Dr. Service called the attention of the Society to Section XV of the proposed Glasgow Provisional Order, 1906-1907, in which the duty of informing the Medical Officer of Health of every birth occurring in the city is, among others, placed on the medical man attending at the birth. He thought that if such duty were imposed, it ought to be remunerated.

Dr. Malcolm Black spoke of the indefiniteness of the Order, as to whether the notification applied to a full-time living child, stillborn child, premature child, or immature child.

Dr. Service, Dr. Malcolm Black, and others were elected to form a committee, with powers to look into the matter and to confer with the Medical Officer of Health.

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**REVIEWS.**

_Surgical Pathology and Treatment of Diseases of the Ear._ By Blake and Risk. New York and London: Appleton & Co. 1906.

_Chronic Suppuration of the Middle Ear and Mastoid._ By Seymour Oppenheimier, M.D. London: Rebman, Limited. 1906.

_Otitis Media der Säuglinge (Otitis Media of Infants)._ By Dr. Hermann Preysing. Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann. 1904. (Glasgow Agent: F. Bauermeister, 49 Gordon Street).

Three new books have recently been added to the library of the aural surgeon:—

1. _Surgical Pathology and Treatment of Diseases of the Ear_, by Blake and Risk.—American books are too often well-illustrated compilations. This is a record of personal experience. It is essentially a surgical treatise, the aural affections for which operation is unnecessary being in many cases hardly even hinted at. The surgical anatomy is briefly but carefully given. Aseptic technique is treated in a separate chapter, and is treated so fully that the separate references to it in subsequent chapters—references sometimes of considerable length—might well have been omitted. The chapter on inflammation of the middle ear is well written, and the indications
for surgical interference clearly stated. A great part of the book is occupied by the mastoid operation. This is, so far as the bone operation goes, well and carefully described; but the management of the soft parts is too briefly considered. The authors use the chisel for the hard parts of the bone, and gouges and sharp spoons for the softer parts. The drill seems not to be used. Blood-clot dressing is recommended in the management of the wound, but its failure is acknowledged to be frequent. Grafting by Thiersch’s method, through the external auditory canal, is recommended, and packing by means of counted rolled gauze pellets is used instead of tape or a drainage-tube. Ligation of the jugular vein is fully described, and intracranial complications are briefly treated of. A chapter on post-nasal adenoids brings the book proper to a close, but there is a rather long appendix of eight headings. The book is well written, well illustrated, and has the ring of a personal experience.

2. The second work is *Chronic Suppuration of the Middle Ear and Mastoid*, by Oppenheimer.—This is a large, well-illustrated volume, like the last from an American author, but lacking the clearness of style and ring of personal experience of the work of Blake and Risk. The English is often execrable. The sentences are too long, and the meaning conveyed nebulous. Here is an example—“The essentials for successful results in ossiculectomy depend of necessity upon many factors, and while it is necessary on general principles to perfect thorough cleanliness with perfect drainage, and the removal of all diseased tissue as far as possible from the tympanic cavity, yet the careful selection of cases in which, as far as can be determined, the suppuration is limited to the ossicular chain or its immediate vicinity, or cases in which the presence of marked cholesteatoma can be excluded is requisite.” The next sentence is even longer and hardly less obscure. There is so much of this kind of writing throughout the book that its meaning is often difficult to discern. The book is divided in two parts. Part I deals with operations through the external auditory canal; Part II with operations upon the mastoid process.

There is nothing new or very notable in the first part of the book. Some of the pictures of the anatomical preparations are good, but many of the operations are represented by enlarged schematic drawings, and are of little help in practical aural surgery. There is too much reiteration in the descriptions of the surgical procedures, and whilst one has
to admit the importance of the subject being discussed, clear-
ness is often blurred by a too lengthened statement.

The second part of the book—that on the mastoid operation —is better than the first. The style is much better, the
descriptions clearer, and the illustrations, though almost
exclusively schematic, are much more helpful than those in
Part I.

The various bone operations on the mastoid process are well
described, and the various flap operations on the soft tissue
are carefully detailed. Those who depend during operation
on measurements for their guidance in avoiding the facial
nerve and sigmoid sinus will find plenty of them in this
volume. One of the most useful chapters in the book is the
last—on the after-treatment of mastoid operations.

