NEW BOOKS.

_Cerebro-Spinal Fever._ By C. Worster-Drought, M.A., M.B.(Cantab.), and Alex. Mills Kennedy, M.D.(Glasg.). With 62 Illustrations. Pp. xxii+514. London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1919. Price 30s. net.

Not a few monographs on this interesting disease have been published in the last ten years and it would be natural enough to question the necessity of the publication of another. But we may say at once that the contents of this volume entirely justify the authors, and that this work will be read with profit by all interested in the subject. They have not only summarised very ably and succinctly the great mass of literature on cerebro-spinal meningitis which has been called forth by the prevalence of the disease during the war, but they have also, as the result of a very extensive personal experience of the clinical and bacteriological features of the fever, made a most important contribution to that literature. Every chapter bears evidence of the thoroughness of their work and the accuracy of their observation. Short histories of especially interesting cases illustrate the most important points and these are not the least instructive part of the book. The chapter on the cerebro-spinal fluid and on the various chemical tests strikes us as particularly good. The authors obviously have more confidence in the value of testing for glucose than have many writers, and in this we are entirely in accord with them. We note also that they hold the view that the preliminary catarrh, which has been observed occasionally, though perhaps not so commonly as some would have us believe, is not a stage of the disease itself although it may doubtless predispose to infection. The authors prefer lumbar puncture in the middle line, which is of course the simplest method, but they differ from many of us in puncturing without anaesthesia. But whatever methods or views they adopt they are throughout careful to give the reasons for their preference. We doubt very much if the elaborate precautions against infection recommended for nurses and visitors are necessary. Infection in properly ventilated wards with liberal floor-space, must be extremely rare. The difficult subject of the treatment of carriers is adequately discussed, and the authors have had impressive results with the chloramine spray, some of their cases appearing to prove the value of this disinfectant beyond question. The reader finishes the volume with the impression that it is an eminently safe and practical guide for the treatment and management of the fever. The book itself is well printed and the illustrations and charts are interesting and helpful. We most cordially congratulate the authors.
Injuries to the Head and Neck. By Captain H. Lawson Whale, R.A.M.C.(T.F.). Pp. x + 322. With 130 Illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1919. Price 15s. net.

Captain Whale is, to use his own words, an oto-rhino-laryngologist, who by happy chance was in the great war associated with the department of oral surgery at the base hospital at Boulogne, and afterwards with the Queen’s Hospital at Sidcup for jaw and facial injuries. It is fortunate that experience of such extent and variety fell to the lot of an officer who proves himself in this book an acute observer, a careful recorder, and a surgeon who, while a master of special technique, is ever mindful of the fundamental principles on which all successful surgery is based. He begins with haemorrhage and extraction of foreign bodies. Here and in his consideration of neck wounds, their complications and treatment, we find observations interesting and valuable. Writing of septic pneumonia, which he calls “the surgeon’s bogey,” he remarks that for a long time in France it was the rule rather than the exception for patients with jaw or face wounds to be “chesty” from the moment of admission, a large proportion showing physical signs of bronchitis or broncho-pneumonia on admission or within forty-eight hours. For operation on these cases he considers chloroform the anaesthetic of choice. It is curious to note that in over 600 admissions to the jaw centre in Edinburgh no single cases of septic pneumonia occurred, though many patients arrived within forty-eight hours of receiving their wounds. We can confirm his statement that to overcome buccal and salivary fistula is not so formidable a procedure as would be supposed. There is thoughtful and illuminative matter in the chapters dealing with the larynx, ear, nose, and accessory sinuses. The general and special principles of treatment are clearly laid down, and cases presenting usual and unusual features are well described.

Rhinoplasty is very fully dealt with; in fact we regard Captain Whale’s account of the plastic restoration of the nose as the best résumé of present-day practice yet written. In treating of facial injuries he points out that modern plastic facial surgery opens up a new field, that the war has exalted its quality and introduced many effective refinements.

