NEW BOOKS

Genetics and Disease. By TAGE KEMP, M.D. Pp. 330, illustrated. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1952. Price 60s. net.

The author, Professor of human genetics in the University of Copenhagen and head of a very active research institute, is a master of the subject and is eminently qualified to give authoritative account of this youthful science. After a short history of the rise of genetic knowledge, the author discusses the basis of heredity. Then he gives an account of genetic studies in man and methods of investigation. Normal hereditary factors are next discussed, including inheritance of the colour of eye, hair and skin, the blood groups and finger prints. Hereditary diseases and their methods of transmission are described at considerable length. Lastly, there is a section on the important subject of genetic hygiene. The book is clearly and well written and gives a thoroughly sound exposition of current knowledge of genetics.

Professor Kemp's work is a valuable addition to medical knowledge.

The Principles and Practice of Medicine. By L. S. P. DAVIDSON and others. Pp. 920, with 57 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1952. Price 32s. 6d. net.

Professor Davidson gathered round him a team of lecturers, each with different and special interests, and advantage was taken of this to draw up very detailed notes which were circulated only to his class of Medicine. The notes have been revised and expanded and now are to be available to all undergraduates.

The student who makes use of this new textbook will appreciate the clear if occasionally dogmatic simplicity of the text, the good use made of headings and tabulations, and the sense of proportion shown in covering so wide a field.

Emphasis has been put on the physiological aspect of disease and the matter is thoroughly up to date. The text is sound and simple.

All those who use this book for study will retain it affectionately for reference in after years.

Stammering Self-Cured. By Major A. H. C. MASTERMAN. Pp. 60. Bristol: John Wright. 1952. Price 3s. 6d.

Stammering or stuttering is one of the greatest of social handicaps and is an affliction for which the sufferer may well turn anywhere for help.

In this small book the author describes fully and plainly the vocal exercises which he uses in the treatment of his pupils. There is nothing really new in these instructions but they are presented in an enthusiastic manner which may add considerably to their value. The author demands of his pupils application, concentration and the determination to succeed, which naturally are essential to the learning of any art.

He outlines in simple language the chief causes of the disability and the methods of cure by the attainment of correct vocal breathing and breath control, slow rhythmic tone and muscular relaxation.

Practical Dermatology. By GEORGE M. LEWIS, M.D. Pp. x+328, with 406 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders. 1952. Price 37s. 6d.

Dr Lewis states that he intended this book for students and general practitioners. The descriptions are brief and to the point and the illustrations are plentiful. The author has wisely avoided colour prints and this perhaps accounts for the very large number of black and white pictures that are such a feature of the book. If there is still room for yet another elementary book on Dermatology this volume will probably fill that need. British readers may find the "English" a little odd.
Clinical Obstetrics. By C. Lull and R. Kimbrough. London: J. B. Lippincott. 1953. Price 80s.

This book is essentially a manual of clinical obstetrics and does not pretend to compete with such textbooks as Eastman's Obstetrics as a source book of midwifery. Clifford Lull died in 1951 but his name is associated with that of Robert Kimbrough as an editor of a distinguished team of Philadelphian obstetricians. The books consists of thirty-one chapters, written by various authors, which, not unnaturally, vary considerably in their value.

Hingson's chapter on obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia is first-class. He states that the last chloroform anaesthetic given in the Pennsylvania Lying-in Hospital was in 1928, but, later in this particular chapter, says that in "complicated obstetric emergencies requiring prompt and relaxing anaesthesia ... it is an efficient agent of choice." The illustrations of this chapter by Frank Netter are particularly admirable. There is little difference in the general mode of treatment employed by American and British obstetricians, and such differences as exist are largely concerned with minutiae. The chapter on the haemorrhages of pregnancy perhaps serves as an example. In Britain at present, as in America, the majority of placenta praevia cases are treated by Cesarean section and the minority by rupture of the membranes. The use of Willetts forceps is described and illustrated in this book but their use has now largely been abandoned in British obstetric practice. A new method of describing the degree of placenta praevia by expressing the percentage of the internal os covered by the placenta is described. This would seem to be a singularly useless method of classification. The chapter on haemorrhages includes a description of rupture of the marginal sinus of the placenta as a cause of antepartum haemorrhage. The importance of this as a cause of antepartum haemorrhage has only recently been recognised.

The nutritional research which has been carried out in Philadelphia in recent years is internationally known and widely acclaimed. Winslow Tompkins' chapter on nutrition and nutritional deficiencies in pregnancy is a monograph in itself and should be read by everyone interested in the specialty. The role of maternal malnutrition in the problem of premature labour is emphasised and illustrated in a most convincing way by the author's nutritional studies. Elsewhere the problem of post-maturity receives scant attention.

This book is an excellent record of clinical obstetrics as it is practised in a famous American hospital. Its format and standard of illustration are above reproach.

Chemical Induction of Cancer. By G. Wolf. Pp. 250, with 5 illustrations. London: Cassell. 1952. Price 17s. 6d. net.

