NEW BOOKS

**Iodine Metabolism and Thyroid Function.** By A. W. Elmer. Pp. xviii + 605. London: Oxford University Press, Humphrey Milford. 1938. Price 30s.

The original work of the author was recently published by the Polish Academy of Science, and the volume under review is the English translation, revised and enlarged.

The aim of the author has been to review the evidence and examine critically the hypotheses that form the basis of our present knowledge of iodine metabolism.

The book is divided into four chapters: the first is devoted to a historical review, the second to methods of estimating iodine, the third and fourth to the physiology and pathology of iodine metabolism, respectively.

The author discusses at length the relative values of numerous methods of iodine determination and lays great stress on the difficulties of micro-chemical methods used in biological work. By exposing fallacies and inconsistencies, and separating established from presumptive evidence, tenable from untenable hypotheses, he points to the gaps in our knowledge and suggests new lines of investigation. Unfortunately, the text is marred by numerous misprints and the quality of the paper is inferior to that of the usual Oxford medical publications: but the book was printed in Poland.

**Anus, Rectum, Sigmoid Colon: Diagnosis and Treatment.** By Harry Ellicott Bacon. Pp. 855, with 486 illustrations. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1938. Price 38s.

This book aims at being a complete text-book of proctology and also includes diseases of the distal colon. It is admirably illustrated and its compilation must have required a very great deal of hard work, but, in the reviewer’s opinion, it is disappointing in one serious respect. The author has made the mistake of trying to make it too comprehensive. This may be illustrated by the section on the operative treatment of carcinoma of the rectum, which occupies some seventy pages and no fewer than fourteen methods are described, but there is no very clear indication as to which method is recommended in a given type of case. Incidentally, the description of some of the methods is not sufficiently detailed to be of much help to the operating surgeon. Similarly, a choice is given of ten different formulae of solutions for the injection of haemorrhoids.

We feel that the value of this work would be greatly increased in future editions if the author limited himself to methods of treatment
which he had personally found useful and made use of the space which would be gained by elaborating the operative methods described and giving more space to pathological descriptions.

*Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear.* By W. WALLACE MORRISON, M.D. Pp. 675, with 333 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1938. Price 25s.

Professor Morrison has produced a well-written, concise, and up-to-date text-book for the student and practitioner. In its construction the book is very similar to the well-known Edinburgh text-book edited by Dr Logan Turner, but more space is devoted to diseases of the nose and paranasal sinuses and rather less to diseases of the ear. The practical rather than the theoretical aspects of the specialty are stressed and only the modern methods of treatment are given. There is an excellent chapter on allergic diseases of the respiratory tract and, in the section on diseases of the pharynx, a page is devoted to sulphanilamide treatment. The book is profusely illustrated with line drawings by the author himself, but, while many of these are excellent, others are of little use.

*Minor Medical Operations.* By KENNETH HARRIS, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and EDITH HARRIS, M.B., C.S., D.P.H. Pp. x+198, with 41 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1938. Price 7s. 6d.

In this book the authors have collected together and accurately described all the minor operative procedures falling within the scope of a general physician. Each operation or method of investigation is dealt with systematically under the following headings:—indications, apparatus required, position of patient, technique, and difficulties and complications. Another useful feature is the inclusion of a section on the general care and nursing of the patient, which contains many useful practical tips. This book may be thoroughly recommended to senior students and junior graduates.

*Research and Statistical Methodology Books and Reviews, 1933-1938.* Edited by OSCAR KRISEN BUROS. Pp. vi+100. New Brunswick: N. J. Rutgers University Press. 1938. Price $1.25.

This consists of a classified list of books on statistics, both applied and theoretical, with a sprinkling of more philosophical titles. In nearly every instance the title is followed by a selection of abstracts of reviews from reputable journals and by competent critics. The avowed object is to provide the beginner in statistics and his teacher with help in the selection of text-books. The volume should be very useful to teachers and librarians.
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Exercises in the Bath. By T. R. Togna. Pp. xi+123, with 55 illustrations. Introduction by Sir Leonard Hill, M.B., F.R.S., LL.D. London: Putman. 1938. Price 5s.

