THE HOSPITAL:
MEDICAL BOOK SUPPLEMENT.—No. XVIII.

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Surgery.

A Manual of Operative Surgery. By Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., and Jonathan Hutchinson. Vol. I. (London : Cassell and Company. Third Edition. 1909. Price 18s. net.)

Although ostensibly only a new edition, this is to all intents and purposes a new book. Mr. Hutchinson has impressed his personality upon the style and character of the letterpress, has added illustrations—many of them in colour—which greatly enhance the value of the verbal descriptions, and has achieved, we think, his professorial aim to preserve “everything of permanent value in previous editions” and, at the same time, to increase its practical utility. He certainly has adhered to Treves’ original intention of making no attempt at encyclopedic completeness, but no pains have been spared to ransack the literature—at any rate English literature—so as to ensure the inclusion of most advances in technique of proved importance. There is a healthy dogmatism about a good many statements in the text that will induce the holders of other views to examine the foundation of their own surgical beliefs, without offending their susceptibilities. Despite the prominence most properly given to descriptions of modern theatre conditions, and of ceremonial observances in the temple of Aesculapius, there is throughout a noticeable conservatism. It would be out of the question to take the various sections at their face value, and although any surgeon could find something with which to disagree in almost any one of them, it would be over some matter of minor importance or detail. Take for example the account of pyloroplasty; probably few surgeons would support the old practice of implaning the divided end of the duodenum into the lower end of the partially sutured gastric incision; it may have to be done, but there is a safer way. Similarly, many surgeons do not approve of “lateral implantation” after enterectomy or coelotomy, but prefer suture of the divided ends and a subsequent lateral anastomosis. Gastrostomy is a little shabbily treated perhaps, for it is questionable whether one method is always equally applicable. The excellent account of partial removal of the stomach would have gained by allusion to the method of almost complete gastrectomy practised by Moynihan. We think it very doubtful if many of the younger surgeons have a “hernia knife” among their instruments, and certainly a great many have never seen it used; surely the general practice is to divide the constricting band from without inwards. It will be seen that the criticisms we offer are almost general; that, in itself, may be taken as a measure of the satisfaction with which we have read the majority of what is written. The book can be strongly recommended to all young surgeons; it represents an individual experience and preference, but it is sound surgery. The man who has read these pages and thought over them in the light of daily practice will find his judgment and decision surer, and will be better able to foresee and avoid accidental complications. The book is well printed and admirably produced.

Gunshot Wounds. By Major C. G. Spencer, M.B., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. (Oxford Medical Publications: Henry Frowde and Hodder and Stoughton. Price 5s. net.)

With the experience accumulated in the Hispano-American, Anglo-Boer, and Russo-Japanese wars on the effects of modern small-bore high-velocity firearms, a succinct text-book of moderate dimensions has for some time been a want. The detailed reports of the medical services in these wars are too long and expensive, the narratives of individual surgeons too personal and not sufficiently confined to military surgery to supply the deficiency. Major Spencer is therefore well advised to publish in extended form the lectures which for the past three years he has given as Professor of Military Surgery at the Royal Army Medical College in Ijzendoorn. His work embodies the conclusions and observations of those best qualified to judge of the surgical lessons taught in the three wars we have mentioned. The teaching is rational, consistent, and intelligible, and especial stress is rightly laid upon the points in which the environment of the surgeon on the battlefield modifies the principles of surgery as practised in a hospital ward. Speaking generally, the author is sparing of illustrative cases, nor is this a disadvantage: whenever he does recite one it is always both pertinent and interesting. Professionally some of the most novel lesions dealt with—nervous, that is, to a civilian surgeon—are the curious conusions of nerves which sometimes result from the passage of a high-velocity bullet through adjacent tissues. The symptoms resemble, broadly, those of concussion of the brain: there is temporary loss of function without visible lesion, with subsequent complete recovery. We do not remember to have seen these peculiar cases mentioned in the current surgical text-books; but it seems only reasonable that some account of them should there appear, considering the number of medical men who enter the medical services of the Crown either in the regular or auxiliary forces. The chapter on fractures is extremely good, and illustrated by skilograms which are well chosen and reproduced. In fact it is difficult to find any section to which like praise cannot be awarded. The work can be recommended with complete confidence to all who anticipate that they may ever be called upon to treat gunshot wounds, and that—if contemporary playwrights and many other reflecting people are right—means every qualified medical practitioner in Great Britain.
GYNAECOLOGY.

