NEW BOOKS

Lectures on War Neuroses. By T. A. Ross, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. vii+116. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1941. Price 6s. net.

Dr Ross, whose earlier writings on kindred subjects have been well received, has aimed at producing a brief description of the war neuroses which would be helpful to Service officers and general practitioners in their dealings with patients affected by the strain of war conditions. In this he has been very successful. He has given in simple language an excellent account of these conditions and has avoided the technical jargon that has grown up round this subject. The matter bears the stamp of a rich experience and is full of wise and helpful advice.

In a note on civilian war neuroses, Dr Ross says that it was anticipated that there would be a large frightened mob of people in bombed towns, rushing hither and thither, needing drastic treatment on a large scale, yet there has been no large epidemic of this sort in the English towns and the general immunity has been striking. A number of interesting questions arise from this fact, but at present it is easier to raise them than to offer a solution. This small book is a timely contribution to medical literature.

Carcinoma of the Rectum. By Lionel E. C. Norbury, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii+66, with 32 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1941. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This is a Hunterian Lecture of the Royal College of Surgeons of England based on a survey of cases at St Mark’s Hospital during the past ten years. Emanating from such a source, this volume must prove of value to all who are interested in the surgery of the rectum. Special attention is directed to the pathology of the disease, and naturally the work of Cuthbert Dukes figures prominently. The author stresses the value of clinical and pathological data as an indication of operability, choice of operation and prognosis. All the cases are classified and histologically graded before operation. A biopsy is done, and this is compared with the tumour subsequently removed. In the last 200 cases a correct biopsy report was given in 195 of these. As regards treatment, the various possibilities are discussed, but the author’s preference is for a one-stage perineo-abdominal excision with the patient in the Trendelenburg-lithotomy position. The two-stage perineal operation is reserved for early cases, and the conservative resection is not looked on with great favour. There are eleven statistical tables showing the results of treatment, and there are some excellent illustrations which demonstrate actual specimens and the spread of the tumours. This treatise is full of vital information and will repay the careful study which it deserves.
New Books

Handbook of First-aid and Bandaging. By A. D. Belilios, M.B., D. K. Mulvany, F.R.C.S., and K. F. Armstrong, S.R.N. Pp. xii+628, with 239 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1941. Price 3s. 6d.

A knowledge of elementary medicine and surgery amongst the laity and especially those who may be called upon to act during an emergency is of first-rate importance at the present time. This little book aims at providing such knowledge. It contains a vast amount of practical information and covers all the ground for training recommended by the British Red Cross Society, St John's Ambulance Association, the Civil Nursing Reserve and the General Nursing Council. It gives a sound basis of human anatomy and enough physiology to explain the methods of treatment recommended. In addition to an account of first-aid applicable in haemorrhage, fractures and poisoning, there are chapters on shock, gas injuries, the effects of blast and medical causes of unconsciousness.

The text is excellently written and is fully illustrated. The book is the best of its kind, and at the modest price asked is remarkably good value for the money.

The Medical Annual. 59th year. Edited by H. L. Tidy, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. R. Short, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Pp. 516, with 87 figures and 39 plates. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1941. Price 23s. net.

We welcome a new volume of this popular and helpful annual, which appears rather later than usual owing to enemy action. Despite these difficult times, this present number is well up to the standard of its predecessors, and the strong team of experts who have aided in compiling the matter are to be highly congratulated on their efforts. As is usual, every field of scientific and practical medicine is well represented in the text, but, owing to war conditions, there is a notable absence of foreign abstracts, the material being chiefly gathered from British and American sources.

The Medical Annual should be in the hands of every practitioner who prides himself on keeping abreast of modern advance.

Technique of Gastric Operations. By Rodney Maingot, F.R.C.S. Pp. xii+240, with 54 illustrations. Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. 1941. Price 15s. net.

In this monograph the author has provided an account of the technique of operations on the stomach which will be of value to the junior surgeon. Indications for the various types of operation are dealt with shortly and somewhat dogmatically, but in general they follow sound and properly conservative lines. Details of operative
New Books

technique are also described dogmatically, though with the author’s wide experience it is certain that the methods he advocates have been well tested. Though, as the author states, pyloroplasty is seldom employed in this country, several methods are described in some detail, and this part of the book might possibly be curtailed. The illustrations—for the most part line drawings—are on the whole clear and helpful; but a number might be reduced in size, or made just a little larger, to avoid the inconvenient two or three lines of text at the foot of the page. There is an adequate index.

Brompton Hospital Reports. Vol. IX. Pp. 175. London: The Research Department of the Brompton Hospital. 1940. Price 5s. 7d.

Upon producing the present volume in war-time both Editors of these Reports deserve cordial congratulations, though unhappily Dr William Cecil Bosanquet is no longer alive to receive the praise which is his due. The volume follows the policy of previous years in publishing in book form the papers which have been prepared by the staff of the hospital during the year. Of the seventeen collected papers two deal with injuries to the chest, whilst most of the remainder are devoted to various aspects of tuberculosis. A long and important article on The Relationship between Chronic Iridocyclitis and Tuberculosis is worthy of detailed study. The tuberculosis worker will also be attracted by a short note describing A Simple Apparatus for Constant Suction. The remaining papers deal with various problems in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis, with certain clinical varieties of the disease, with conditions simulating pulmonary tuberculosis, and with other subjects which need not be reviewed in detail. It is hoped that these Annual Reports will continue to appear.