3. The third volume to be noticed is an account of a
bacteriological and pathological investigation into the causes
of otitis media in infants. One hundred non-selected cases
of middle-ear disease were taken in succession as they came
to post-mortem examination, the ages of the children ranging
from 1 day to 3 years, the average age being about 7 months.
Clinically, the causes of death were various, but diseases of
the stomach and bowels accounted for 44 cases, and tuberculosis
(mostly miliary) for 19 cases. Meningitis is given as the cause
in only three cases, and sigmoid sinus thrombosis in one case.
Altogether 154 ears were found to have purulent, mucous, or
serous contents. The reason for the apparently large percentage
of tuberculous cases is that the last 15 of the 100 cases were
chosen with a view to determining the rôle of the tubercle
bacillus in the production of middle-ear disease.

The author finds that the pneumococcus is present in 92½
per cent of the diseased ears, being a pure infection in 96 of
the 154 ears, and a mixed infection in 16 others; whilst 33 of
the 154 ears were "sterile." He comments on the large
percentage of "sterile" ears, and explains this by the fact
that histologically most of such ears showed evidences of
"resorption," while of the remainder some were in the earlier
stages of inflammation of the mucous membrane, and others
were newly-born children whose inflamed ears were filled with
liquor amnii.

Of the 19 tuberculous deaths, only 2 were found to show
undoubted evidence of the ear disease being due to tubercle;
miliary tubercles, with the central softening and typical giant
cells, being found in the periosteal and submucous layers. No
tubercle bacilli were found in any, and the middle-ear disease
seemed to be a pneumococcus infection primarily in the great majority of these cases.

In view of the results of the investigation he discusses the connection between ear and lung diseases, and comes to the conclusion that both the ear disease and the lung disease are the results of an infection of pneumococci from the upper-air passages—a preceding coryza being always noticed. In the case of the deaths from gastro-intestinal troubles, Preysing's observations point to the conclusion that there is a predisposition to middle-ear disease, and coryza of the upper air-passages. On the other hand, he states that in cases of robust children the rise and fall of the malnutrition correspond so closely with the progress of the ear affection that the latter must be regarded as supplying the toxines which gave rise to the succeeding attacks of gastro-intestinal disturbance, although the latter may be the cause of death.

The last part of the book is occupied by a series of forty plates of micro-photographs of sections, showing the middle ear during the progress of inflammation. The book is a record of careful work, and a valuable contribution to the bacteriology and pathology of ear disease.

Polypus of the Nose. By Eugene S. Yonge, M.D.Edin. Manchester: Sherratt & Hughes. 1906.

In this book, which is written, let us say, with that grace and style which we might have expected from a member of a literary family, the author advances his views as to the causation of nasal polypi. After an interesting historical survey, he discusses the various theories commonly held as to the origin of these growths. Rightly dismissing the old idea which looked upon them as of the nature of myxoma, he examines in detail the two theories associated respectively with the names of Grünwald and Lack. The former gives sinus suppuration as the fons et origo mali, while the latter has resuscitated the dry necrosis theory of Woakes to explain their presence. Both look upon the essential nature of the condition as being one of oedema of the mucous membrane.

Yonge's theory—and he backs it up with strong clinical and experimental evidence—is that the centre of gravity, so to speak, is the glandular element in the mucosa. As a result of inflammation the ducts of these glands become more or less blocked, the glands themselves become more active, and the result is dilatation. The author does not deny the association
of polypi with suppuration in the accessory sinuses in many cases, or with thinning of the walls of these cavities, of the ethmoidal cells especially (so-called dry necrosis), without suppuration in others.

The treatment is carefully described and, quite in conformity with modern views, the necessity for much more radical measures in most cases is insisted on.

The illustrations are sufficient and well executed, there is a full bibliography, and the printing and paper are good. Altogether the book is all that a brochure should be, so that it makes both pleasant and instructive reading, and we recommend it with pleasure and confidence to those interested in the subject.

The Illustrated Medical Dictionary, a New and Complete Dictionary of the Terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, and the kindred branches, with their Pronunciations, Derivations, and Definitions, including much collateral information of an encyclopedic character. By W. A. Newman Dorland, A.M., M.D. Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1906.