Text-book of Gynaecological Diagnosis. By Dr. G. Winter, Königsberg, and Dr. Karl Ruge, Berlin. A Translation after the third revised German edition. Edited by John G. Clark, M.D. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. Pp. 670. Price 25s.)

The book is, roughly, divided into three sections under the headings "Methods of Examination," "Special Diagnosis," and "Analytical Diagnosis." The second section takes up the great bulk of the work, and naturally deals with the diagnostic points of the various pathological conditions of the female genital organs under their separate headings. Analytical diagnosis, on the other hand, deals with prominent symptoms, such as hemorrhage, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhoea, and describes the lines along which the differential diagnosis of the causes of these conditions is to be made. The first section describes carefully the modern methods of investigation, and we are pleased to see that the use of the uterine sound is regarded as by no means a simple operation, not a "necessary part of every gynecologic examination," and "should be used as rarely as possible." The paragraphs on the use of the cystoscope are very good and clear. The methods of investigation by removal of tissue for microscopic examination are well set forth, and throughout the book the enormous value of the microscope in gynecological diagnosis is very properly insisted upon. In a footnote the editor mentions the Goodell-Ellinger dilator for investigating the interior of the uterus, which is much used in America. We think he would have been well advised to point out its manifest dangers and disadvantages as compared with metal forms of Hegar's dilators.

The chapters on the normal microscopic structure of the genital organs are excellent, and form a most useful basis for the histological pathology of the subject. Whilst we fully endorse the very complete description of the various forms of endometritis, we cannot think that the terrible titles coined for them by the author can be quite necessary. For instance, "endometritis gundularis ectatica cystica interstitialis chronica" is a triumph of redundancy which does not appeal to us, and, as we should expect, would horrify our transatlantic brethren. We should have expected to find some more description of kraurosis vulvae than is contained in the eleven lines devoted to it, considering it was first described in Vienna. The analytical chapters are well written, and if we cannot agree with every word in them, especially that on dysmenorrhoea, still we cannot but admire their general arrangement and the admirable method which the reader will acquire by reading them. The illustrations are for the most part very good.

Essays on the Position of Abdominal Hysterectomy in London. By J. Bland-Sutton, F.R.C.S. (London: James Nisbet and Co. Pp. 90. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

Six essays on different aspects of the operation of abdominal hysterectomy are contained within the covers of this monograph, and they are all well worthy of perusal by everyone interested in pelvic surgery. Beginning with the operation for fibroids, the author waives no time over details of operative technique, save to emphasize the importance of the use of gloves and of carefulness in operating. In the latter respect some gynaecologists think Mr. Bland-Sutton has in practice carried his principles, if anything, too far; but it is candidly to be admitted that there are those among his critics whose methods are unquestionably far too dilatory. He pronounces, on the whole, for sub-total rather than total hysterectomy, though he calls attention to the fact that he has performed even the latter operation 200 times, and is therefore familiar with its merits and the indications for it. Another section of this chapter deals with the value of a "belated ovary"—that is, one left behind by an operator performing hysterectomy; while the relation of uterine fibroids to pregnancy is also considered, especially in relation to the "red degeneration" sometimes seen when the two conditions are associated. To injuries of the ureters during the operation a whole chapter is devoted. This complication is without doubt much more common even than Mr. Bland-Sutton's statistics show. A full and satisfactory account of injuries to the uterus contains descriptions of several cases from the literature which are of very great interest and importance; and the succeeding essay upon thrombosis and embolism after operations on the female pelvic organs is also full of practical clinical wisdom. The author's position upon this point is that sepsis, though not necessarily the only cause, is certainly the chief cause of post-operative thrombosis and embolism. The very full bibliographies at the ends of the chapters increase the value of a useful and timely collection of clinical essays.