The importance of under-water movements in the therapeutic pool has been recognised and practised for some time. In this short book the author sets out to supply a series of simple home exercises which can be performed with ease by ordinary men and women and even elderly people. The first part of the book is devoted to a consideration of the different conditions which will benefit from these exercises, particularly rheumatism, obesity and constipation. The second part deals with the exercises themselves. These are described clearly and are fully illustrated. The illustrations suggest that the movements are all performed in a very cramped position and little attention is paid to the important subject of correct posture which is so vital to all medical gymnastics.

Outline of Roentgen Diagnosis. By L. G. Rigler. Pp. vii+226, with 227 illustrations. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1938. Price 30s.

Within the compass of this relatively small book there is presented a brief outline of the whole subject of diagnostic Roentgenology. The author explains in the Preface that the book is merely a basis on which his lectures are presented. It is not intended to be read through as an ordinary book, and indeed it would be almost impossible to do this, for the comments on each lesion are tabulated and presented in the briefest possible form. The information given is reliable. Uncommon lesions are omitted and a bibliography is not included, but a selected list of reference books is given at the end. The atlas is placed at the end of the book and there are no illustrations accompanying the text. This tends to make the reading more difficult. The book will have a limited sphere of usefulness, but should prove of value to the lecturer in preparing his notes and to the student in preparing for his examination.

Practical Proctology. By Louis A. Buie, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. 512, with 151 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company Ltd. Price 30s. net.

This volume deals with all diseases of the rectum and anus, and to some extent with affections of the colon, and is based on the author’s experience in the Department of Proctology at the Mayo Clinic during the years 1925 to 1934. The opening chapter deals with the method of carrying out proctoscopic examinations of various kinds. It is notable for the advocacy of the inverted position, to obtain which a special table is used. There follow excellent chapters on anatomy and on pre- and post-operative care. Anal fissure and
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fistula are fully dealt with, while all types of haemorrhoids and their appropriate treatment receive a full share of space. A thirty-page chapter on pruritus ani does not yield much fresh information on this distressing complaint. Tumours of the rectum and anus receive full consideration, except that no attempt is made to discuss the operative treatment of carcinoma of the rectum—this is not considered within the province of the volume—while all the specific diseases which may affect this part of the bowel are fully and adequately dealt with. The volume is beautifully printed and illustrated.

Attaining Manhood: A Doctor Talks to Boys about Sex. By George W. Corner, M.D. Pp. xi+67, with 15 illustrations. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1938. Price 5s.

This is an excellent little book. It is written by the Professor of Anatomy at the University of Rochester, U.S.A., in a style that is simple, friendly, and unembarrassed, and on a biological basis it traces the natural development of the boy and girl to maturity.

Man against Himself. By Karl A. Menninger. Pp. xii+485. London: George G. Harrap & Co. 1938. Price 15s.

This is a book which should be read by every doctor who proceeds on the na"ive assumption that all his patients necessarily desire to get better, and who finds it difficult to understand why his more neurotic patients should so perversely resist every therapeutic measure devised for their cure. Taking Freud’s insufficiently known theory of “the death instincts” as a basic principle, the author describes the many subtle ways in which self-destructive urges manifest themselves in human affairs. Suicide is, of course, the most obvious manifestation of such urges. In the remaining pages the author proceeds to show how similar motives operate both in such disguised forms of acute self-destruction as “motivated accidents” and in such milder and more chronic forms as neurotic invalidism.

Everyday Surgery. By Lambert Rogers, M.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S., and A. L. d’Abreu, M.B., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. xii+280, with 160 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1938. Price 12s. 6d.

In the short space of 280 pages the authors of this book “attempt to present in a concise form what they regard as the best in modern surgical practice of an everyday, as opposed to an unusual or special character.” They have in large measure been successful, but it is difficult to imagine just what class of reader the presentation is intended for. We were surprised to find no reference to Bennett’s important fracture, and metatarsalgia—surely an everyday complaint—is also omitted. The fracture of the neck of the humerus described
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is very rare and not typical, while the method of reducing the supra-condylar fracture of the humerus, namely, "extension of the forearm and flexion of the lower fragments" is almost incomprehensible. Professor Gray Turner contributes a wise preface, which is perhaps the outstanding feature of the book.