This admirable dictionary has been remarkably successful. Including reprints as well as fresh editions, it has been issued ten times within six years. The third edition was favourably noticed in these pages some time ago, and during the interval which has elapsed since then the author has been busy revising and adding to the work. Over 2,000 new words have been defined, most of the tables have been amplified, and six new coloured plates have been added. This dictionary well deserves the popularity it has attained.

Heath's Manual of Minor Surgery and Bandaging, for the Use of House Surgeons, Dressers, and Junior Practitioners. Thirteenth Edition. Revised by Bilton Pollard, F.R.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1906.

The fact mentioned on the title-page that this is the thirteenth edition is in itself a testimonial to this well-known little book. A reference to the contents explains the widespread popularity of the work. Such popularity is well deserved, and we consider that this Manual will be of use even to senior
practitioners. The type and illustrations both are good, and the external appearance of the volume is a fitting tribute by the publishers to the excellence of its contents.

Consumption: Treatment at Home and Rules for Living.
By H. Warren Crowe, M.D. Bristol: John Wright & Co. 1906.

This little book is intended for practitioners to give their patients, and it conveys many valuable hints as to combating tuberculosis. The rules laid down are clear, and the language used will be found suitable for the lay mind. The tone of the book is bright, and the author briefly inculcates the principles of open-air life, diet, the rest-cure, exercise, and disinfection, and points out how it is possible to carry out sanatorium treatment at home; and this, alone, we regard as a distinct contribution to the anti-tubercular crusade.

The Hygiene of Mind. By T. S. Clouston, M.D., F.R.S.E.
With 10 Illustrations. London: Methuen & Co. 1906.

Those who are familiar with Dr. Clouston’s earlier writings will take up this book with the most agreeable anticipations, and these will not be disappointed when the perusal is begun. The work is designed for the lay public rather than for the medical profession, but the medical reviewer, already well versed in Dr. Clouston’s teaching, and proposing at the outset simply to give a rapid glance through the work, to note its principal contents, and the mode in which the subject is treated, finds it impossible to carry out this plan. The language and style are so fascinating, and the subject is presented in a form so attractive, that the reader cannot stop where and when he wishes. Beginning with a chapter which touches on the problem before him, the author proceeds to describe the “mind machinery” in the brain, and “how the brain mechanism works in regard to mind.” The general principles, essentials, and ideals of mental hygiene next come under review, and thereafter the questions of heredity, temperament and social instincts. Next we have a very important chapter on the connection of mind, morals, and will with brain, and this is followed by chapters on the emotions, bodily disease, manners, play, work, and fatigue. The different periods of life are studied in a series of six chapters, which
are followed by four others on special sex questions; on the mental hygiene of alcohol, tobacco, and other brain stimulants and sedatives; on the counteractive effects of mental hygiene; on the mental tendency to degeneration in our modern and city life; and on hygienic knowledge and physiological charity.

Dr. Clouston has performed his allotted task in a truly admirable manner. We know of no safer or saner counsellor in such a subject as mental hygiene, and we heartily recommend this work to all who take a genuine interest in the rearing of a sound imperial race for our Empire.

Minor Maladies and Their Treatment. By Leonard Williams, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1906.