TROPICAL MEDICINE.

Review of Recent Advances in Tropical Medicine, Hygiene, and Veterinary Medicine, being a Supplement to the third Report of the Wellcome Research Laboratories at the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum. By Andrew Balfour, M.D., and R. G. Archibald, M.B., R.A.M.C. (Published for Department of Education, Sudan Government, Khartoum, by Baillièire, Tindall, and Cox. 251 pp. Price 10s. 6d.)

This form a supplement to the third Report of the Wellcome Laboratories at Khartoum. Primarily meant to assist medical officers in the out-stations of the Sudan, it will quite likely prove of equal value to others similarly situated in other colonies. Many subjects are dealt with, amongst the most important being bacteriology, climate, dysentery, fever, hematozoa, leishmaniosis, liver abscess, malaria, Malta fever, mosquitoes, paratyphoid fever, pirolasmosis, plague, sleeping sickness, smallpox, spirochaetosis, sprue, syphilis, ticks, tsetse flies, tuberculosis, yaws, and yellow fever. Considerable advances have taken place of late regarding many of these complaints, and all recent work will be found in the pages devoted to these subjects. After reading through the whole review one tries to picture the state of mind of the ordinary colonial practitioner after he has perused it—it probably would be one of chaos. Tropical medicine has changed with a rapidity almost incredible, and to keep pace with it the student must be more or less a specialist on many scientific subjects, many of which will not directly affect him in his ordinary medical work in the future. Again almost three-quarters of this recent work deals with diseases of animals, which, useful to veterinary surgeons and scientists, possesses only a minor interest to students who are more concerned with human medicine and clinical studies. Though this is so it is no fault of Dr. Balfour, and one must not condemn the review because it contains so much scientific work. For the student with scientific inclinations it will form an admirable summary of the work of the last few years, and as Dr. Balfour, we think, hint, it will be excellent for students preparing for their Diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene.
EUGENICS AND HEREDITY.

HEREDITY AND DISEASE. A Discussion opened by Sir William S. Church, Bt., K.C.B., M.D.; Sir William R. Gowers, M.D., F.R.S.; Arthur Latham, M.D.; and E. F. Bashford, M.D. (Longmans, Green and Co., 142 pages with index and diagrams.)

The exceptional difficulties which are to be met with in any attempt to consider the phenomena of heredity, are very much emphasised by the publication in book form of the discussion which took place under the aegis of the Royal Society of Medicine. Curiously enough, it is probable that the failure to arrive at any definite conclusion will be of immense value to the study of heredity. Many notable men took part in this debate, and the only inference which we can rationally draw, unfortunate though it may seem, is that the lack of accuracy and tendency to jump to irrelevant and unjustifiable conclusions is exceptionally marked in these pages. Dr. Mercier’s paper, which begins with a just indictment of these fallacious methods, ends unfortunately with an acceptance of the “Mutation Théorie” of De Vries which, so far as biology is concerned, is at present a matter open to discussion. Mr. Mudge is principally concerned with an attack upon Professor Pearson, which naturally is not conducive to the furtherance of the question for debate, while Professor Pearson, who contributes two papers, is obliged to devote the second to his own defence. But, if we consider the careful statements of Sir William Gowers, of Dr. Bullock, and the other contributions of a more medical nature, we cannot fail to be impressed by one benefit which must accrue from this meeting—a more scientific attitude of medical men to the possibilities of heredity. There can be no doubt about the necessity for collecting material, both in the case of normal and abnormal members in a family; it is equally imperative to insist upon caution and reticence in the expression of inferences from the material collected. In fact, it might be suggested that the Royal Society of Medicine should consider the formation of some office to which records and genealogies might be sent, and the material and evidence thoroughly tested. At present, there does not seem to be any absolutely incontrovertible test of heredity, and until such be discovered, all statements must be made with certain reservations. Although, according to Professor Pearson, the bulk of biologists hold as untenable the inheritance of acquired characters, there is no need for the blind acceptance of their view, which is simply based upon the theories of Professor Weismann. “No disease,” as Sir William Church observed, “which arises from or is associated with the presence of a foreign body, whether living or dead, within us can be considered hereditary,” and the field is still open for further investigation and the evolution of some practical and applicable theory.

