New Editions

Diseases constitute a large part of the daily practice of the urologist and those who do not specialise, considerable space is devoted to this section. The chapters on the bladder, ureter, and kidney, though conforming with accepted teaching, are diffused with personal experience and enhanced with original diagrams. Operative procedures, systematically described and clearly illustrated, are presented collectively in a series of chapters towards the end of the volume. It is evident that this text-book is based on practical experience coupled with considerable teaching knowledge. The authors, however, have refrained from excessive dogmatism, and presented alternative views in a remarkably unbiased manner. The specialty has been brought up to date without introducing controversial matters, which would only tend to confuse those for whom the book is primarily dedicated.

NEW EDITIONS

Modern Views on Digestion and Gastric Disease. By Hugh Maclean, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. Pp. 182. London: Constable & Co., Ltd. 1928. Price 12s.

This volume, which is one of a series of "Modern Medical Monographs," will make a wide appeal to medical men, coming as it does at a time when the treatment of organic gastric disease is the subject of considerable controversy. The author has contrived within brief space to state and to examine critically many facts derived from physiological experiment, from radiological studies, and especially from clinical observation. The sections dealing with clinical investigation and with medical treatment are eminently clear and concise.

In regard to the pathology of the conditions dealt with, the reader will be disappointed to find few facts, and some of these of doubtful accuracy. The question of differential diagnosis of organic lesions which may cause dyspepsia is frankly disappointing, and the importance of gall-bladder disease as a cause of dyspepsia is not given anything approaching its proper proportion. The possibility, and indeed the frequency, of multiple lesions causing group pictures is not mentioned, yet such are now known to be not only fairly common but diagnosable. In an endeavour to make the book of reasonable size the author has doubtless omitted much he might have desired to include; on the other hand, whilst many of the full-page plates of radiograms are instructive and illustrative, some, notably those of pharyngeal diverticulum and carcinoma of the oesophagus, are unnecessary and
New Editions

fill space which might, with much greater advantage, have been given to a fuller discussion of his subject. Notwithstanding these criticisms, one cannot but commend this readable little volume to all who may have to deal with gastric cases.

Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. By A. W. Bourne.

Second Edition. Pp. 382, with 67 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1928. Price 12s. 6d.

It is a pleasure to welcome a second edition of Dr Bourne's book, which is one of the most useful in the "Recent Advances Series," the popularity of the work being attested by an early call for this fresh edition. The plan of the book has not been altered, but a good deal of fresh material has been incorporated. The chapter on the ovarian hormones shows perhaps the most alteration, and this chapter not only is most interestingly written but also portrays clearly our present knowledge on this difficult subject.

The author discusses the various important subjects in a clinical manner, and in many chapters drives home his conclusions with the help of the most recent available statistics. The bio-chemical investigations of the blood and urine during pregnancy are well set forth and will interest those especially dealing with this branch of laboratory work. The operator will find material of interest in both the obstetric and gynaecological divisions of the book; while those employing X-rays, radium and electro-therapeutical agents in gynaecology will find three chapters devoted to these subjects by contributors of note.

The book is one which should be read by all clinicians interested in obstetrics and gynaecology, and the author is to be congratulated on the success which he has attained.

A Handbook of Bacteriology. By J. W. Bigger. Second Edition. Pp. xvi + 452, with 84 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1929. Price 12s. 6d.

The first edition of this book appeared four years ago. In the edition now appearing numerous small alterations have been made, and two new chapters added: one on the rôle of bacteria in the body in health and disease, and the other on the classification of bacteria. The book was written for use by medical students and practitioners. The great difficulty before an author who writes with this object is that of determining how much to include and what to omit. Professor Bigger has without doubt succeeded in his object. The book is lucidly written and fully covers the ground that the senior medical student must traverse. There is a useful chapter on the correct methods of obtaining material for examination, such as venous blood,
New Editions

from patients. Some of the larger text-books give somewhat scant space to this important branch of the subject.