Structural Variations of the Human Iris and their Heredity, with Special Reference to the Frontal Boundary Layer. By Viggo Eskelund. Pp. 224, with 28 illustrations. Copenhagen: Nyt Nordisk Forlag. 1938. Price 21s.

The inspiration of this book was a desire to establish, by detailed study of the architecture of the iris in the living eye, further criteria for decision in cases of debated paternity; and while the author acknowledges that the numbers examined are too small on which to base conclusions, he makes out a good case that the anterior layers of the iris show hereditary characteristics. Verbal description alone of such detail would end in a confusion which is obviated by the ingenious photographic technique which the author uses in producing the excellent illustrations from which his data are compiled. This monograph should be brought to the notice not only of ophthalmologists, but of others also because of its forensic and genetic content.

The Pneumonias. By Hobart A. Reimann, M.D. Pp. 381, with 111 illustrations and coloured frontispiece. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1938. Price 25s. net.

Pneumonia has of recent years been the subject of more intensive study in the United States than in this country, and the present volume gives a succinct account, from the American point of view, of the present status of the subject. As the title suggests, it deals with pneumonia not only of the lobar variety but of all varieties, whether due to the pneumococcus or other infective agent, and whether primary, secondary, or occurring as a specific local manifestation of a systemic disease. The method of arrangement of the subject matter leads to a certain amount of repetition, but the individual sections gain thereby in clarity and completeness. Reference to chemotherapy is necessarily brief and guarded (the Preface to the book is dated September 1938), though the author is obviously aware of the possibilities latent in this method of treatment.

The Measurement of Linkage in Heredity. By K. Mather. Pp. ix+132, with 4 Tables. London: Methuen & Co. 1938. Price 4s. 6d.

There is much more in this well-written little book than might appear from the title. The author has not only dealt with various commonly arising conditions of genetic linkage, but he has also
given an up-to-date and clear account of certain modern statistical techniques which can be turned to good use with many other kinds of data. Those with some knowledge and interest in this subject will find chapters on the planning of experiments and on human heredity, with brief but fully illustrated accounts of much that should be borne in mind when collecting and analysing data. They will also appreciate the author’s analysis of $\chi^2$ and the use of maximum likelihood.

*Medical Practice in Residential Schools.* By F. G. Hobson, D.S.O., D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. xvi+284, with 8 figures. London: Oxford University Press. 1938. Price 10s. 6d.

This volume is welcome because the author has not only a wide experience, but he has also the ability to sift his data and make them available in a readable manner. Although the work will be primarily of interest to those who have to handle school epidemics, it will also be valuable to many others as a reliable guide to the understanding of the less common affections of the young.

*Surgical Treatment of Hypertension.* By George Crile, edited by Amy Rowland. Pp. 239, with 52 illustrations. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1938. Price 18s.

The publications of George Crile have always been interesting and provocative and the present contribution is no exception. The first four chapters are devoted to an account of certain comparative anatomical aspects of the sympathetic nervous system and the author’s conception of the influence of these on the occurrence of essential hypertension. It is surprising that no mention is made of the hypothalamus which has far greater claim to be regarded as presiding over autonomic function. The remainder of the book describes the operative technique and results of a variety of operations in subjects of essential hypertension. Although in many respects this book is highly speculative it must be regarded as a valuable contribution to the knowledge of a vital and extremely intricate problem.

*The Infant: A Handbook of Modern Treatment.* By Eric Pritchard, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xi+744, with 47 illustrations and 4 plates. London: Edwin Arnold & Co. 1938. Price 18s.

Dr Eric Pritchard’s book forms a most interesting and valuable contribution to the literature of pediatrics. Dr Pritchard’s “infant” reaches the age of five years without losing its designation, a state of affairs explained by the fact that five years of age is the upper limit of admission at the London Infant Hospital, where Dr Pritchard was Medical Director for fourteen years. As indicated by the title
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of the book, treatment receives very special attention and this includes prophylaxis. The book is most suited for the graduate. The practitioner specially interested in his babies and young children, the medical officers attached to the children’s hospitals and the keener workers in child welfare clinics will all find up-to-date information and matters of great interest from their various points of view, and will probably use the work more for reference than for reading through. Infant feeding is very fully dealt with. The early addition (from six months onwards) of varied foodstuffs to the first milk dietary of the infant, and also the use of strained broth for addition to milk in the quite early months are among points of interest. Particularly wise, full and original information is given on the mineral requirements and on vitamins, with detailed statements of dosage.

