NEW BOOKS

Operative Surgery. By Warren Stone Bickham, M.D., F.A.C.S. Six Volumes. Pp. 5400, with 6375 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1924. Price 50s. net per volume.

The first two volumes of this exhaustive treatise, the unaided work of the author, is now before us. As the sub-title indicates, the work covers “The Operative Technic involved in the Operations of General and Special Surgery.” It is with general surgical procedures and with the operations on skull, brain, and spine, that volumes I. and II. deal. Considerable space is devoted to the study of lotions, dressings, methods of drainage and anaesthesia. Outlines of surgical anatomy involved in the different organs precede the description of the operative technic and the pre-operative and post-operative procedures are also fully discussed. The author is not content to describe one operation for a condition, but gives a choice of several, and quotes authorities both in this country and in his own. Chapters on cineplastic amputations, artificial limbs, and the transplantation of tissues and organs appear, and their mention indicates the scope of this part of the work. In volume II. the description of the operations on the skull and brain are particularly clear, thanks in no small part to the illustrations. Perhaps the most striking feature of these volumes is the number and excellence of the illustrations. Each step of the operation as well as a large number of the instruments used are shown. In addition to the usual index at the end of each volume there is a classified index of each subject at the beginning of each chapter. The author is to be congratulated on a successful start in his laborious task.

Insulin in General Practice. By A. Clarke Begg, O.B.E., M.D. Pp. 130, with 4 illustrations. London: Heinemann. 1924. Price 5s. net.

Dr Begg has set out to produce a small volume which will give the practitioner all the information he requires to treat diabetic patients with insulin. In this he has succeeded admirably, and the result is a thoroughly practical clinical guide. Theoretical considerations are reduced to a minimum, and only the simplest chemical methods have been introduced. Short chapters describe the principles of insulin treatment, dietetics, and dietetic treatment. The discussion is liberally illustrated by reference to case histories. The author’s plan of treatment is simple. It consists of putting the patient on a standard diet yielding about 2300 calories. For some patients this alone may
New Books

be sufficient to make them sugar-free, others require insulin. The method of using insulin, the spacing of the doses, the quantities to be given, etc., are discussed in considerable detail. Our only criticism is that the author is content to leave a faint trace of sugar in the urine instead of endeavouring to keep the patient sugar-free. This plan, of course, will avoid the risk of attacks of hypoglycaemia but, theoretically at least, is not good practice. The treatment of the major complications of diabetes is also described. Dr Begg is to be congratulated on his production, which we have no hesitation in describing as the most useful book of its kind at present on the market.

A Descriptive Atlas of Radiographs of the Bones and Joints. By A. P. Bertwistle, M.B., Ch.B. Leeds. Pp. viii + 198, with 299 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1924. Price 17s. 6d.

Some time ago, the author introduced the “Silhouette Radiograph,” which while giving good bony definition also makes plain the contour of the limb or other soft parts. This method, which is described, has been adopted throughout the book with satisfactory results. The arrangement of the volume is excellent, the first part of the atlas is devoted to plates of normal bones and epiphyses. These appear on the left side of the volume to allow the student to compare them with the plates of pathological conditions which later appear on the right-hand pages. A comprehensive series of X-ray plates is shown, including a number which show congenital deformities, and others of foreign bodies in various situations. Opposite each plate a short description of the X-ray appearances, and in many cases clinical notes, are given. The volume concludes with a serviceable index. The reproduction of the radiographs is excellent, and the author is to be congratulated on producing a volume which will prove of value to all who have to interpret X-rays.

Human Physiology. By C. G. Douglas and J. G. Priestley. Pp. 232 + ix, with 30 illustrations. Oxford University Press: Humphrey Milford. 1924. Price 12s. 6d.

This book gives an account of the practical course in human physiology given at Oxford University. As the authors point out, it is now recognised that the earliest symptoms of disease which can be detected are manifestations of change in the normal balance of physiological processes. It has, therefore, become a matter of real importance that the student should gain by practical experience a knowledge of some of the experimental methods which are applicable to man. The book does not include the physiology of the nervous system and the
New Books

sense organs, but deals fully with the other systems. A large portion of it is concerned with respiration and the blood gases. Chapters are also devoted to the circulatory system, the kidneys, the blood, and the alimentary canal. Descriptions of methods are written in clear and detailed fashion so that they can be easily followed. The more theoretical aspects of the subject are also discussed, so that the volume may be regarded as a small text-book rather than a mere laboratory guide.

Clinicians will welcome a book of this sort, which helps to bridge the gulf that has formed between the science of physiology and the practice of medicine. The introduction of a practical course of this nature in the medical curriculum would be of enormous benefit to the student.

Organic Substances, Sera, and Vaccines. By D. W. Carmalt Jones. Pp. 393 + viii. London: Wm. Heinemann. 1924. Price 15s.

The modern physician's armamentarium has been enriched by numerous substances formerly unthought of, and notably by bacterial products. Some of these are of great importance and value, while similar preparations in the case of other diseases are entirely worthless. The author's aim has been to give his personal opinion of the value of the substances dealt with, so that the practitioner may be warned off experiments in treatment which a hundred others have unsuccessfully tried.