The important question of primary suture of severe facial wounds is debated with conspicuous fairness, and we are left with the impression that the author’s preference (which we share) is that while entirely to abstain from sewing up the wound at a field ambulance or casualty clearing station is wrong, no reformation should be attempted there: the surgeon should be content to bring the parts together, and save as much tissue as possible without endangering its vitality by shutting in septic areas. It is only too true that the work of the surgeon at the base has often been made much more difficult by
premature efforts to close the wound and restore the parts. General principles are well enunciated. The technique of skin grafts and of pedicled grafts, sliding, rotated, and translated is described with care and lucidity. The illustrations of this section are excellent. Injuries of the jaws have three chapters devoted to them. The fact that the help of the prosthettist has become an integral part of the treatment of these injuries is generously recognized. It is evident that Captain Whale regards bone-grafting as the most important advance in the purely surgical treatment, and in the last chapter he explains and illustrates the various methods of bone-grafting the mandible. Rectal ether-oil is advised as the anaesthetic. This chapter is an admirable exposition of up-to-date practice of the operation in question.

This is a well-written, well-illustrated, well-produced book, which will be of extreme interest to military surgeons.

_Diseases of Women._ By Ten Teachers. Edited by Comyns Berkeley, H. Russell Andrews, J. S. Fairbairn. Pp. xii + 650. With 8 Coloured Plates and 238 Figures. London: Edward Arnold. 1919. Price 30s. net.

This book is the work of ten writers and it thus marks a novelty in the production of text-books. The chapters are each written by one teacher and then submitted to the rest of the circle for comment and alteration.

The result is that it loses some of the advantages which a text-book written by a single author of proved experience and ability possesses. It has lost the character which the individual touch and personality alone can give. On the other hand it possesses some points which make for improvement in teaching. The combination of effort and criticism has resulted in a breadth and sanity of outlook, and a balance possessed by few text-books, and in a ruling out of much teaching that rested on nothing but tradition.

The chapters are well written and are always lucid. Some reach a very high standard, for example, that on "Menstrual Pain" and that on "Chronic Corporeal Endometritis." In the case of chronic endometritis the etiology is given simply as an infective process, and in this way the usual confusion that envelops the subject is avoided.

There are some omissions worthy of note. For instance there is no description of the histological changes in menstruation, and elongation of the cervix, which is a distinct pathological entity, receives no notice except a passing reference in the discussion of the differential diagnosis of prolapse. There is no illustration showing a transverse section of the Fallopian tube.

The book is well got up and the illustrations are good. It is bound to take a high place amongst text-books on gynecology.
This book is an exhaustive study of sterility based partly on the literature and partly on the case-books of the author.

The importance of the male factor is emphasised. The author places it at somewhere between 10 per cent. and 50 per cent. The wife should not be assumed to be responsible in doubtful cases in the absence of definite evidence that the husband is healthy. In testing the male potency it should be remembered that spermatozoa are killed as a rule within an hour in the vagina. The smear must be taken from the cervix direct.

The proportion of sterile marriages in this country is given as approximately 10 per cent. for the working and 16 per cent. for the leisured classes. The important causes operate as follows: anteflexion, 24 per cent.; tubal disease, 11 per cent.; endometritis, 10 per cent.; retroversion (and retroflexion), 10 per cent.; ovarian tumours, 6 per cent.; vaginismus, 4-5 per cent.

There is an interesting discussion on the relation between fibroids and sterility, the author believing that the sterility is the cause of the fibroid growth. In support of this he brings out that "in 85 per cent. of cases of fibroids the patient either has not been pregnant at all, or has had no pregnancy for at least ten years."

The book is of great value and its appearance is especially opportune at this time.

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A Vision of the Possible: What the R.A.M.C. might become. By Sir James W. Barrett, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.S. Pp. xx+182. Illustrated. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. Price 9s. net.

A perusal of this interesting book gives the impression, to a reader familiar with the R.A.M.C. of the pre-war days, that the author has failed to see the wood for the trees. He confesses that he knows little of R.A.M.C. organisation before the war, but sets forth a vision of reformation.

