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NEW BOOKS

The Wellcome Research Institution, London, and affiliated Research Laboratories and Museums, founded by Sir Henry Wellcome, LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. London: The Wellcome Foundation, Limited. 1934.

This booklet, which seems to have been prepared specially for the Chicago Exhibition in 1934, describes the opening, by Lord Moynihan, of the Wellcome Research Institution at 183 Euston Road, London, and then gives an account, with pictorial illustrations, of the affiliated laboratories and museums founded by Sir Henry Wellcome. These include the Bureau of Scientific Research, the Entomological Field Laboratories at Claremont, Esher, Surrey, the Physiological Research Laboratories at Beckenham, Kent, and the Chemical Research Laboratories, the Museum of Medical Science and the Historical Medical Museum, all in the main Institute at 183 Euston Road, London. It will be generally agreed that the medical profession owes a great debt to Sir Henry Wellcome for his forty years' work in promoting and financing medical research.

The Inter-action of the Lymph and Blood Glands. By D. Montgomerie Paton, L.R.C.P. & S.Edin., &c. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. 1935. (6s. net.)

The author claims beneficial results from the oral, subcutaneous and local administration of low potency anti-diphtheritic serum in a great variety of diseases and infection—acute sepsis and many specific infections, "septic" rheumatism, hay-fever, and asthma, &c. As explanation of these results, the greater part of the book is devoted to an exposition of the author's belief that there exists a mutual antagonism between the blood and lymphatic systems. The latter, the natural protector against infection, is stimulated by "hormone" in the anti-diphtheritic serum to produce anti-bodies which will counteract the noxious agents in the blood. There is too much repetition and more of theory than fact in the book.
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Simple Instructions for Diabetic Patients: With Prescription Sheet for the use of Patients, Nurses and Probationers. By D. C. Hare, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1935. (1s. net.)

This is the second edition of a very popular little book. The subject-matter is well thought out and difficult points in diabetic treatment are explained in (very) simple language. There is no attempt made to present the subject in highly specialized words and phrases. The building up of a diet, the use of insulin, the care of the syringe, and what to do in illness and hypoglycaemia are all explained in a very lucid fashion. The diet prescription sheet, including a column for insulin prescription in units, and the time of administration is a useful centre page. The urine tests are comprehensive, and easily followed instructions are given. The book is recommended to all who have to deal with the diabetic patient, and to the patient himself it must be invaluable.

Ophthalmology in General Practice. By O. Gayer Morgan. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1935. (2s. 6d. net.)

This little book is one of the Pocket Monographs on Practical Medicine series. It deals with the limited field of ophthalmology which the general practitioner should understand, and be in a position to deal with. In addition it treats the emergencies, and the type of case which ought to be sent to the expert. The book is excellently written and is easily read. The facts are put down clearly and interest is well maintained. It would repay the practitioner to assimilate it on more than one occasion. Its size makes this an easy task. It is highly recommended.

Eighth Annual Report of the Giza Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory, Cairo, 1933. Cairo: Schindlers Press. 1935. (25 P.T.)

This is a record of the administration of the institution and of the scientific work accomplished during the year. The latter is concerned chiefly with the pathological, clinical, and research sections. Further work has been carried out in an endeavour to settle the problem of the association between bacterium granulosis and trachoma. Several human inoculations were performed and the authors are very sceptical of any aetiological significance. There are numerous clinical and pathological reports of interesting cases illustrated in most cases with micro-photographs.
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Clinical Studies on the Physiology of the Eye. By J. Grandson Byrne, M.A., M.D. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1935. (10s. 6d. net.)

This is a very valuable and original contribution to ophthalmic physiology. The author throws a new hypothetical light on the dilator and constrictor effector mechanisms of the pupil, and appears thereby to give an adequate mechanistic explanation for such phenomena as the variation in the size of the pupil during somatic and visceral disease, and the Argyll-Robertson pupil. His deductions are based on a wealth of clinical and experimental data, and should be studied by ophthalmologists and general clinicians alike. The book is well written but is somewhat marred by several ill-defined photographs.

Chronic Nasal Sinusitis and its Relation to Mental Disorder. By F. A. Pickworth, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1935. (16s. net.)

The author is to be congratulated on the publication in book form of his well-known work on this subject, which has appeared in various journals during the past seven years. His work is based on the post-mortem examination of 471 cases of mental disorder, in 65 per cent of whom he finds evidence of nasal sinusitis. He describes his own special technique for the examination of the brain, cranial nerves, pituitary gland, and nasal sinuses, of which structures he made frequent histological and bacteriological investigation.

His frequent finding of an infection of the sphenoidal sinuses is particularly interesting as he was able to demonstrate, in several cases, a direct spread of organisms from them, through the bone, to the closely related pituitary gland, internal carotid artery, meninges, and brain, with resulting sclerosis and degeneration of the cerebral cortex and adhesion to the dura. He stresses the chronicity and the latent course of such an inflammatory process, and he claims that the lesion in the cerebral cortex, the cerebral vascular upset by involvement of the carotid and its sympathetic plexus, and the endocrine disturbance resulting from degenerative changes in the pituitary gland, are causal factors in some cases of mental disease.

The demonstration of such grave extension from a nasal sinusitis will tend more to discourage than to encourage the nasal surgeon in the more chronic cases, owing to the obvious risk of post-operative meningitis. On the other hand, Dr. Pickworth’s work indicates the need for a careful rhinological examination in the early stages of mental
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disorder, when suitable treatment might result in lasting benefit. It is noteworthy that seldom in his cases was the sinusitis diagnosed or treated before death.