The matter, form, and style of this work are peculiar to its origin in the lectures to graduates delivered by the author at the Medical Graduates’ College and Polyclinic: The book is none the less useful on that account; its value is rather enhanced by the personal character of the observations and the evidences of mature consideration founded on experience. We find no stereotyped classification of diseases and their symptoms in the manner of a text-book, nor a monologue tinctured by a particular bias, but a reliable guide to the elucidation of the commoner diseases from the practitioner’s point of view. In five chapters—entitled successively Coughs, colds, and sore throats; Indigestion; Constipation, diarrhoea, vomiting, and giddiness; Rheumatism, neuralgia, headache; Goutiness—the author discusses these conditions and symptoms, their causes and their treatment. In every case he gives a reason for his opinion, and, while quoting the opinions of others, he is careful and explicit in narrating the results of his own experience. Believing in the bacterial origin of colds, for example, he does not discuss the recent researches as to the identity of the particular micro-organisms, but he advocates measures well calculated to limit their effects. The conflicting views on the origin of gout are briefly stated, and a commonsense view of the situation is given, together with a thoroughly practical exposition of the condition, its recognition and treatment. Avowedly conservative in the use of new drugs, Dr. Williams is evidently familiar with the current literature of his subjects. He accepts Professor Stockman’s classification of “rheumatism,” and his discussion
of arterial high tension is well worth careful study. The chapters on "Change of Air" and "General Health" are written in a similar strain; that on "Some Drugs and Their Uses," though somewhat redundant, is essentially practical; and the last chapter, on "Insanity," inculcates an attitude, and an excellence of procedure, which, if attained and practised, would eliminate most of the difficulties of certification. There are some omissions, such as are apt to occur in a first edition. Cerebral vomiting is mentioned on page 100, but the character of the emesis is not described. The use of atropine, in order to determine or eliminate eyestrain as a cause of headache, has escaped notice (pp. 102, 143). The statement on page 119, line 18, that "arthritis is never accompanied by fever," . . . is more definite than correct. Phenazone is written "phenozone" in the last line of page 133; and in the instructions as to the use of urotropin the advisability of copious dilution is omitted. Notwithstanding these, and slips like "fundus oculi" for fundi oculorum (p. 100), this volume will bê of very great value to the young practitioner, and its perusal will stimulate and refresh the minds of most experienced medical men. A very complete index of about 40 pages permits of easy reference. The type is clear and well set on good paper.

Equanimitas, with other Addresses to Medical Students, Nurses, and Practitioners of Medicine. By WILLIAM OSLER, M.D., F.R.S. Second Edition, with Three Additional Addresses. London: H. K. Lewis. 1906.

The Growth of Truth, as Illustrated in the Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood, being the Harveian Oration delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, London, 18th October, 1906. By WILLIAM OSLER, M.D., F.R.S. London: Henry Frowde. 1906.

This volume of addresses was first published in October, 1904, and twice reprinted in 1905. Its success, therefore, was assured long ago, and we should say that rarely does a book of the kind deserve popularity as this one does. Apart altogether from his distinction as a physician, Professor Osler might well claim, on the strength of these essays, to rank as one of the foremost men of culture of our time. It is not easy in a few lines to do justice to the beauty of language, the wide reading in the best books, the goodness of heart, the intellectual power and training, and the capacity for work
which are revealed in these pages, but we would urge every medical practitioner or student who has not already read these addresses to get them forthwith and read them. The three which have been added to the new (1906) edition include the famous one entitled "The Fixed Period," which, being misinterpreted, gave rise at first to a good deal of comment in the press. The second is on "The Student Life," and the third is entitled "Unity, Peace, and Concord." In the closing chapter, "L'Envoi," we have a humorous account, among other things, of the way in which Dr. Osler proved his fitness for the Chair of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. On the last page we have the author's "Bedside Library for Medical Students."

The Harveian oration on the "Growth of Truth" appeared in the medical press some time ago, so that any detailed notice of this new work is unnecessary. The difficulty of saying anything fresh on such an occasion as the constantly recurring Harveian oration is immense, and yet we may safely appeal to any reader of this address if Professor Osler has not overcome that difficulty in a truly brilliant fashion.

ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

SURGERY.

By ARCH. YOUNG, M.B., C.M., B.Sc.

Bone Cysts. By George P. Müller, M.D. (Univ. of Penn. Med. Bulletin, September, 1906).—This paper classifies all the forms of cysts met with in bone, with the exception of those cysts of the jaw associated with defective development of one or more parts of the tooth-germ.

Cysts of the long bones particularly, also of the short long bones, are known to occur—(1) From parasites (echinococcus, &c.; (2) in osteomalacia; (3) in arthritis deformans—from softening of an inflammatory area of bone near a joint; (4) as a cystic degeneration of the entire skeleton of unknown origin; (5) from softening in solid tumours (sarcoma, enchondroma, myxoma, &c.); (6) as simple benign cysts, due to softening of a rest of embryonic cartilage, or from softening of an inflammatory or haemorrhagic focus.

1. Hydatid cysts may resemble benign cysts clinically; they occur in cancellous tissue; they are uncommon; even in hydatid disease the bones are affected in only 3:5 per cent.

2. In osteomalacia the cystic formation is due to rarefying osteitis. It may be evident if x-rays are employed, or perhaps only upon fracture or bending of the bone taking place.

3. The cysts occurring in arthritis deformans, described by Ziegler and others,