It is unfortunate that a work of this description is apt to be misconstrued by the general reader, and when it is hinted that, after reformation, the R.A.M.C. may become a force of which the nation may be justly proud, it would appear that all the facts have not received their due consideration. Like many—one might safely say a great many—civilians who were drawn into military service, the author looks at army methods and army training through glasses which cut off the all-important rays which elucidate the principles essential to military medical efficiency. Military efficiency is the be-all and end-all
of an army. The object of an army is to fight, and to fight better than the enemy, and, in a word, to beat him. The commander has many resources at his disposal for this purpose, and the medical service is one of these, and, as facts have proved again and again, a no small or unimportant one. One, too, of which the army and the nation may be, and let us hope are, justly proud. The R.A.M.C. has been evolved on lines calculated to bring about the smooth and efficient working of the fighting force, and in the book under review it does not appear that the author definitely grasps that fact.

To a certain extent he disarms criticism by his friendly references to individual officers, but the questions of rank and promotion, and their close association with discipline and the maintenance of army organisation as a whole, are sadly befogged by a mass of details—details which go to reveal the existence of a lack of professional acumen, a not surprising deficiency in uniformity of professional opinion, and various other matters for which responsibility can scarcely be fixed upon the Army Medical Service.

In the face of the fact that the nation is discussing and considering State Medical Service, with officials, and regulations, and, let us hope, discipline, it is scarcely fair to ask whether the Army Medical Service is ever appealed to for professional guidance by the non-military side of the profession.

One might say much more, one might express opinions as to whether the introduction of civilian specialists in the various branches of medicine and surgery, with their very natural tendency to magnify their particular office, was an asset of indubitable military value—whether it did not tend to put research and therapeutics before the Art of War—or again, how the sense of perspective in regard to the various functions of a medical officer has been lost—but space forbids.

The book will be read with interest and advantage by the Service, but the vision of the future for the officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps will be that of an intelligent extension and consolidation of the pre-war organisation, with the main objective of maintaining its position as an integral and vital part of the British Army, and “their reward shall be a betterment of the Service in the interests of the nation, in the interests of its officers, and, indeed, in the interests of the Science of Medicine.”

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*United States Army X-ray Manual.* Authorised by the Surgeon-General of the Army. Pp. 506. With 219 Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1919. Price 18s. net.

This manual is primarily designed as a guide to radiologists working in U.S. military hospitals.

The first quarter of the manual is devoted to X-ray physics.
Fundamental principles are briefly but clearly explained, and the notes on the physical aspects of the apparatus employed are likely to be useful to the student of radiology, whether military or civilian. The general technique described is founded on the use of the Coolidge tube and X-ray transformer, as such apparatus forms part of the standard U.S. Army X-ray outfit. A section of eighty pages is devoted to localisation of foreign bodies. Fluoroscopic methods are preferred, and little reference is made to the stereoscope.

Under the heading of "Bones and Joints" there is much useful information, particularly some remarks on examination of the spine and abnormalities of the spine. Considerable attention is given to the differentiation of appearances presented by plates of various tumours of the long bones and also of various forms of arthritis. Separate sections are devoted to "Sinuses and Mastoids," "Thoracic Viscera," and "Gastro-Intestinal Tract." The manual is a convenient size, is well printed and the illustrations are good.

A Treatise on Orthopaedic Surgery. By Royal Whitman, M.D., M.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. Sixth Edition. Pp. 914. With 767 Illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1919. Price 36s. net.

Though for many years orthopaedic surgery has been gaining a more prominent place in general surgery, at no time has it received such an impetus as during the recent war. The numerous deformities due to bone and joint injuries, nerve lesions, and muscle destruction caused by warfare, have stimulated anew the study of this subject. The works of pioneers, such as Owen Thomas, have been read again, and the experience of civil practice reviewed with the object of finding solutions to the many difficult problems now presented. The revised edition of Royal Whitman’s text-book, a book which has for many years been regarded as a standard work on orthopaedic surgery, is therefore specially opportune.

