NEW BOOKS

Synopsis of Allergy. By H. L. Alexander, A.B., M.D. Pp. 246, with 20 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1942. Price 15s. net.

As a disease-producing mechanism allergy is assuming an ever greater importance in medicine. Everyone will admit the allergic character of asthma, hay fever and urticaria, but the immunologists find evidence of this mechanism in many other disorders such as migraine and various gastro-intestinal disturbances, although the proof of such association is not yet absolute.

The author, who is editor of The Journal of Allergy, is well qualified to deal with this subject. After giving a short account of the history, he discusses the physiological and pathological principles involved, the methods of diagnosis and of treatment. Chapters are devoted to asthma, hay fever and atopic rhinitis, and shorter accounts are given of other conditions believed to be allergic. A large number of valuable tables and many useful recipes for elimination diets are included. The facts are clearly presented and the most generally accepted viewpoints are given, but where doubt exists the author gives his own interpretation.

This little book gives a useful summary of present-day knowledge of this interesting subject.

Minor Medicine. Edited by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Alan A. Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P.
Pp. 223. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode. 1942. Price 16s.

Minor Medicine is a well-written and concise addition to the Practitioner series of handbooks, and is devoted to the treatment of minor medical maladies. Edited by Sir Humphry Rolleston and Alan Moncrieff, the book contains articles by men of standing.

The drugs mentioned are not entirely available on a war-time basis, and this is a fault of the book.

The space given to treatment of "The Common Cold" seems rather wasted. Recent work on the epidemiology of this condition suggests that immunity is very short-lived, and it does not seem likely that injections of vaccines are of the slightest prophylactic use. The routine exhibition of digitalis in influenzal pneumonia is of unproven value, and many would not agree with the author in advising it. We feel that more stress should be laid on sputum tests in the section on the management of bronchitis. The description of a test for migraine involving injection of the Gasserian ganglion hardly comes into the scope of minor medicine.

These are minor criticisms. The work is an excellent production, full of sound and practical advice.
New Books

Preventive Inoculation. By W. Powell Phillips and C. Woodroffe Anderson. Pp. 74. London: The Practitioner and Eyre & Spottiswoode. 1942. Price 6s. net.

This "Practitioner Booklet" is written to assist and encourage the general practitioner to play a fuller part in preventive medicine. It opens with a short exposition of infection and immunity and the application of the principles of immunity in prophylaxis, and then describes in detail the simple apparatus required, the technique of the injections, precautions to be observed, and results.

Immunisation against diphtheria claims greatest detail, but inoculations against scarlet fever, tetanus, enteric, and some other infective conditions are also dealt with.

It is a pity that vaccination against smallpox was purposely omitted. There are still conflicting views about technique and sequelae which might usefully have been discussed.

The booklet is clearly written, up to date and accurate, and can be recommended to the practitioner.

Fractures and Dislocations. Edited by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Alan Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 104, with 25 illustrations. London: The Practitioner, in conjunction with Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1943. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This book consists substantially of the articles which appeared in The Practitioner's symposium on "Fractures and Dislocations," with the addition of articles on "Head Injuries" and "Spinal Injuries." The articles have been revised and in some cases rewritten, and they have been published to provide practitioners with a modern opinion on the subjects in an easily readable form. The principles and practices advocated will meet with general acceptance, though it is questionable whether active movement, after dislocation of the shoulder, should be encouraged as soon as possible, and in Volkmann's Ischaemia, following a contusion of the brachial artery, the stripping or excision of the artery is worthy of consideration. The value of the book has been greatly enhanced by the provision of a very carefully prepared index.

Regional Analgesia for Intra-Abdominal Surgery. By Norman R. James, L.R.C.P. & S. (Ed.), D.A. Pp. 54, with 27 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1943. Price 6s.

A technique of regional anaesthesia for major abdominal procedures is described, which embodies bilateral thoracic nerve and splanchnic block with amethocaine hydrochloride. The advantages claimed for the method include excellent relaxation for major surgery, lasting three hours, a minimum of disturbance to the patient during and after operation, and adaptability to service or casualty conditions. The
preliminary dosage of Omnopon suggested, e.g. gr. $\frac{1}{3}$ intravenously for a young adult male, might account for the tranquillity of the patient. Doubtless, practice would reduce the time required for the method, which seems more suited to Hospital than to Service conditions.

The Surgery of Pancreatic Tumours. By Alexander Brunschwig, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 421, with 1 plate and 123 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1942. Price 37s. 6d. net.

In the preface Professor Brunschwig states that the book has been written to "deal with relatively few facts in a newly developing field and to serve to stimulate further work in this field." In both of these purposes he has been signally successful. The volume is well planned. It includes adequate historical and anatomical surveys, and a chapter on the physiology of the pancreas which is the more fascinating as an additional record of the illumination of problems of pancreatic physiology in man as a result of the last fifteen years' progress in the surgery of the organ; for example, in this period more than 100 islet-cell adenomas have been subjected to operation. Progress in other directions has been less dramatic; but the author has collected and analysed the various operative procedures employed for carcinoma, and notes the fair measure of success achieved in cases of the ampullary type, although the possibility of dealing radically with carcinoma of the head of pancreas must await, or indeed may carry with it, the determination of the necessity for special measures to secure indefinite survival. The book is well illustrated by both photographs and line drawings; it has an extensive and so far as can be judged complete bibliography; and is therefore likely to become a standard work of reference as well as to rank as an attractive presentation of a chapter of surgical physiology.

NEW EDITIONS

Text Book of Medicine. Sixth Edition. Edited by J. J. Conybeare, D.M. Oxon., F.R.C.P. Pp. xx+1147, with 51 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1942. Price 28s. net.

The sixth edition of this well-known textbook retains the high standards of its predecessors. Much new material has been added and several sections have been rewritten, but discrimination has been used in presenting recent advances so that the essential facts are clear and concise.

In rewriting the tropical diseases, Wing-Commander F. E. Lipscombe has provided an excellent synopsis for students, while a topical note has been given to the thoroughly revised section on respiratory diseases by the addition of a chapter on chest wounds. The second on blood diseases,