-vaginitis in children. One need not go back to Sir Astley Cooper's lectures and pre-organismal days to realise the necessity. Few indeed are medico-legal cases and it seems curious that the first question put to the little patient by the experienced general practitioner (or police surgeon): "How old is the sister who sleeps with you?" has escaped the author's practical acumen. Surely the accidental manual transference of her pudendal pus to the child she innocently cuddles in bed is a more common mode of contagion than "napkins, sponges, thermometers and towels."

To call venereal papillomata "condylomata" (page 498) is to confuse the student to whom the condyloma lata is the condyloma. And it would be all to the good to give the venereal papilloma a short chapter to itself, to dissociate it from "Conditions met with in association with or simulating gonococcal infection" (chapter XIII) and continue an Edinburgh tradition (cf. Journ. Pathol. and Bacteriol., Edinburgh, 1897, iv. 160) which hide-bound specialists have little appreciated.

The treatment of gonorrhoea by vaccines Dr Lees has made his own, and the manner of his dealing with it in this volume is comprehensive, clear and commendably brief.

This volume is a welcome addition to the text-books of the Edinburgh School, its success is assured, and doubtless future editions will pass from better to best.
New Books

Pyelography. By Alex. E. Roche. Pp. xiii + 118, with 16 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1927. Price 9s.

Pyelography has now come to be recognised as a necessary step in the accurate diagnosis of many urinary lesions. Its satisfactory practice, however, requires efficiency in a somewhat delicate technique and an ability to interpret in the resulting radiograms not only gross pathological changes, but also the many slight differences which may or may not indicate a departure from the normal.

In this monograph the author describes a straightforward and practical technique and emphasises the several essentials which go to make or mar the results. The indications and contraindications for pyelography together with the possible complications following upon its employment are dealt with in a commendably lucid manner. The illustrative radiograms are good, but certain of them might, with advantage from the teaching standpoint, have shown more definite changes; especially is this the case in regard to renal tumours and polycystic disease. Though based on a relatively small number of clinical case records, this short volume can be confidently recommended as an up-to-date and reliable guide to anyone desirous of taking up this line of work.

The Nature of Disease. By J. E. R. M'Donagh, F.R.C.S. Part 2. Pp. 434. London: William Heinemann, Ltd. 1927. Price 21s.

It is difficult to know whether to take Dr M'Donagh seriously. It is still more difficult to review his book with becoming restraint. The author takes as his starting-point certain elementary facts about colloids and these he proceeds to make as unintelligible as possible. He then discusses the "nature" of disease in terms of hydration, dehydration, gelation, etc., of protein particles, the methods employed in the investigation of such processes being the suspension stability of the red blood corpuscles, the refractive index and viscosity of the serum, and the ultra-microscopic examination of the serum and plasma together with estimations of blood sugar, urea, etc.

This forms the scientific basis, such as it is, of his thesis. The rest is supplied by the author's own perfervid imagination. Throughout the work, no attempt whatever is made to distinguish between what may be matters of observation and that which is purely speculative. Both are set forth with equal confidence and dogmatism. This is not science; it is monomania.

Cystoscopy. By Jas. B. Macalpine, F.R.C.S. Pp. xvi + 284, with 193 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1927. Price 25s.

To those interested in cystoscopic methods and urological diagnosis this book can be thoroughly recommended, for it provides a really
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comprehensive and reliable guide not only to the cystoscopic examination proper, but also to the essentials of operative cystoscopy and to the most up-to-date methods of renal investigation, both functional and pyelographic.

Commencing with a sketch of the history of the cystoscope, the construction, applied optics and clinical management of the modern type of instrument are next detailed and illustrated. Following this the technique for the whole process of cystoscopy and the appearances of the normal bladder are described. The numerous difficulties that are apt to beset the beginner in regard to the manipulation of the instrument, the preparation of the bladder, and later the orientation of the viscus are drawn attention to and the means of circumventing them explained. Succeeding chapters deal with the various primary and secondary vesical lesions both theoretically and practically; the differential diagnosis being discussed in each case. A very useful section is that which describes the treatment of papillomata by diathermy. In this connection we would fully endorse the author’s “follow-up” methods by which patients thus treated report at intervals for a period of two years after the cessation of active treatment. Only by this routine can dangerous recurrences be avoided.

The book is well written with the practical aspect kept to the fore throughout. An outstanding feature is the large number of coloured cystoscopic views of all the more important vesical changes, these being obtained from actual cases under the author's care.

NEW EDITIONS

Fiersol's Normal Histology. Thirteenth Edition, edited and in part rewritten by William H. F. Addison, B.A., M.D. Pp. viii + 477, with 432 illustrations. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1927. Price 25s.

A book on normal histology intended for use by medical students should present the subject as a preparation for subsequent study of morbid histology. It is essential that the student should acquire a thorough knowledge of the structure of normal human tissues; the study of animal tissues is not equivalent. Fiersol's Normal Histology has the merit of being truly a text-book of normal human histology; only occasional use is made of tissues of lower animals.

The text is copiously illustrated with microscopic drawings and colour-plates of good quality. Descriptions are clear and sufficiently detailed for ordinary purposes. Reference is made to results of recent