The treatise is primarily written for general practitioners. The various conditions are dealt with according to their relative frequency and importance. Thus, such subjects as Pott’s disease, tuberculous arthritis of the hip, knee, and elbow, and congenital and acquired deformities of the foot are considered in great detail. Particular attention is paid to early symptoms and prophylaxis. Rarer deformities are more briefly dealt with.

A special feature of the sixth edition is the addition of a chapter on military orthopaedics. A short account is given of the more important appliances used in the treatment of fractures, the methods of bone grafting, nerve suture, and nerve transposition and of Vanghetti’s
kineplastic amputations. Though not so authoritative nor so free from error as other chapters, it is nevertheless a useful epitome of orthopaedic surgery as applied in the recent war.

The book is amply illustrated. Throughout the subject is presented in a clear and comprehensive manner. This is a treatise that can be confidently recommended to practitioners and students either as a work of reference or for general perusal.

**Heart: Past and Present.** By Edgar Lea, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 300. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1919. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The first part of this book contains a brief historical sketch in which the contribution made to our present knowledge by the physiologist, the pathologist, and the clinician is examined with a view to finding a clue to paths of advance in the future. The second part deals with the present state of cardiology. The view emphasised is that, at present, the best guide to a just estimate of cardiac efficiency is to be found in a study of the patient's subjective symptoms, and that the import of the objective signs is to be judged in the light of these subjective phenomena. Certain syndromes combining subjective and objective evidence are suggested for recognition as clinical entities with the object of putting the study of symptomatology upon a sounder basis and furnishing more reliable indications for a rational prognosis. This is a thoughtful and suggestive study welcome to all who have at heart the future of this branch of medicine.

**The Nervous Heart.** By R. M. Wilson and J. H. Carroll. Pp. 136. With 55 Figures. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1919. Price 6s. net.

In this interesting study of functional heart disease the importance of the nervous mechanisms controlling the circulation is rightly insisted upon. Dominance of vagus depressor action tends to the accumulation of the blood in the abdomen, skin, and lungs. Dominance of sympathetic pressor action tends to constrict these vascular areas with consequent distribution of the blood to the muscles and to the brain. Adequate sympathetic response to the opposing vagus action is thus a necessity for efficient action, muscular or mental. In cases of "functional heart disease" the vagus depressor mechanism is rendered hyperexcitable by toxic action, and to compensate for this the sympathetic system becomes over-active also. In this way is explained the thyroid enlargement seen in some of these cases, and, as the authors have found that administration of thyroid extract instead of aggravating the symptoms tends to relieve them, their interpretation seems
justified. Originally concerned with cases of trench fever, the authors have found similar hyperexcitability of the nervous circulatory mechanisms in other conditions, including rheumatism and rheumatoid arthritis.

It is to such intelligent clinical observation and deduction as is displayed in this work that we may confidently look for further advances in our knowledge of a very complex subject.

*Practical Vaccine Treatment for the General Practitioner.* By R. W. Allen, M.A., M.D., B.S., late Captain N.Z.M.C. Pp. xii + 308. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. Price 7s. 6d. net.

Dr. Allen's pioneer work in the domain of vaccine therapy is already well known and justly esteemed. His most important contribution has probably been his advocacy of the practical value of focal reactions as a guide to dosage. It may be said that, on the whole, this book fulfils its purpose of a guide to the general practitioner, but it is certainly less complete than it purports to be. The author rather unfortunately gives the impression that he regards therapeutic immunisation as an applied science that has nearly reached its full development, whereas it is really still in its infancy. He does not deal with the methods of bacteriological analysis, but refers to the subject in such a way that many will be led to believe that the making of an analysis of this kind is a simple matter, whereas, if information sufficiently complete to be of real value is to be obtained, it is generally a most laborious and time-absorbing task. The doctor is frequently advised to have an autogenous vaccine made, without due regard to the facts that he himself has neither the time nor the special training necessary, and that laboratories of the kind required can hardly be said to exist, or are at least ridiculously few in number, or too far away. The practitioner will be left with the feeling that he must depend upon stock vaccines, and it cannot be said that the book gives him adequate advice as to the limits within which their use is legitimate. The reader will nevertheless find it a mine of authoritative and helpful information that is sure to impress him with the growing importance of therapeutic immunisation.