*What Every Young Man should know about War.* By Harold Roland Shapiro. Pp. 135. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1938. Price 3s. 6d.

The information in this book has been drawn from the recorded experiences of those who have experienced the horrors of modern war. It makes shocking reading, but nevertheless it is knowledge which should be realised by everyone.

*Modern Surgical Technic.* By Max Thorek, M.D. With a Foreword by Donald C. Balfour, M.D., LL.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. Three volumes. Pp. 2043, with 2174 figures. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1938. Price £7. 10s. net for three volumes.

Operative technique has not enjoyed the literary attention that has in the last few years been bestowed on the systematic aspects of surgical work. Indeed, it is more or less true that there has been a distinct need for an outstanding work on the operations of surgery. The reviewer turned, therefore, with some anticipation to these expensive and lavishly produced volumes from the pen of Professor Thorek in the hope that, like the same distinguished author’s *Surgical Errors and Safeguards*, they might fill a long-felt want. We must confess that further acquaintance with them has proved disappointing and the work seems to us a monument to the fact that the field of operative surgery has grown so wide that an adequate and balanced interpretation of it is beyond the task even of such competent authorities as the present author.

The three volumes include accounts of General Surgical Technique, Anaesthesia, Abdominal, Thoracic, Genito-urinary, Orthopedic, and Fracture Surgery, as well as Ophthalmic, Gynaecological, and Ear, Nose, and Throat operations. The standard in consequence is varied. In many parts there are simply catalogues of operations, many of

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which are obsolete; and seldom is direction given to the tyro as to which is the old and which the new, or which the good and which the bad. There are striking inclusions in a book which purports to present modern technical procedures—such as removal of the Gasserian ganglion for trigeminal neuralgia. There are also surprising omissions—such as the Smith-Petersen method of nailing the femoral neck, and cardio-omentoplasty. As witness to the general lack of balance, there are nine procedures described for the suspension and plication of a low stomach, while Leriche's effete peri-arterial sympathectomy is put forward with an almost Gallic enthusiasm. There are numerous textual and spelling errors, and two glaring radiological mistakes—a reversed Colles's fracture which masquerades as a true Colles's fracture, and an osteo-chondritis desiccans of the knee which is labelled a "floating cartilage" and described in the text as a displaced epicondyle of the elbow. There is surprisingly little reference to the work of British surgeons, and we imagine that, considering its price and its limitations, it will not become widely popular in this country.

The house of Lippincott has distinguished itself in the matter of production; this indeed is beyond reproach.

*Sir James Cantlie: A Romance in Medicine.* By Neil Cantlie and George Seaver. Pp. xxviii+279, with 10 illustrations. London: John Murray. 1939. Price 10s. 6d.

The reviewer is handicapped by reading the sensitive, but obviously sincere, appreciation that Sir Arthur Keith has contributed as an Introduction to this biography of his life-long friend Sir James Cantlie. Yet it must be admitted that the sketch of Cantlie's life-story as here narrated by his son and Mr George Seaver provides sufficient evidence to justify the enthusiasm of one who had every opportunity by personal contacts of estimating his character and achievements.

The name of Cantlie will always remain identified with the subject of "Ambulance," and in these days when matters of first-aid, V.A.D. and Red Cross activities and the transport of the injured are so much in the public mind the story of his share in initiating, developing, and fostering these various movements will appeal to a wide circle of readers. This record fully justifies the sub-title of the book—"A Romance in Medicine."

*Cancer: Its Diagnosis and Treatment.* By Max Cutler, Franz Buschke, and Simeon T. Cantril. Pp. 757, with 344 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1938. Price 45s.