We hope that the author will not in future editions yield to the temptation of making the book any larger than it is at present. It can be thoroughly recommended to the student.

_The Diabetic Life: Its Control by Diet and Insulin._ By R. D. Lawrence, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. (London). Fourth Edition. Pp. 184, with 12 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1928. Price 8s. 6d.

This book is essentially of practical value to doctors who have not got time to make elaborate studies of the conditions which govern the control of diabetes. It is now in its fourth edition, having been published first in 1925, and that alone proves that it has been useful. It is described as "a Concise Practical Manual for Practitioners and Patients." It is not usual to find a medical work to which patients are admitted, but in this case the admission is eminently justified, because intelligent co-operation on the part of the patient is necessary to obtain the best results in treatment.

Besides a description of metabolism, normal and diabetic, and some account of the causation and pathology of diabetes and its symptoms, the question of treatment is gone into, both by diet and insulin, clearly and fully. Treatment of complications is also dealt with, and there are directions as to the preparations of different articles of diet and comparison of various "diabetic" foods. Food-tables are well worked out so as to be easily followed by patients, and a short bibliography gives references to enable the reader to pursue his researches in different directions. There are other tables and also directions about testing urine, etc., which help to make the book very useful and also very handy.

_Acute Infectious Diseases._ By Jay Frank Schamberg and John A. Kolmer. Second Edition. Pp. xx + 888, with 188 illustrations. London: Henry Kempton. 1928. Price 50s.

Twenty-four years have elapsed since the first edition of this book appeared. The original title was Acute Contagious Diseases and the authors the late Dr William M. Welch and Dr Schamberg. This work on Acute Infectious Diseases is the result of collaboration between two authorities in their respective subjects, Dr Jay Frank Schamberg and Dr John A. Kolmer, professors of dermatology and pathology respectively in the University of Pennsylvania. The many additions to our knowledge in the subject of "fevers" during the past quarter of a century have necessitated extensive revision. The chapter on diphtheria has been rewritten. New chapters on
Notes on Books

Vincent's angina, erysipelas, mumps, whooping cough, cerebrospinal meningitis and the "fourth disease" have been added. There is an excellent account of the Dick and Schick tests, and recent methods of immunisation against scarlet fever, diphtheria and measles. The specific antitoxin treatment of scarlet fever and erysipelas is very favourably commented upon. One third of the book is devoted to smallpox and vaccination. A careful perusal of the evidence set forth in support of vaccination might be recommended to that section of the community who still appear to doubt the value of this prophylactic measure. The illustrations and coloured plates are on the whole successful in enlightening the reader as to the various skin manifestations met with during the study of the subject. The employment of alcohol as a cardiac stimulant in the various fevers is open to criticism. The book can be highly recommended as giving an excellent exposition of modern views and findings in this particular branch of medicine. The high price is perhaps the only serious criticism we have to make.

NOTES ON BOOKS

A Patient's Manual of Diabetes, by Herbert W. Moxon, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lewis & Co. Ltd., 6s.), goes to swell the already redundant list of popular manuals for the use of diabetic patients. The treatment of the subject is frankly à la Lawrence, as set forth in the latter's Diabetic Life. The book is, however, well written and sound as far as it goes, and as it contains nothing new or original, its merits must be judged upon its power to convey the desired information to the lay mind. In this it should achieve its object, but it is difficult to see what special claim it should possess as regards clearness and brevity of exposition compared with those works which are quoted as authorities.

A Handbook for Nurses, by J. K. Watson (Faber & Gwyer, 8s. 6d.), has established itself as a standard work. It is now in its eighth edition, and we need only endorse the favourable opinion we have expressed of its merits.

Lectures to Nurses, by Margaret S. Riddell, third edition (Faber & Gwyer, 6s.), covers the ground of instruction required for the examinations for State Registration; it may therefore be recommended as a guide to the probationer in the successive stages of her training. Miss Riddell has revised her former work, and has added some information as to Surgical Tuberculosis, Special Operations, and New Growths. There is a useful glossary and a good index.