NEW BOOKS

_Tumours of the Breast._ By Sir G. Lenthal Cheatle and Max Cutler. Pp. viii + 596, with 486 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1931. Price 50s.

A work on tumours of the breast by Sir Lenthal Cheatle with, as his collaborator, Dr Max Cutler of Chicago is assured of general acceptance and of a wide circulation. The book, the authors inform us, is the outcome of thirty-five years' study of normal and abnormal conditions of the breast. It is a monument to their industry, to their clinical acumen, and to their astuteness in pathological investigation. Sir Lenthal Cheatle's views on tumours of the breast, especially on carcinoma, have been eagerly read and canvassed by surgeons and pathologists alike, and it is a great matter to have his ideas collectively submitted and available in a single volume. But the book is not a mere reprint, a restatement of previous communications; it is a text-book, the matured outcome of years of collation of clinical facts and of patient investigation of clinical material. This clinical aspect of the book is most important.

The book is, as it ought to be, lavishly illustrated and to each section is appended a recent selective, but by no means comprehensive, bibliography.

A short chapter on the microscopic anatomy of the breast with particular reference to its lymph vascular system is appropriately followed by a slightly longer one on the physiology of the breast, a useful innovation, which particularly recognises the hormonal influences which modify the physiological variations of the breast and its secretion.

After a brief review of congenital and acquired anomalies, some half-dozen pages deal with "natural laws in pathological growth." This, and a couple of pages on classification of mammary tumours, are useful chapters in view of the opinions held by the authors. Of the succeeding 600 pages the subject of carcinoma occupies 171, and Paget's disease of the nipple 25 pages, while questions concerning malignant epithelial diseases again come up for consideration in a short chapter on tumours of the male breast and in another dealing with the rôle of radiation. Ample space is thus left for a full discussion of other epithelial tumours and connective tissue tumours of the mamma.

In the section on carcinoma, clinical details are given in a series of ten cases, and elsewhere throughout the book clinical references are full and frequent. Yet it seems strange that, though due accentuation
is made in earlier chapters of the importance of physiological processes in modifying the economy of the female breast, the authors, further than noting the state of the woman as regards marriage (a civil, not a professional detail), should omit such invaluable data as, the age of the youngest child (more essential far than “the last pregnancy”), the duration and efficiency of each lactation, and the condition of menstruation, whether, and if so since when, in physiological abeyance. Surely such references should be routine in every case-report of a mammary tumour.

A feature of the work is the number and excellence of the monochrome photographs of microscopic sections. Here and there thinness of the paper allows the printing on the reverse to show through and slightly detract from the clearness of the picture, but on the whole the illustrations deserve unstinted praise. Directive lettering is an acceptable feature in the illustrations and the fullness of the legends attached is most helpful and instructive. The coloured plates are admirable and those of breast-sections have all the beauty and lucidity characteristic of so many in Sir Lenthal Cheattle’s published papers.

Statistics concerning carcinoma are considered with discrimination and the recognised difficulties and want of uniformity relative to such investigations are briefly referred to. The manner in which the differential diagnosis of the various tumours is dealt with enhances the clinical value of the book, and appropriate reference is made to principles rather than to the details of their operative treatment. To the present concept of radiotherapy and radiumtherapy 56 pages are allotted and constitute a commendable chapter. A satisfactory subject-index is preceded by an index of the various authors referred to in the text.

This book, English throughout, bears on every page the imprint of personal observation and original work. In the literature of tumours of the breast it leads the way and is a production of which our profession will long be proud.

**Proctoscopic Examination and the Treatment of Hemorrhoids and Anal Pruritus. By Louis A. Buie, M.D., F.A.C.S.** Pp. 178, with 72 illustrations. Mayo Clinic Monograph. London: W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd. 1931. Price 16s.

Hæmorrhoids and other ano-rectal conditions are often so perfunctorily treated that we welcome this authoritative monograph from the Mayo Clinic. The book is in three parts. The first part contains chapters on the examination of the rectum and anus, the equipment necessary, the preparation and the position of the patient and the diagnosis by inspection, palpation and proctoscopy. Part II. is devoted entirely to the main subject, hæmorrhoids — anatomical
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factors, etiology, pathology and clinical features. Anaesthesia for haemorrhoidectomy is fully discussed, and the operations are clearly described and well illustrated. The only non-surgical methods of treatment mentioned are “electrical” and by injection. The third part of the book deals very fully with the troublesome condition, pruritus ani.

The author is a strong advocate of regional anaesthesia—caudal and trans-sacral block. His standard operations are modifications of Mitchell’s operation and the Whitehead operation, and he uses 5 per cent. quinine and urea hydrochloride for injection. In the treatment of pruritus ani he advocates the subcutaneous injection of 20 to 40 c.c. of 40 per cent. ethyl alcohol—a method with “certain potential difficulties,” as “sloughing will accompany about half the injections, and must be carefully controlled.

Clinical Dietetics. By Harry Gauss, M.S., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 490, with 59 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1931. Price 36s.