The book is well printed and illustrated and can be read in a few hours. As Dr. Pickworth makes few statements on his own account, there is a large bibliography. Psychiatrists, rhinologists, and pathologists will find this book full of interest, and although they may not share Dr. Pickworth's enthusiasm in his incrimination of the nasal sinuses of those mentally afflicted, they should all be familiar with his work, and test out his claims in their own practice.

_Treatment of Rheumatism in General Practice._ By W. S. C. Copeman, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.Cantab., M.R.C.P.Lond. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1935. (9s. net.)

This work is a more important contribution to the literature than the modesty of the preface or the tone adopted by the author might lead the reader to expect. It has the great advantage of being written by a general physician of wide outlook and extensive practical experience of the subject. In the chapter devoted to acute rheumatism the prime importance of prolonged rest is emphasized and the purely symptomatic value of salicylates referred to. The treatment of fibrositis is detailed, comprehensive and thorough. So far as the treatment of sciatica is concerned the inadvisability of stretching the nerve is stressed, but no mention is made of peridural infiltration in intractable cases, an omission presumably to be attributed to the fact that the technic involved comes more within the purview of the neurological surgical specialist. For cases of rheumatoid arthritis fresh-air treatment is stated to be as valuable as in cases of tuberculosis. The diet recommended is a full and varied one including meat; defective carbohydrate tolerance, if present, being treated with appropriate doses of insulin. Recent advances in treatment are reviewed with commendable caution. The author regards gold salts as constituting a considerable advance in the treatment of selected cases of rheumatoid arthritis, but does not share the enthusiasm of the lay press for Bee Venom as a therapeutic agent. It is interesting to note that 1,000 tons of aspirin are sold annually in England. The value of pyramidon is not endorsed, but no mention is made in this connexion of the incidence of agranulocytic angina. The book reviews from a practical standpoint every valuable line of treatment. The outlook of the author, based on an obviously wide experience, is throughout one of healthy and invigorating commonsense. This book will prove of real value to all who have to deal with rheumatism in general or specialized practice.
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Catechism Series. Physiology, Part II. Fourth Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1935. (Is. 6d. net.)

This part, which has been revised and enlarged, is concerned chiefly with the respiratory and digestive systems. Within its scope it is remarkably comprehensive and, while not pretending to be a text-book, it provides a very convenient means for the student to revise his knowledge rapidly before an examination.

Biomathematics, being the Principles of Mathematics for Students of Biological Science. By W. M. Feldman, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P.Lond., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.Ed. With an Introduction by the late Sir William M. Bayliss. Second edition. Revised, enlarged, and reset. London: Charles Griffin & Co. 1925. (25s. net.)

The second edition of Dr. Feldman’s “Biomathematics,” which succeeds the first after eleven years, a short interval for a publication of the kind, has been subjected to a close revision, and new chapters have been added on nomography and the estimation of errors of observation. It is the aim of the work, as its author states, to explain “those portions of the so-called higher mathematics which are now being used in the study and investigation of biological problems.” Despite the encouraging designation “so-called,” the mathematics involved in such enquiries cannot, with the best will in the world, be entirely divested of its higher qualities, but the author, writing mainly for the uninitiated, conducts his reader by gradual stages from the elements onwards, illustrating each step by well-chosen examples which serve to make the meaning clear. In his opening chapters he touches on logarithms, algebra, and some trigonometry, and so proceeds to the law of the series, the binomial theorem, the series $e$, and the principle of compound interest in nature. After the graphical representation of functions and his new chapter on the nomogram, he takes up the differential co-efficient and errors of observation. Next follows the integral calculus with its biochemical and other applications, and next the differential equation and the co-ordination of experimental results. The closing chapter on biometry deals with the application of statistical methods to variable biological objects. It includes probability, the normal frequency curve and its properties, statistical constants, skewness, Pearson’s criterion, curve fitting, correlation, regression, and other topics. Biometry, though enlarged and rewritten, still appears
somewhat strongly compressed. It is true that well-known works on
the subject are ready available, but the reader whose chief interest is
statistics, having followed his author faithfully thus far, would probably
have welcomed a more extended course in the field which most concerns
him. Laboratory investigators who master the book will usefully apply
its principles to their own experimental results. Those who desire to
understand, and competently appraise, the records of work by others
will find its perusal illuminating in a high degree. To both groups,
for their respective requirements, Dr. Feldman’s “Biomathematics” is
cordially recommended.

The Biochemistry of Medicine. By A. T. Cameron, D.Sc., F.I.C.,
F.R.S.C., and C. R. Gilmour, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.P.(C). Second
Edition. J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1934. (21s. net.)

The first edition of this book is well known and highly esteemed, and
the second now under review maintains the previous high standard.
There has been considerable revision and some new material has been
added, notably in the sections dealing with the endocrines and with
the vitamins, where recent work on the chemistry of the sex hormones,
on anti-endocrine compounds, and on the synthesis of vitamin C is
described. Short accounts of v. Gierke’s glycogen disease, the dinitro-
phenol treatment of obesity, the pentose nucleotide treatment of
agranulocytosis, and the glycine treatment of myasthenia gravis have
been included. In the last-mentioned section, however, further
progress has been made since the publication of this volume.

Although very comprehensive the material is presented in a readable
and interesting manner; there is a pleasing absence of complicated
formulæ and the more obtrusive technicalities; where absolutely
necessary these are inserted as footnotes.

The book is to be strongly recommended to the student engaged in
clinical work, and if used along with the ordinary text-books of
medicine and surgery, it will help to interpret them in terms of subjects
with which he is already familiar. It will also be of great value to two
further classes of readers, namely, to hospital clinicians as a convenient
book of reference, and to those general practitioners who wish to keep
abreast of the more important recent work in biochemistry, which now
bulks so largely in clinical medicine and surgery.