*The Nervous Child.* By Hector Charles Cameron, M.D. Pp. viii + 202. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1919. Price 6s. net.

This is a most refreshing and suggestive little book. We all know now, unfortunately, how much neurosis and hysteria was manufactured by treatment in military hospitals and convalescent homes—by the application of supports to functional palsies, by excessive
sympathy, and by exhaustive clinical examination; we also know, in a general way, that the children of sensible mothers are usually healthier and freer from minor ailments than those whose mothers are highly strung and excitable, but the application of this knowledge is not so common. Here Dr. Cameron tells us how it should be used, and in doing so has made a useful contribution to preventive medicine. His thesis, roughly, is that if an infant or young child is fussled over—if undue stress is paid to any passing functional abnormality,—the subject’s attention will be fixed on it, and it will tend to be perpetuated. If, on the other hand, a “don’t care” frame of mind be adopted, the child will in all probability not form a habit of what is in essence merely a transitory disturbance or a whim. Dr. Cameron is a close observer of children, and understands their psychology, and his remarks on “negativism” and on suggestibility are very much to the point. Among the specific neuroses dealt are enuresis, insomnia, capricious appetite, anorexia, tics and habits, phobias. There is also a sensible chapter on sex instruction, and a short, and, as the reviewer thinks, rather inadequate reference to the views of Freud.

As a contribution to the psycho-therapeutics of infancy and childhood the book will be found most valuable; it is intended for medical men, but it seems to us one from which an intelligent mother might get very many useful hints. Dr. Cameron is most heartily to be congratulated on this little book.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

BASU, D. B. Diabetes and its Dietetic Treatment. Tenth Edition (The Panini Office, Allahabad) Rs. 1.8

BAYLESS, W. M. An Introduction to General Physiology (Longmans, Green & Co.) 7s. 6d.

BAYLESS, W. M. The Nature of Enzyme Action. Fourth Edition (Longmans, Green & Co.) 7s. 6d.

BLYTHE, ESTELLE. Way of Healing (W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd.) 2s. 6d.

CROWTHER, J. A. A Manual of Physics (Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton) 16s.

DENCHE, E. BRADFORD. Diseases of the Ear. Fifth Edition (D. Appleton & Co.) 30s.

DIGBY, KENELMI H. Immunity in Health (Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton) 8s. 6d.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CALENDAR, 1919-20 (James Thin) —

HALLIBURTON, W. D. The Essentials of Chemical Physiology (Longmans, Green & Co.) 7s. 6d.

HUTCHINSON, J. Facial Neuralgia and Its Treatment. Second Edition (John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd.) 15s.

KRAEPFELIN, PROF. Translated by MARY BARCLAY. Dementia Praecox and Paraphrenia (E. & S. Livingstone) 15s.

MILLS, G. PERCIVAL, and HUMPHREY HUMPHREYS. A Text-Book of Surgery for Dental Students (Edward Arnold) 14s.

MORRIS, E. J. McCARTHY. Motionism or The World’s True Religion (The Caxton Press, Ltd.) 5s.

REPORT of a Committee of Enquiry Regarding the Prevalence of Pellagra among Turkish Prisoners of War —

STODDART, W. H. B. Mind and Its Disorders. Third Edition (H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd.) —

TURNER, PHILIP. Inguinal Hernia (J. & A. Churchill) 9s. 6d.

WALLACE, C. EDWARD. An Atlas of Dental Extractions. Second Edition (J. & A. Churchill) 5s.