Dr Wolf, who has done research work on the subject at the Chester Beatty Institute, London, and in the United States, is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts to produce an account of this aspect of cancer investigation for the general medical and scientific reader and interested layman. The work of many investigators is reviewed and presented in a most readable form. The scope of the work is limited to the experimental induction of tumours by extrinsic chemical means. The book should serve as a pattern to be followed by others writing to present knowledge to the general scientific reader.

Advances in Internal Medicine. By William Dock, M.D., and I. Snapper, M.D. Vol. V. Pp. 464. London: Interscience Publishers. 1952. Price 80s. net.

The fifth volume in the series, Advances in Internal Medicine, keeps up the excellent standard of the previous books. Many subjects are discussed and recent advances in medicine are described critically, clearly and concisely. This volume includes such subjects as diseases of pregnancy which may affect the offspring; the modern concept and treatment of portal hypertension; gout, ganglionic blocking agents and the vexed question of anemias and infections. Each chapter is a complete work on its subject and makes this book an essential addition to the physician's library.
Fanconi and Wallgren's Textbook of Pediatrics. Edited by W. R. F. Collis, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xx+1104, with 441 illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1952. Price £7.75.

The study of the child in health and disease has advanced so considerably during the last few years that it is steadily becoming to be recognised as one of the major subjects in the medical curriculum throughout the world. Professors Fanconi and Wallgren along with a team of well-chosen continental authorities have compiled a textbook based on their personal experiences and ideas from their European pediatric clinics.

This first English edition which has been supplemented by additions from Dr Collis and Dr Bodian finds a most acceptable place as a pediatric work. It covers a large field and in general follows the lay-out of the British and American books, but it also contains much original thought which is characteristically continental. Some chapters are full and detailed, especially that on Diseases of the Nervous System, but in others there is a lack of detail in clinical description.

The volume is well presented and readable, with satisfactory headings and good printing. The numerous illustrations are excellent and well chosen.

Pharmacology in Clinical Practice. By Harry Beckman, M.D. Pp. xx+839, with 152 figures. London: W. B. Saunders. 1952. Price 63s.

This new book replaces the author's original Treatment in General Practice which has been popular for over 20 years. The approach to the subject is in terms of specific diseases and the opportunities these present to the pharmacologist, and in terms of symptoms rather than in anatomical groupings of organs or chemical groupings of drugs. The result is a very readable and practical book which should appeal even more to the qualified man than to the undergraduate.

The major part of the book deals with the clinical use of drugs and there is a short section listing the drugs used and giving their structure and dosage. Proprietary and official names are cross-indexed for convenience and there is a first-class general index.

This is a book which can be thoroughly recommended to anyone wishing to keep up to date in therapeutics.

Cancer in General Practice. By Ronald W. Raven and P. E. Thompson Hancock. Pp. ix+265, with 71 illustrations. London: Butterworth & Co. 1952. Price 30s. net.

This book has rather a misleading title. It contains well-written brief accounts of all forms of malignant disease, with particular reference to descriptions of the early lesions and early signs and symptoms. It is suitable reading for general practitioners, students and nurses, but it reflects hospital practice as is natural when the authors are surgeon and physician of the Royal Cancer Hospital. The general aim is to help practitioners to arrive at an early diagnosis and to show them what can be expected from treatment; but the family doctor may be disappointed at the rather brief remarks on prognosis, and he will get little help in the day-to-day management of malignant cases in his own practice.

The Journal of Photographic Science. Edited by R. B. Collins, B.Sc., A.R.I.C., F.R.P.S. Pp. 40. Number I. Volume I. London: Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain. 1953. Subscription rate 25s. per annum, post free.

The Royal Photographic Society was founded in 1853 and to make its centenary has introduced this new journal. Its older publication, The Photographic Journal, included articles of the widest interests, and it has been decided to divide it into two sections—(a) general and pictorial; and (b) scientific and technical, which is represented by this present issue.

This new journal, which we welcome, contains articles of the highest scientific standard.
A Modern Practice of Obstetrics. By D. M. Stern and C. W. F. Burnett. Pp. viii+248, with 140 illustrations. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox. 1953. Price 35s.

A new book on obstetrics is an event in our specialty. What prompts the authors to embark on a field already fully covered by others is always interesting. Dr Stern and Dr Burnett have apparently been motivated by a desire to record the practice of the West Middlesex Hospital, and, as they state, their work is based on the experience gained from some fifty thousand consecutive deliveries.

Generally speaking, the methods described in the book are orthodox and the authors have tried to emphasise normal and common abnormal conditions. This is perhaps an ideal, but surely the medical student must have some real knowledge of the abnormal and it may be that rarer complications merit more than a brief mention. This, perhaps, is a fault of the book. Some conditions do not seem to obtain adequate discussion. For instance, consideration of the treatment of pre-eclampsia is restricted to one half page and the advice therein given is questionable. "Fluid requirements should not be cut but at the same time fluids should not be unduly pressed on the patient."

