NEW BOOKS.

Malaria and its Treatment. By Captain A. Cecil Alport, R.A.M.C.(T.), M.B. Pp. xii. + 277. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. 1919. Price 21s. net.

The value of this book lies in the fact that it is purely a record of the author's extensive personal experience in the treatment of malaria in Macedonia. This excuses the slightly egotistical and dogmatic tone adopted throughout, and it is for the case records, not the preliminary sketch of the protozoology of malaria, that the book will be read. It is regrettable that Captain Alport has not had longer experience in preparing case records for publication; condensation and discriminating selection of the salient features would have made them easier to follow, and a certain amount of tabulation, showing the essential points, would have hammered his arguments home better than a series of case reports in extenso, which are apt to weary even one as diligent as the interested reviewer, who has read them all through from start to finish and regards them as valuable clinical records. Anyone who knows enough about the Salonica Army to read between the lines will find in Captain Alport's book a good deal of diversion, in addition to the interest of revived memories of convoys of exhausted, half-dead men—admissions such as no civil hospital ever sees. Quite early in the book, for instance, he tells how, wishing to drain a swamp, and meeting no encouragement from his O.C., he summoned a Macedonian mayor, and the Serbian and French commandants, and with their aid carried out the work. From the context one gathers that his hospital was a Serb one, somewhere in the French sector of the front, where the "brass hats" did not trouble or hamper these highly irregular unofficial proceedings. However, the swamp was drained right enough—and then the originator of the scheme was transferred to another sphere. Some of the cases, too, have a characteristic military flavour. Thus in case No. 8 of the blackwater series it is recorded, "The officer commanding the hospital [not now the Serb hospital aforesaid], after asking me for my opinion, told me he did not agree with me and took the patient out of my hands." Eventually the patient died and the first of the comments on the record is: "(1) I sent in my resignation as officer i/c of medical division and was sent to the front as M.O. to a field ambulance." This is a good illustration of one of the inevitable evils of military rank in a medical service: the physician in charge of the whole medical division of the hospital, and responsible for anything from 500 to 750 beds, with a staff of medical officers under him, practically superseded by the
administrative officer. There is much of interest in the book; to appreciate the subtleties one must have been in Macedonia and know something of the Army there.

War Neuroses and Shell Shock. By Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. MOTT, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S, with a Preface by the Right Hon. CHRISTOPHER ADDISON, M.D., M.P. Pp. 348. London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1919. Price 16s. net.

This book, which deals with one of the more important medical aspects of the recent war, is at the same time a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the basic phenomena of the neuroses and psychoses. The etiology of the commotional and emotional nervous and vascular disturbances which underlie neurasthenia and mental disorders is scientifically displayed from the pathological standpoint, with a convincing clearness which has probably not hitherto been attained to. It may seem ungracious to criticise the construction of a work, the matter of which is of such merit, but we feel that if the immense amount of material it contains had been classified in chapters it would have commended itself more to the ordinary reader; as it stands, it partakes rather of the nature of a work of reference.

The vexed question of psycho-therapy is not discussed but appears to be tacitly accepted as a recognised method of treatment, though by no means the sole or principal one. In his attitude towards the psychological aspect the author shows praiseworthy discretion. The merits of the psychological method are obvious, but Dr. Mott is primarily a pathologist and it would only have resulted in confusion if he had approached these important problems from the divergent standpoints of psychology and pathology. By adhering strictly to the pathological method he has succeeded in producing a scientific exposition of morbid neurology which will, we hope, definitely place psychiatry and the allied neuroses within the compass of general medicine and the ready comprehension of the profession. The book would be welcome for this reason alone, but the information it contains cannot fail to guide us safely among the intricacies and pitfalls of functional nervous diseases.

The Medical and Surgical Aspects of Aviation. By H. GRÆME ANDERSON, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. Pp. 255. London: Oxford Medical Publications. 1919. Price 12s. 6d. net.

Although, with the advent of peace, the interest in books on war surgery and military medicine has begun to wane, the present volume, dealing with a subject of increasing importance, cannot fail to interest
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all those, now a goodly number, who are in any way connected with the science of aeronautics. It is the first book of its kind, and the author, whose repute as a surgeon is only equality by his skill as an aviator, unfolds the story of the pioneer work of the Medical Department of the Royal Air Force in a manner well calculated to attract the attention of the reader, be he layman or doctor. Prior to the war, observations on the medical aspects of aeronautics were few, although the first balloon ascent in this country was made at Edinburgh, by a Scotsman named Tytler, as long ago as 1784.

