NEW BOOKS

Allergy in Relation to Lymphadenoma. By G. P. Chandler. Pp. vii+103. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. 1934. Price 10s. 6d.

This book commences with a historical review of literature dealing with the aetiology of lymphadenoma, but in common with many other writers in recent medical periodicals, the author has overlooked the extensive work of Greenfield that appeared in 1878. The chapters devoted to a summary of modern knowledge concerning the existence of cutaneous allergic phenomena in various bacterial and protozoal infections of man are well written and worth reading. Twenty pages are allocated to a description of methods used by the author to demonstrate the absence of cutaneous allergic reactions in lymphadenoma by the employment of filtered gland extracts. There is no mention, however, of the positive reactions reported by Gow and Gordon who used unfiltered boiled extracts of gland tissue.

Abscess of the Brain: Its Pathology, Diagnosis and Treatment. By E. Miles Atkinson, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Pp. x+289, with 45 illustrations. London: Medical Publications, Ltd. 1934. Price 21s.

Since the advent of intracranial surgery and its more recent perfection in skilled hands, cerebral abscess has ceased to be of merely academic interest and instead a matter which may call for urgent diagnosis by the man in family practice. Not unnaturally, therefore, it is given more consideration and careful teaching in medical schools. The literature round it has grown so quickly that more recent knowledge is not readily available in the usual text-books, which makes the advent of this monograph all the more important, and written as it is by an acknowledged expert with wide experience, its pages contain in a very readable form much information of great practical importance.

The book is divided into five distinct sections, the first three of which deal exhaustively and separately with pathology, diagnosis, and treatment, an arrangement which is convenient especially in regard to reference. In section four the author's own cases are carefully described and the lessons they give faithfully commented on. The study of these is well repaid, especially as they contain valuable information about the sources of infection and the paths to the brain substance.

The last section is devoted chiefly to statistical tables, and at the end of the book is found a surprisingly large bibliography which, although admittedly incomplete, yet contains all the more important.
recent communications. The illustrations have greater artistic value than real usefulness, but the whole production cannot fail to command attention.

*Some Notable Epidemics.* By Harold Scott, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.(Camb.), F.R.S.E. Pp. xi+263. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1934. Price 12s. 6d.

Dr Scott has compiled a most valuable anthology—if it might be so termed—of some characteristic epidemics of note. In turn, he deals with water-borne infections, beginning with the celebrated Broad Street Pump cholera outbreak in 1854, following that up with several enteric epidemics; from this he passes to milk-borne enteric, diphtheria, scarlet fever and sore throat; next, he gives two "food-poisoning" outbreaks of obscure nature, an oyster-borne enteric outbreak and a number of Sonne dysentery epidemics, including that so recently as 1933 in St Pancras and Holborn. The account of each epidemic being in the nature of an enquiry based on deductive reasoning, the book forms a fascinating study in epidemiological detective methods.

But it is much more than that: it possesses great value by so graphically portraying the various modes of conveyance and the many difficulties confronting the epidemiologist, even to the extent of failure to ascribe either a cause or means of dissemination. Some of the tables given, notably those on pages 70 and 71, would have better conveyed their import if presented in the form of graphs. An index is included, but cannot be said to be complete—thus, for example, we could not find "ice-cream" (responsible for an outbreak of paratyphoid in Aberdeen in 1925) except under the heading of "paratyphoid fever."

The book, apart from its general appeal, should be of great value to both teachers and students of Public Health, while its study should prove of no less benefit to the Medical Officer of Health in aiding him to act promptly and efficiently on the occurrence of epidemic disease.

*Physiology in Health and Disease.* By Carl J. Wiggers. Pp. 1186, with 182 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1935. Price 42s.

In these days of specialised Monographs and extensive Handbücher, the advent of a new text-book of Physiology which includes copious references to original articles without unduly encumbering the main text, is bound to attract considerable attention. As stated in the preface, *Physiology in Health and Disease* "is written primarily to meet the needs of medical students, clinicians and progressive practitioners of medicine," and the author has been
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unusually successful in his enterprise. The application of physiology to medicine has rarely been lost sight of, yet there is no lack of criticism of current views which in places is enhanced by a refreshing naive humour—witness the paragraph which discusses the reported differentiation of blood pictures in the various so-called pernicious anaemias; the author writes, "Most histologists will probably agree, however, that such a differentiation looks well on paper only."

A further contribution from the pen of the author of Circulation in Health and Disease naturally concentrates attention upon the section dealing with the cardiovascular system which occupies about one-fourth of the whole book. Here we find included an excellent account of recent work on the nervous and humoral control of the heart and blood pressure, the pulmonary circulation and abnormal cardiac rhythms.

Professor Wiggers has done much for the teaching of medical students in Cleveland; he has now written a book which places him on many counts in the debt of students further afield, and not the least is the gift of realisation that physiology is the foundation of medical knowledge.

NEW EDITIONS

Recent Advances in Pathology. By Geoffrey Hadfield and Lawrence P. Garrod. Second Edition. Pp. xii.+457, with 69 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1934. Price 15s.

Two years ago the first edition of this useful book appeared. Since then many additions to the knowledge of disease processes have been made and some of these are incorporated in this second edition. It follows the same general plan as its predecessor in that only certain subjects of more general interest are dealt with. All these have been revised and new work reviewed and added. The chapters especially rearranged and extended are: Deficiency diseases, gastric function and anaemia, with the newer conception and classification of the anaemias; liver disorders; Bright’s disease. This last still occupies many pages. The morbid anatomy section has been relegated to small print and the correlation between alteration of structure and disturbed function has been made clearer. A completely new chapter has been added on the pituitary gland and the metabolic disturbances that may be connected with it. This supplies much useful information omitted entirely from the first edition.

The book is pleasantly written throughout and the different and sometimes contradictory, findings of various authors are set out clearly. It is not a mere compilation of conclusions of sundry papers but a well-balanced review of recent work.

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