THE EUGENICS REVIEW. (Published quarterly by the Eugenics Education Society. Price 1s. net.)

However much we may be in sympathy with the objects of this society, we must protest against one or two features which are noticeable in this review. Dr. Saleeby offends against the principles of true science by a kind of pretentiousness which is painfully obvious on page 41. He speaks of “some observations not yet published by the Mendelians, which show that there is in the hen a definite brooding instinct.” Whatever Mendelism may or may not prove, it is still only an hypothesis upon which much more work remains to be done. If these observations have not been published by their author or authors, Dr. Saleeby has no right to use them in this cut-and-dried popular way. No cause is furthered by such slipshod work, whether the permission of the authors to make this statement has been obtained or not. It is clearly an attempt to acquire authority by means of a special revelation, and as such is unscientific. We cannot, on the whole, recommend this review, or, to be more accurate, we think that the review is at present superfluous. The publications of the Eugenics Laboratory are quite sufficient to bring the eugenics work before educated men, and this attempt at a popular appeal does not seem felicitous. Such a publication as the present is likely to do more harm than good, particularly if subsequent numbers contain statements of the same calibre as those made by Dr. Saleeby.
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

MEDICAL REPORTS OF THE CENTRAL LONDON THROAT AND
EAR HOSPITAL. Vol. I. (London : Adlard and Son.
1908. Pp. vi. + 134. Two plates and eight illustra-
tions. Price 5s. net.)

The Staff of the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital
having decided to issue Reports, the first volume has now
duly appeared. It is not clear whether it is intended to
continue these Reports regularly, but they will be
published at comparatively long intervals, as the cases
described in the present volume go back as far as 1901.
The volume contains several articles of interest to the
specialist, notably one by Dr. Dundas Grant on the treat-
ment of phlebitis of the lateral sinus, in which he points
out that ligature of the internal jugular vein does not cut
off all the avenues of systemic infection and should be
avoided when sufficient disease is found in the sinus
to explain the symptoms. The opinion which he expresses
in another article, that it is advisable to leave the
matrix of a cholesteatoma when it is smooth and complete,
will meet with less general acceptance. There is an
interesting communication by Dr. Wyatt Wingrave on the
presence of acid-fast bacilli and spirochetes in auricular
charges; and some points of interest may also be gleaned
from Dr. Kingsford's summary of the anaesthetics admin-
tered at the hospital. We are surprised to find from this
review that all operations for tonsils and adenoids are per-
formed in the sitting posture; ethyl chloride is now almost
exclusively given, and specific mention is made of several
cases under six months old; although there have been no
fatalities, and although there may be little danger in very
expert hands, we cannot agree that it is the safest position
in which to perform this operation on young children.
The volume is well worth perusal by those interested in the
special subjects concerned.

INTERNATIONAL CLINICS. Seventeenth Series. Vols. III.
and IV. (Philadelphia and London : J. B. Lippincott
Company.)

