The text would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of more diagrams, for example, a diagram for tidal drainage apparatus. The diagram for injection sites is good, but the one of digestion is complicated and difficult to follow.

In the chapter on surgical technique more might be said about the care of hands, and the use of sterile towels. In regard to surgical dressings no mention is made of "mask technique" nor of the importance of dust-free atmospheres when dressing wounds.

The chapters dealing with physiology are good, and the bold type makes it easy to pick out important facts. This is a section of nursing instruction which could well be added.

In the chapter dealing with the administration of drugs there is still no mention, nor even a definition of, a poison. One wonders why. The most notable and pleasing additions to the work are to be found in the section allocated to acute infections or contagious diseases.

"Hints on Private Nursing" are most valuable, and for this chapter alone the book is well worth while.

**PHYSICAL MEDICINE IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

In "Psychiatry in General Practice" C. A. H. Watts and R. M. Watts set out the results of their experience in a practice of some 8000 patients, amongst whom about 200 new cases of psychiatric disease are seen every year. Neither author, one of whom is an obstetrician, has a special psychiatric qualification, but interest in psychiatry and contacts with psychiatrists whilst on war service are for both a special asset in the practice. One of the objects of the book is to show how much can be done with emotionally disturbed patients, without undue expenditure of time. The authors estimate that the average time spent on a neurotic is three hours (about four sessions of forty-five minutes each), the same as for an average obstetric case from the first examination to the final postnatal review, and including one hour for the confinement. In a three-year period they saw a yearly average of 125 patients with anxiety states, 48 with endogenous depression, 14 with hysteria, three with schizophrenia, and two sufferers from compensation neurasthenia. All cases were acute. In addition there was a yearly average of some 40 patients with chronic conditions—anxieties, depressions, schizophrenia, defecitiveness and senility. The authors estimate that 40% of the patients with anxiety and 60% of those with endogenous depressions made a good recovery, while some 23% were referred to a specialist, became "chronic" or drifted away out of notice. At the close of their chapter on their statistics the authors state that "there is a danger that we may become finger-posting our patients to the most appropriate specialist... Here in psychiatry is a new sphere of medical activity for our attention to develop. The present practitioners and a more rational outlook on the problem is long overdue". The methods adopted in treatment, history-taking, superficial exploration, types of cases, neuroses in childhood, psychiatric conditions in the aged, sex instruction and marital guidance, and prophylactic psychiatry are discussed in some dozen chapters. This work, which contains a great deal of wisdom in its 250-odd pages, should interest particularly those who are embarking on general practice.

**THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NURSING.**

"Theory and Practice of Nursing," by M. A. Gullan, S.R.N., is a useful supplement to any general training of the student nurse. The book is eminently suitable as a revision book for the senior nurse, but would require a great deal of amplification if it is to be used as a text-book for general training.

1 "Theory and Practice of Nursing," by M. A. Gullan; Sixth Edition; 1952. London: H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited. 9" x 6", pp. 254, with nine illustrations. Price: 18s.

2 "Physical Medicine in General Practice", edited by William Bierman and Sidney Licht, has been written by 22 contributors, and is divided into two parts, dealing respectively with methods used and with clinical applications. That some sections of this branch of medical science are now almost specialities in themselves is an indication of its rapid expansion. Owing to the rapid growth in the recent years the editors, no doubt, feel that a new and third edition is required, for they have omitted much of the previous material and added much that is new. One would be surprised if the page number 9½ x 6½. Price: 12s. 6d.

3 "Physical Medicine in General Practice", edited by William Bierman, M.D., and Sidney Licht, M.D. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Incorporated. 9½ x 6½, pp. 336, with 234 text figures. Price: $12.50.

**THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NURSING.**

"The book is eminently suitable as a reference amplification if it is to be used as a text-book for general training. There was still autohaemolysis of his red blood cells in _vitro_. At 3:45 p.m. he was given 500 millilitres of 6% dextran solution intravenously, with dramatic effect. His general condition promptly improved in every way; his respirations dropped to 40 per minute and became much less laboured; his pulse rate dropped to 100 per minute and the beats became much stronger and steadier; within an hour he came to present a totally different picture. After the dextran he was given, intravenously, 500 millilitres of plasma, and then a second flask of 500 millilitres of 6% dextran solution during the night. By the morning of April 9 he was quiet and cooperative and was taking plenty of fluids; his pulse and respirations had further improved in quality; and his urine was copious and much paler in colour. But he had some acetone and moist crepitations at both lung bases, though there was no edema of the ankles or scrotum. By 11 a.m. he passed urine which was clear of haemoglobin, and his red blood cells showed no autohaemolysis _in vitro_. Cross-matching of donors was commenced, but because of the fluid in his lungs and abdomen it was decided to postpone transfusions until the next morning; his condition was so satisfactory, even though his red blood cells totalled only 1,800,000 per cubic millimetre, that it was felt safe to do this. Transfusions of whole blood and parenteral iron and liver therapy were commenced on April 10 and he improved rapidly. By April 14 his haemoglobin value was 51% and his red blood cells numbered 2,900,000 per cubic millimetre. On April 14 also antimalarial treatment with "Nivaquin" was commenced. By April 24 his haemoglobin value was 51% and he was discharged from hospital on April 25. He has been well since.

**Discussion.**

This patient's condition was so desperate that it seemed to all who saw him that he could not possibly survive until transfusions could be given. The stimulating effect of dextran was most pronounced, although only two transfusions were used and we had to eke it out with plasma. We do not, of course, attribute the cessation of haemolysis to dextran, but as far as this patient is concerned we regard dextran as being equally as good as plasma in maintaining life until transfusions were possible; and dextran can be stored and used in circumstances in which plasma would be unavailable. Moreover, the giving of whole blood while haemolysis is still occurring is usually risky, and often disastrous. By April 14 his haemoglobin value was 51% and he was discharged from hospital on April 25. He has been well since.

**Summary.**

These notes describe the effect of intravenous therapy with dextran (a synthetic polysaccharide) on a patient with severe blackwater fever.

**Reviews.**

**THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NURSING.**

"Theory and Practice of Nursing," by M. A. Gullan, S.R.N., is a useful supplement to the general training of the student nurse. The book is eminently suitable as a revision book for the senior nurse, but would require a great deal of amplification if it is to be used as a text-book for general training.

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