"No salt should be added to the diet, and if the oedema increases despite treatment, a salt-free diet should be given." This is the total advice given for the management of oedema in pregnancy, a condition which occurs in approximately fifty to sixty per cent. of all pregnant women. In the treatment of eclampsia the advice is given that magnesium sulphate should be avoided and veratrine used instead. No mention is made of the highly successful tribromethol method which is less likely to cause trouble than veratrine. The forceps operation is still the commonest of all obstetric operations and is fully and adequately described. Forceps described by Anderson are recommended and appear to be very similar to Simpson's long forceps. In Fig. 133, Milne Murray is credited with designing Kielland's forceps.

One of the most attractive features of the book is Miss Robinson's collection of charming and accurate illustrations which are a credit to her, the authors and the publishers. Drs Stern and Burnett have been determined to be literary, and each chapter is headed by a more or less apt quotation from the works of Shakespeare. This has already been done very well by Professor Claye. A useful and accurate appendix deals with the etymology of common obstetrical words. This book is an interesting attempt to present obstetrics in a fresh new look, and as such may be profitably read by the undergraduate.

Anatomy of the Autonomic System. By G. A. G. Mitchell, O.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.M., D.Sc. Pp. xvi+356, with 131 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1953. Price 55s. net.

This work may be described as the end result of a hobby in so far, as is seen, the author commenced his study of the subject as a spare time interest, gradually developing his pursuit until he could speak with an unrivalled authority and, as Sir James Learmonth states in his foreword, the keynote is a meticulous attention to detail with a scrupulous analysis of his references, the numerical volume of which is revealed in the bibliography. Many of these references are in the German language and include the monumental contribution of Ludwig Muller, who may fairly be said to have introduced a completely new era in the understanding of this part of nervous function.

Subdivisions into no fewer than eighteen sections make the volume splendidly useful as a reference for a worker devoting his attention to any system concerned, which, in fact, means that nothing is omitted; a very remarkable achievement indeed. Possibly anatomists and surgeons will be best served by this work, yet it will be surprising if practising neurologists do not find much helpful elucidation in the many problems which confront them in this difficult field of their interest. It seems hardly necessary to state that the many illustrations are of a very high order, not least the diagrams which remind one of Spalteholz at his very best.
Office Psychiatry. By LOUIS G. MOENCH, M.D. Pp. 310. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers. 1952. Price 45s. net.

This essentially American publication is distributed in Britain by Interscience Publishers Ltd., London. It has been written for the general practitioner and the medical student. It deals with the case material of emotionally disturbed persons who for the most part can be dealt with on an out-patient basis. It stresses essentially the psycho-somatic approach, and it is evident that the author is a clever and ingenious observer and interpreter of the frailties of human nature. The written text is supported by numerous cleverly drawn sketches of a humorous character which are quite out of keeping with the serious presentation of the subject-matter. The price of the book is entirely out of proportion with its usefulness. It cannot be recommended as a valuable or helpful guide.

Contrast Psychology. By MURDO MACKENZIE, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. 304. London: George Allan & Unwin. 1952. Price 21s. net.

In this book Dr Mackenzie has amplified his other contributions to psychiatric literature, and has evolved a system of psychological interpretation and treatment which he suggests can be applied with equal benefit to communities and individuals. The thesis presented centres around the author’s concept of personality consisting of Immediacy and Deliberation—an individual conflict, and Amplification or Simplification—an environmental conflict. Examples are drawn from individual and community life to illustrate his point of view which is both interesting and instructive. This book is by no means easy reading, but the ideas offered are of a challenging nature and will repay careful study even if their application may prove difficult and limited.

Sympathetic Control of Human Blood Vessels. By H. BARCROFT, M.D., M.R.C.P., and H. J. C. SWAN, PH.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. vii + 165, with 67 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1953. Price 18s.

This is the first of a series of monographs published under the ægis of the Physiological Society, and designed to bring together in one volume various aspects of a subject in which the author or authors have been personally interested. It may be said at once that this volume sets a high standard for its successors. Professor Barcroft’s work on the sympathetic control of human blood vessels is well known, and he has formed and maintained a happy liaison with the clinicians. His methods are simple and accurate, his deductions are sound and his views are now generally accepted both by physiologists and clinicians. This volume should be on the shelves of anyone who has an interest in the human circulation.

Diseases of the Oesophagus. By PHILIP THOREK. Pp. 140, with 102 illustrations. Printed in the U.S.A.: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1953. Price 86s.

This is an excellent monograph on diseases of the oesophagus and the book is well produced, well laid out and easy to read. There is an account of the anatomy and physiology of the gullet. The clinical aspects of the subject are fully described in a manner which reveals a wide experience and good judgment. The diagnostic importance of oesophagoscopy is emphasised. Dr Thorek properly believes that oesophagoscopy is necessary to exclude organic disease of the oesophagus in all suspected oesophageal lesions. He also refers to the value of bronchoscopy in assessing the operability of oesophageal neoplasm.

The operative surgery of the oesophagus is clearly described with good illustrations made by Carl T. Linden.

There is an excellent bibliography which is international and exceedingly valuable. It is a book which can be recommended to the physician and surgeon interested in the treatment of oesophageal disease.