The book is divided into two parts—(1) organotherapy, (2) vaccine- and serum-therapy. Short accounts are given of the lesions caused by the various forms of endocrine imbalance, and of the various uses to which the gland extracts may be put. The field of serological and vaccine treatment has been covered in more detail. Immunity and specific bacterial diagnosis are described at some length as an introduction to this part. All the commoner bacterial diseases are dealt with, and the value of vaccines or sera in them is critically discussed. The sections on the tuberculins and on non-specific serum therapy may be specially mentioned.

The subject is one which is insufficiently treated in books on bacteriology and on medicine, and we have no doubt that the volume will be of great service to the up-to-date clinician.

Epidemic Encephalitis (Encephalitis Lethargica). By Arthur J. Hall, M.A., M.D. Camb., F.R.C.P. Lond. Pp. 229, with 17 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1924. Price 12s.

This book is an expansion of the Lumleian Lectures delivered by Prof. Hall in 1923. It presents a very complete study of the disease in its various aspects—historical, epidemiological, pathological and
clinical. The author recognises the futility of attempting to enumerate "types" of a disease which has such varied manifestations, and finds it also impossible to differentiate its stages further than by a division into the acute and the chronic phases. The initial attack may be followed by a period of apparent recovery lasting for three or four years before the development of later symptoms such as the Parkinsonian syndrome, the disease thus resembling syphilis in its course.

The symptomatology is fully described, and in dealing with the residua of the disease a distinction is drawn between the Parkinsonian symptoms, which so often supervene, and those of paralysis agitans. Prognosis, both as regards mortality and the occurrence of residua, is summed up in the statement that of every 100 cases 25 die, 25 recover practically completely, whilst 50 recover with residua of which perhaps 25 have some degree of Parkinsonism. The many lines of treatment which have been advocated are indicated, but the author's conclusion is that at present there is no reliable therapeusis either for the disease or for its after-results. The bibliography which forms one-third of the whole volume contains over two thousand references to the literature of the condition.

*The Treatment of the Common Disorders of Digestion.* By John L. Kantor, Ph.D., M.D. Pp. 245, with 64 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1924. Price 24s.

This book gives an excellent general account of the methods employed in the treatment of the commoner gastro-intestinal disorders. An honest effort is made to state as clearly as possible the rationale of the various procedures recommended, and herein lies the chief merit of the work. Although the author aims more particularly at stating general principles, the value of the book might perhaps have been enhanced had more precise information with regard to certain regimes been given. This could readily be remedied in a future edition. We can recommend the book as a reliable guide to treatment and one which should prove useful in general practice.

*Die Prophylaxe der groszen Schilddrüse.* Von Dr Heinrich Hunzilser. Pp. 360, with 9 illustrations and 155 tables. Bern and Leipzig: Ernst Bircher. 1924. Fr. 12.

A study is made of the incidence of goitre in various parts of Switzerland and also of the relation of this incidence to climatology and meteorology. The deduction therefrom is, that goitre in Switzerland is a physiological response to an inadequate supply of iodine. Extensive investigations on the prophylaxis of goitre have been carried out by the author on school children in Adliswil. Iodides in daily doses of 1 mg. during school periods were effective in preventing goitre,
and further, caused increase in stature and improvement in general physique. The quantities of iodides recommended by many are considered unnecessarily large. Evidence is adduced that 0.1 mg. daily is an effective dose. Various methods of administering iodides are discussed and preference is given to the addition of potassium iodide to cooking salt. A convenient method of producing iodised salt containing 0.5 gram. of iodide to the kilogram of sodium chloride, in quantities sufficient to supply the community, is fully described.

The work manifests a conscientious effort on the part of the author to solve the important problem of the prophylaxis of goitre in Switzerland. It will appeal to all those interested in the etiology and prevention of goitre.

*Goitre.* By F. de Quervain. Translated by J. Snowman, M.D. Pp. xvii + 247, with 118 illustrations. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 1924. Price 21s. net.

Emanating from an author so distinguished and so well known for his investigations on the thyroid, this volume commands attention. It is, indeed, an important contribution to the study of the pathology and the treatment of the diseases of the thyroid gland. Numerous problems are discussed in relation to anatomy, physiology, pathology, etiology, and treatment. Data are drawn widely from the recent literature and supplemented by a wealth of personal clinical experience and research. Though primarily intended for those interested in goitre and dealing especially with the more mooted problems, the work contains sufficient reference to well-established views to render it comprehensive and suitable for those desirous of obtaining a general and up-to-date knowledge of the subject. Dr Snowman is to be congratulated on the excellence of the translation, and on his having rendered available to English readers so important a work.

**NOTES ON BOOKS**

*Introduction to the Histology and Histopathology of the Nervous System,* by Paul Schröder. Translation from the second revised German edition by Baldwin Lueke, M.D., and Morton M'Cutcheon, M.D. (Lippincott Company, price 15s.). An English translation of the second edition of Schröder's valuable lectures will receive a warm welcome from neurologists in this country. Many years ago the writer of this note translated the first edition for his own use, a labour which was well repaid by the fundamental ideas gained about the structure of the functioning nervous elements. The lectures have