There is no doubt that the subject of dietetics warrants much more attention at the hands of the medical profession than it has hitherto received. The present volume is compiled by a teacher who for several years has given lectures on the subject, and who presents in this form the results of his wide experience. The earlier chapters deal with the general principles of diet, the various foodstuffs, and with the processes of digestion upon which rational dieting must depend. Later chapters describe the dietary measures appropriate to individual diseases. So far as possible the diets are presented in three forms—first, in detailed, calculated form for the guidance of students; secondly, as a summary of the week’s menu; and thirdly, in language suitable for the patient. Each chapter is introduced by a discussion of the physiological and pathological principles involved, giving to the work a thoroughly rational basis. The book includes ample tables of food values and tables showing the vitamin content and ash constituents of common foods. We have every confidence in recommending this book as a sound practical guide to a very important branch of medicine.

Noguchi. By Gustav Eckstein. Pp. ix+419, with 13 illustrations. New York and London: Harper & Brothers. 1931. Price 18s.

This is a unique work among medical biographies. It relates the life and career of the late Dr Hideyo Noguchi, the well-known bacteriologist of the Rockefeller Institute, who died a victim to yellow fever while investigating the disease in West Africa. It is a moving story,
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full of human interest, and delineates faithfully both the strength and weakness of the man, though it is difficult to judge Noguchi's character according to Western standards. Born of the humblest parents in a small Japanese village, crippled in one hand as a result of a burning accident in infancy, and with no assets but his abilities of mind and an intense ambition, Noguchi attained to a position of high international repute in medical science. The biography portrays a research worker dominated by an irresistible impulse to achieve where others had failed, or to accomplish a scientific feat previously unattained. The last epoch of his life is one of poignant interest: when the investigations of British workers in West Africa began to controvert the claims he had made in regard to the discovery of the etiological agent of yellow fever, he courageously decided to proceed to West Africa and, in his own words, "win down there or die." The biography will be of special interest to bacteriologists who are familiar with Noguchi's work, as it reveals the qualities that made him so successful; but the story so sympathetically told by Gustav Eckstein will also make a strong appeal to the general reader.

Detachment of the Retina. By J. Ringland Anderson, with Foreword by Sir John Herbert Parsons. Pp. xii+207, with 9 illustrations. Cambridge: The University Press. 1931. Price 20s.

This valuable monograph presents the newer ideas regarding the pathogenesis and treatment of detachment of the retina, which have arisen from many sources since the pioneer work of Gonin aroused the attention of ophthalmologists. The sixty-nine pages devoted to pathogenesis comprise a discussion of the four theories regarding detachment, and, in summarising, the author concludes that there are two main groups, one due to degeneration in the vitreous or retina, or in both, as in an equatorial retinochoroiditis, and a second group associated with choroidal effusion, in which the retinal tears, so frequently seen in the first category, are rarely found.

It is in the operative treatment of retinal detachment, however, that "a ray of hope" has appeared, as Sir John Parsons states in his foreword. And this advance is principally due to the activities of the French school, which culminate in the work of Gonin, who emphasised the necessity for the cicatricial closure of the hole or tear and introduced his method of ignipuncture with the thermo-cautery.

This book gives the surgeon guidance in diagnosis and in rational treatment and to the research worker a lucid exposition, with an extensive but well-chosen bibliography. The seven plates in colour are excellent.

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_A Clinical Study of Addison's Disease._ By L. G. Rowntree and A. M. Snell, from the Mayo Clinic. Pp. 317, with 41 illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders. 1931. Price 18s.

It is now seventy-five years since the brilliant observations of Thomas Addison enabled him to describe the syndrome which is known by his name. So accurate was the original account of the disease that until recent years little of value has been added to it. As the result of careful experimental work, much has been learnt of the functions of the suprarenals and of the hormones which they produce, and this new knowledge has been made use of in the clinic. Previously, the outlook was uniformly black, but with the introduction of the Muirhead treatment new hope was raised. Lately, there have been clinical trials with products derived from the cortical portion of the gland, which offer still greater prospects of success. The fascinating story of our knowledge of this interesting, though rare, disease is well told in this monograph, which is also enriched by a large number of carefully studied case records. This book is certain to take its place as one of the classics in this subject.

NEW EDITIONS

_Applied Physiology._ By Samson Wright, M.D., M.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. Pp. xxviii + 552. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1931. Price 18s.

Succeeding editions of this book indicate how successful the author has been in his presentation of the more important aspects of physiology in their relation to practical medicine. It is an old complaint that the student entering the wards for the first time has but little inclination to apply his physiological knowledge, and that he gains but little help from his earlier training when faced with disordered function in his clinical work. Professor Wright's book goes far to remove these difficulties. His happy combination of experimental deductions and clinical examples arouses a fresh interest in many problems common to both physician and physiologist. The frequent calls for new editions are fortunate in that they enable the author to keep pace with all the more important advances in many fields of research. Many sections have been rewritten and much of the newer work on a host of subjects incorporated. We feel that mention must be made of the chapters on the nervous system—a subject frequently receiving but scanty attention in the more formal