Surgery of Modern Warfare. Edited by Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S. Part V. Pp. 641-876, with 145 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1941. Price 17s. 6d. net.

The concluding Part of this work includes the remainder of the section on wounds of the face and neck. There follows an excellent account by Dott of the modern methods of dealing with injuries of the brain and skull, notable also for its clear illustrations. The spine and cord are adequately dealt with, and in a special chapter Ward advocates suprapubic cystostomy as the method of choice in dealing with the retention associated with these injuries. The chapters on administration have a restricted appeal. In the final appendix the editor has summarised a great deal of very diverse material to bring the book up to date, and to make certain corrections. The printing and illustrations continue to be of the highest standard.
New Books

The Nursing Couple. By Merell P. Middlemore, M.D. Pp. xvii+195. London: Hamish Hamilton Medical Books. 1941. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The Nursing Couple is an unusual title for an unusual and valuable book. In it the late Dr Merell P. Middlemore has described the interplay of feelings and thoughts between the newborn baby and its mother in the process of suckling, and the effect of these mental interactions upon the success of lactation in the mother and good nutrition in the baby. Her interpretations are based on clinical observations, carefully chosen, and clearly set down. The different types of "satisfied" and "unsatisfied" sucklings, and the mental attitudes of mothers are described, and the different results in adaptation noted. It has been long recognised that the feelings and ideas of the mother play a large part in the success of breast feeding; but there has been little appreciation that the sympathies and antipathies of the baby may also be a factor. Dr Middlemore shows that breast feeding involves a marriage of two minds, and the title of her book is the simple conclusion of her argument. She, in fact, has conducted a study of a real psychological problem, and one that has important effects, immediate and remote, upon the health and happiness of mother and child. The reader would be well advised to skip the long and rather polemical preface by Dr Edward Glover, and to read, enjoy, and digest the simple, wise and instructive text of the author.

Gynaecological Operations. By J. Lyle Cameron. Pp. 200, with 26 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press. 1941. Price 21s.

It is difficult to know for whom this book is written, as it is much too comprehensive and detailed for students or young graduates and yet not detailed enough for the specialist. It might, however, be useful to the general surgeon who does some gynaecology and wants to be reminded of operations which he has previously seen.

The book is excellently printed on good paper and the illustrations of operations, as one would expect from Miss McLarty, are beautifully done: the only criticism of these is that in some cases they have been so greatly reduced in size that it is almost impossible to observe the accurate detail without a magnifying glass. A greater number of illustrations might have enhanced the value of the work to show various important operations: for instance, the operation for repair of a complete tear of the perineum has no illustrations to aid the reader, and vaginal hysterectomy is only sparsely illustrated. On the other hand, some unimportant operative procedures, such as tracheorrhaphies, appear to be over-stressed.

No mention is made in the book of cauterisation of the cervix with the electric cautery, one of the commonest of gynaecological operations: this would appear to be a grave omission. It is distressing...
to find Donald’s operation of posterior colporrhaphy and perineorrhaphy described as “Fothergill’s,” though later in the book Donald gets full credit for his share of the anterior plastic repair which is frequently designated as Fothergill’s method.

This book gives an excellent account of the post-operative complications that may occur, both after abdominal and vaginal operations, and goes carefully into the diagnosis and treatment of such complications.

A Biological Introduction to Psychology. By R. J. S. McDowall, M.D., D.Sc. Pp. 210. London: John Murray. 1941. Price 6s. net.

The inclusion of psychology in the medical curriculum, while generally regarded as desirable, has proved somewhat difficult in practice owing to the disagreement among psychologists as to fundamentals, and the diffuse jargon which has grown up with the subject. The present volume is a welcome attempt to meet these difficulties and its success is no doubt largely due to the fact that the author is not a psychologist. Professor McDowall has combined the outlooks of the different psychological schools into a sane and reasonable account which is presented in terms familiar to the ordinary medical student and related to his knowledge of biology and physiology. The account, always interesting, is apt to become somewhat disjointed and rambling with a good deal of repetition. We suspect that the average student would welcome some condensation and stressing of important principles, though, admittedly, this is one of the major difficulties of the subject.

NEW EDITIONS

First-Aid for War Casualties. By N. Hammer, M.R.C.S. Second Edition. Pp. 78. London: Dale, Reynolds & Co., Ltd. 1941. Price 1s. 6d. net.

The author, who has had Service experience, is an active member of the Order of St John and is medical adviser Home Office A.R.P. Department and Operations Staff of the Ministry of Home Security, is well qualified to write on this subject, and that he has succeeded in producing a useful and practical manual is testified by the fact that four reprints have been called for in eighteen months. The present edition has been revised and brought up to date as the result of ample experience in the metropolis.

The text deals with casualties likely to be encountered in the civilian population as the result of enemy action, and includes such subjects as shock, haemorrhage, fractures, burns and scalds, blast, asphyxia and many others. This little work should be in the hands of all those who practise in urban areas.