NEW BOOKS

The Antagonadotropic Factor. By Bernard Zondek and Felix Sulman. Pp. viii+185. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1942. $3.00.

There are two main problems involved in the treatment of patients suffering from endocrine disorders, namely, the treatment of hyperactivity and that of hypoactivity. Much progress has been made in dealing with conditions in which the endocrine secretion is below the normal level, and in many cases the pure hormones are available in adequate quantities for substitution therapy.

When the hormone secretion is above the normal level, methods must be used to reduce it or to antagonise its actions. Occasionally this can be achieved by surgical procedures, while the recent work with thiourea illustrates the possibility of antagonising one type of endocrine activity.

The discovery of Collip, that the repeated administration of certain hormones of a protein-like nature led to the development in the blood of substances which antagonised the actions of these hormones, opened up the possibility of inhibiting the endocrine secretions of the glands in the body, and this was actually achieved in experimental animals. It has not, however, been possible to produce such effects in the human subject so far, and it is now believed that these anti-hormones are closely related to the immune bodies and do not represent true antagonistic substances to the hormones.

The present book describes in detail the preparation and properties of the anti-hormones produced by the administration of gonadotropic preparations of various origins and of various pituitary preparations. It includes much original work by the authors and is essentially a book for specialists interested in this field of work.

Manual of Psychological Medicine. By A. F. Tredgold, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xii+298. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1943. Price 18s. net.

Dr Tredgold is the well-known writer of a text-book on mental deficiency which is now in its sixth edition and is regarded as a standard work. He has felt that the time was opportune to present a book dealing with psychiatry in all its varied aspects, and he has attempted to compress it into the size of a handbook. Psychiatry has now become so wide that compression is becoming less and less possible. Such a compression means merely a descriptive outline, and in this instance the author has been successful in presenting a short but comprehensive review of the psychiatric field. Such a book fails to do justice to the dynamic biological concepts which have meant so much for the progress of psychiatry.

Furthermore, the author is inclined to suggest that treatment previous to the introduction of shock methods was more or less non-existent.

It is the latter two respects in which this book fails to do adequate
justice to the situation. It can, however, be recommended as a clear, concise statement of the symptomatology of psychiatric conditions.

*Endocrine Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence.* By H. S. Le Marquand, M.D., M.R.C.P., and F. H. W. Tozer, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. x+298, with 7 figures and 49 plates. London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1943. Price 15s. net.

During the past ten years in a busy hospital practice the authors have examined some thousands of children and young adults for evidence of endocrine disturbance, and the results have far surpassed their expectations. They have been impressed with the importance of the endocrine balance in growth, mentality and reaction to disease and in the characters which are handed on to the next generation. Minor degrees of endocrine disorder are so widespread that no doctor can afford to neglect them.

After describing the physiology of the endocrine system, the authors deal with the various common disorders as they affect children and adolescents. They lay special emphasis on careful and methodical examination, as endocrine disturbance is more difficult to detect in the earlier years. They point out that the family doctor is in an ideal position to detect and treat early abnormal traits when the possibility of correcting the dysfunction is greatest.

The book is well written and gives a good summary of present-day knowledge of these disorders. A useful feature is the inclusion of a list of the standardised hormone preparations available in this country. The illustrations show typical examples of the disorders described.

This useful and instructive volume can be thoroughly recommended to the general practitioner, who, if he follows the example of the authors, will discover a new subject of surpassing interest and one of practical value in dealing with his patients.

*Pasteurisation.* By Harry Hill. Pp. viii+152. London: H. K. Lewis. 1943. Price 10s.

The author has produced this book in order to emphasise the need for efficient pasteurisation of all milk. It is the fact that the process is not always efficiently carried out which has given critics of pasteurisation grounds for arguments against it.

Everything that is necessary for the process is described in detail, including the design of buildings and plant, the various methods of pasteurisation in bulk or in bottle, with comparisons of their efficacy, the sterilisation and cleaning of equipment, and the tests and control of the milk after treatment.

There is a useful chapter on the pathogenic organisms which may be found in raw milk, and the diseases and epidemics which may be caused by them; and another in which criticisms against pasteurisation are fully answered.

The book is obviously written by an authority on the subject, and can be recommended to all who are interested.