We have on several occasions had the pleasure of wel-
coming the successive volumes of the "International Clinics"
and of commending them to the attention of our readers.
The standard of excellence which we have recognised in
previous issues is well maintained in the latest numbers of
the series, and the contributions, as usual, embrace prac-
tically all the departments of professional activity. Even
to mention the several articles is impossible in the space at
our disposal, but as an indication of the wealth and variety
of the fare provided an allusion to one or two contributions
may be permitted. Thus in the Medical Section is a
careful study of Blood-Pressure in Tuberculosis, by Dr.
W. B. Stanton, and an elaborate article on Cardiac
Arrhythmias and their Clinical Significance, by Dr. A. W.
Heawlett; the latter paper has a special interest as the author
does not adopt in all respects the interpretation of the
venous pulse tracings now generally current. Other con-
tributions which will appeal to the physician are The
Action of Metallic Ferments in the Treatment of Pneu-
omia, by Professor Robin, of Paris, and the Treatment of
Diabetes, by Dr. David L. Edsall. The Surgery of the
Blood Vessels (Dr. J. E. Sweet), Contracture of the
Tendo Achillis (Mr. A. H. Tubby), and Torsion of the
Testicle (Mr. Edred M. Corner), are interesting features of
the Surgical Section. These on the present occasion must
suffice us, but there is hardly a department of profes-
sional work in which the practitioner will fail to find
in these volumes something of interest and value. The
Editor is to be congratulated on the attractive and service-
able papers he is able to submit to the profession.

A HISTORY OF THE READING PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. By
JAMESON B. HURRY, M.A., M.D. (London : John
Dale, Sons and Daniellsson, Ltd. With 10 illustra-
tions. Pp. 179. Price 7s. 6d. net.)

In the volume before us the President of the Reading
Pathological Society gives a short account of the history
and vicissitudes of one of the oldest and most vigorous of
provincial medical societies, from its inception in 1841
to the present day. Founded by a number of practitioners
in the locality, the society owed much to the encourage-
ment and practical assistance of the Governors of the Royal
Berksire Hospital, who from the commencement placed a
room in the hospital at the disposal of the members for
their meetings. Throughout its career of nearly seventy
years the society seems to have maintained a high level of
distinction, both as to the quality of the papers read at its
meetings, and as to the attainments of its members and
the orators who have been honoured with the task of
reading the annual address. These latter comprise many
whose names are pre-eminent in the medical world. The
author's task has evidently been a labour of love. He sets
forth a summary of each session with a list of the papers
read, cases shown, and pathological specimens exhibited.
A number of extracts from the minutes of the meetings
are scattered through the book, which is completed by a series of appen-
dices, which include a catalogue of the specimens in the
society's pathological museum and a description of its
library. The author's enthusiasm, where it occasionally
runs to excess, will no doubt be forgiven by his fellow-
members, who owe him a debt of gratitude for his ex-
haustive labours on behalf of their society.

THE SPORTSMAN'S GUIDE TO NORTH-EASTERN RHODESIA. By
J. DUNBAR-BRUNTON. (London : The Scientific Press,
Ltd. 1909. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

This brief monograph contains a good deal of excellent
advice in small compass. Its scope is sufficiently indicated
by the title, but as a matter of fact the greater part of the
contents will apply to any part of tropical Africa which is
visited by big-game shooters. As it is intended for laymen
the hints on the preservation of health are not of the com-
prehensive nature which would be expected of a medical
manual; but they are sound as far as they go. The very
brief vocabulary of useful words in the three native languages
might with advantage have been somewhat longer. An
excellent map is provided, and probably accounts for the
price at which the book is published. Any medical man
whose lot takes him to this distant region can be advised
to pack this guide among his kit. If anything, we think
the author might have been rather more liberal also in
notes on the big game of this province.

THE "NAUHEIM" TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE HEART
AND CIRCULATION. By LESLIE THORNE THORNE, M.D.
(London : Bailliere, Tindall, and Cox, 1909. Third
Edition. Price 3s. 6d. net.)

The fact that this book has reached a third edition
testifies to its popularity. It fully merits the reception
it has had. The main object of the work is to indicate
succinctly how any medical practitioner in England can
carry out the details that are essential to the Schott-
Nauheim treatment by baths and by graduated exercises
without sending his patients away at all. The excellent
illustrations of the various resisted movements are a great
feature of the book; they make each exercise as easy to
follow as can be. We strongly recommend the work to
every practitioner.