During the past four years, however, we have learned much regarding the physiology and psychology of flying, and this knowledge has been turned to good account in estimating the suitability of candidates for aviation. The writer describes the various tests which he has found most suitable, many of them having been elaborated by Lieut.-Col. Martin Flack, who himself contributes a suggestive chapter on the applied physiology of flying. The psychology of aviation has also been the subject of much painstaking research which has yielded valuable results. "Keenness to fly" is perhaps the most essential attribute of the successful pilot. Under this heading, Surgeon Anderson gives a valuable psychological analysis of his own sensations during his first solo flight; then follows a good account of the aeroneuroses, which demand so much care and sound judgment in their handling.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter of the book is that which treats of aeroplane accidents. A "crash," in the majority of instances, is due to an error of judgment during landing, and this is most liable to occur at the time of the first or second solo flight. A unique series of photographs illustrates this section.

Dealing with the surgery of aviation, the writer remarks the frequency of two varieties of fracture. The first is a telescopic fracture of the lower thoracic vertebrae without injury to the spinal cord, the second is fracture of the astragalus. The latter, in civilian practice a rare event, is such a common injury in the Air Force hospitals as to justify the name of "aviator's astragalus." Details are given of its varieties, illustrated by a good set of skiagrams.

Short chapters on the effects of aeroplane bombs and on aeroplane dope poisoning conclude the volume, which will at once be recognised and adopted as the standard work on aeronautical medicine.

Surgical Aspects of Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers. By A. E. Webb-Johnson, D.S.O. Pp. 190. With 2 Coloured Plates and 26 Illustrations in the Text. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1919.

It is more than twenty years since the publication of Keen's well-known work on the surgical complications of typhoid fever, and we
welcome the appearance of Colonel Webb-Johnson's book as a timely contribution to the literature of a subject which has been so little discussed of recent years in spite of the fact that the whole question has been so much widened by the recognition of the paratyphoid fevers and by the practice of protective inoculation. After an interesting and well illustrated little summary of the history of the disease, the surgical aspects of the fevers are considered in detail and the pathology, symptoms, and treatment of each are successively dealt with. The clinical material on which the book is based consisted of 2500 cases of enteric fever, comprising a sufficient number of all the three varieties of the disease both in inoculated and in uninoculated men. The table, showing the incidence and mortality of the complications in the six groups of cases thus formed, is of particular interest and value, and the excellent results of inoculation are made very clear. It is of course unfortunate that the fact that the patients were practically all male and of military age renders comparison with the statistics of civil hospitals impossible. One is struck, however, all the more by the good results obtained even in the uninoculated. We have found the book both readable and instructive. It is well printed and the illustrations are good, the coloured plates, in particular, being very successful.

Chronic Traumatic Osteomyelitis: Its Pathology and Treatment. By J. Renfrew White, M.B.(N.Z.), F.R.C.S. Pp. xv. + 144. With 37 Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1919. Price 12s. 6d. net.

In this monograph Mr. Renfrew White crystallises his experience, prefacing it with a systematic résumé of the physiology of bone and of the pathology of inflammation and repair in bone.

On this sound foundation rests his method of treatment for "the early and final cure of chronic osteomyelitis." The "ideal result," he contends, is "bone scar covered by skin of normal thickness and structure." This is procured in most cases by the "radical operation" which has for its object the obliteration of the bone cavity. This is obtained by subperiosteal resection of bone and mobilisation of the cavity walls, supplemented in certain cases, especially near joints, by a plastic operation in which a flap consisting of soft parts covered with sound skin is turned in over the cavity. For success the removal of sufficient bone is a necessity, to convert the cavity into a wide, shallow groove. No dependence is placed in the use of antiseptics or pastes applied directly to the bone during the operation. The Carrel Dakin method of irrigation is advocated as a preliminary to operation and as an essential procedure after operation, in order to minimise the intensity of post-operative inflammatory reaction. For the same
reason "it should be made an absolute rule to leave all such wounds widely open."

The details of the preparation for the radical operation, the steps of the operation itself and the after-treatment are stated at length and then collected in schematic form. The author is under no delusion as to the difficulties attending these cases, but is confident that much better results are obtained in the long run by the methods he advocates. His work is of high merit and of excellent execution, and the text is admirably illustrated by the plates and diagrams.

_A Manual of Gynecology._ By John Cooke Hirst, M.D. University of Pennsylvania. Pp. 466. With 175 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1918. Price 12s. net.

This book is the outcome of an attempt to present in concise form the substance of the author's teaching on gynecology to his students. In many respects it is a praiseworthy effort, and the author has certainly succeeded in combining lucidity with a laudable degree of brevity.

There are always of necessity differences of opinion as to what ought to be left out and what retained in a small students' book, as this, although not specifically so labelled, is presumably intended to be; and when the comparison of views is between different schools of different countries these individual divergencies of view become magnified. In our view Dr. Hirst has erred on the side of retaining too much, and even of introducing extraneous matter. We fail entirely to see why the discussion of tumours of the breast or of the treatment of piles should be introduced into a gynecological book of this size, however arguable the case may be with regard to large text-books.

The pathology is disappointing and apparently does not bulk largely in the author's teaching, which on the practical side is sound and good. It is however surely unnecessary to describe the operation of curettage three times, even if the technique does differ slightly according to different indications.