The opening chapters give a brief outline of the effects and dangers of radiotherapy and the factors governing radiosensitivity. When radiotherapy is used in conjunction with surgery the authors favour
pre-operative irradiation. The value and dangers of biopsy are discussed. The greater part of the book is concerned with the surgical and radiotherapeutic methods of treatment of cancer in the various sites in which it may occur (with the exception of the central nervous system). Statistics drawn from the world literature are presented. There is a useful bibliography and numerous excellent illustrations. This new book should prove helpful to all those engaged in the treatment of cancer.

**Personality Development and Social Control in Terms of Constitution and Culture.** By Ira S. Wile, M.S., M.D. Pp. viii+57. London: Oxford University Press. 1939. Price 3s. 6d.

This booklet comprises three lectures originally delivered at the Tavistock Clinic in July 1937 by an American psychiatrist who, whilst a confirmed protagonist of the sociological approach to problems of mental hygiene, is also convinced that such an approach can only be fruitful in so far as it takes into account the personality of the individual. It is a pity that the exposition of this important theme should suffer from a literary style in which over-condensation of thought is combined with a staccato utterance suggestive of machine-gun fire.

**Diet in General Practice.** By Leslie Cole, M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. Edited by Arnold Sorsby, M.D., F.R.C.S., and Maurice Sorsby, M.D., F.R.C.S. Pocket Monograph Series. Pp. 146. London: John Bale, Sons & Curnow, Ltd. 1939. Price 6s.

This compact little book should prove useful to the general practitioner. The various diseases in which diet has proved helpful are briefly dealt with. The section on gastro-intestinal disorders is particularly good. There is a convincing chapter on the dangers of obesity, showing the evil effects of increasing weight and decreasing activity, with sound advice on dietetic and general treatment. The book is full of sound common sense. The aims of each diet are well set out, and the principles excellently written. The sample diets are disappointing and fall below the standard of the rest of the book.

**Histological Technique for Intracranial Tumours.** By Dorothy S. Russell, M.D. (Lond.). Pp. vi+71, with 6 plates. London, New York, and Toronto: Oxford University Press, Humphrey Milford. 1939. English Price 7s. 6d.

Dr Russell’s book reflects the methods used at the London Hospital. As stated in the preface, the book does not attempt to compete with any of the more exhaustive handbooks of neuropathological technique, but rather to give an adequate and concise amount
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of information regarding proved methods, by which a competent
diagnosis of intracranial tumours may be made. Useful notes are
given on points of technique requiring especial care. The excellent
plates emphasise the great help given by differential staining in
neurohistology. Certain omissions suggest themselves, such as
Anderson’s Victoria Blue for glial fibrils, and the demonstration of
“boxing” in oligodendroglomas by Azan. The length of time in
washing and staining in routine haematoxylin and eosin seems
unnecessary.

The book will supply a reliable, concise, and easily read guide
to general pathology departments, where neuropathology is becoming
of increasing importance.

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Handbook of Sanitary Law for the Use of Candidates for Public
Health Qualifications. By B. Burnett Ham, M.D., D.P.H.
Twelfth Edition. Pp. xxii+356. London: H. K. Lewis & Co.
1938. Price 7s. 6d.

Since the last edition of this book in 1931, legislation relating
to the public health has changed so much that the work has been
almost entirely re-written. Several consolidating statutes have been
passed in the last two years, as well as the Food and Drugs Act of
1938. The author appears to have been highly successful in com-
bining accuracy with conciseness in his reduction of legal phraseology
to a simpler and less complex form. The present edition should
prove as useful as its predecessors to candidates for public health
qualifications.

Bacterial Metabolism. By M. Stephenson, Sc.D. Second Edition.
Pp. xiv+391, with diagrams. London: Longmans, Green &
Co. 1939. Price 21s.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1930 as one of a series
of Monographs on Biochemistry. The second edition is now published
as a text-book, and the great advances in knowledge of bacterial
biochemistry fully justify the new and enlarged form of the book.
In recent years the study of bacterial metabolism has become one of
the most progressive branches of general biochemistry, and no one
could be better qualified as an exponent of this subject than the
author, Dr Stephenson, who has been one of the pioneer workers in
bacterial chemistry. Following a short introductory chapter, the
respiratory processes of the bacterial cell are first dealt with; this
is succeeded by chapters on bacterial polysaccharides, the fermentation

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