REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

A Consulting Surgeon in the Near East. By A. H. Tubby, C.B., C.M.G. London: Christophers. 1920. (15s. net.)

From 1915 till 1919 Colonel Tubby was one of the Consulting Surgeons to the Mediterranean and, latterly, Egyptian Expeditionary Forces, and the present volume is intended as a small contribution to the history—yet to be written—of the Great War as it was carried on in the Near East. Colonel Tubby takes the reader through the period from his appointment as a consulting surgeon, in 1915, down to his relinquishing it in the spring of 1919. His arrival in Egypt, his visits to Gallipoli, his return to Egypt, and his final settlement in the Alexandria district are told in the fluent style so well known to his friends, and these pages are full of interest. But the book is a good deal more than a chatty diary, and the reader will find therein an account of the author's efforts towards the betterment of the surgical work of the E.E.F. One aim to which he seems to have given commendable importance was towards good end-results of war injuries, and the reader will learn with interest the steps which he took towards its achievement. The description of his “joy-ride” to Kelab, and later to Bir Salem is an example of him in a less serious vein which is very delightful, but which in no way detracts from the more solid matters already referred to. The names of the places he visited, and of the men he met, and particularly his graceful tribute to the memory of the late Colonel F. M. Sandwith, vividly bring back memories of the E.E.F. The mottoes, mostly of Arabian origin, prefixed to the chapters show the hold which the country had obtained on the author, an experience common to many who served in the Egyptian theatre of war. The volume makes no pretence at being a surgical treatise; the author expressly
disavows this in his preface. But we venture to think that the narrative has not suffered by the omission of professional details, and we would express our thanks to Colonel Tubby for his very readable book, and its excellently reproduced photographic illustrations. There is a full index of subjects, and in addition an index of names, in which latter particulars of rank, &c., are given.

Women as Army Surgeons. By Flora Murray, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. London: Hodder & Stoughton, Limited. 1920. (12s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Murray has some power of artistry in words, and she has the quaintest humour imaginable in one with so grave a responsibility as hers. Probably her humour pulled her through many a difficulty. Her pictures of us poor men folk—especially if we be French, and effeminate at that—are not only clever as literature, but are effective propaganda for the Feminist cause. The writer of the present review has himself been a médecin-chef in the C.R.F., and can vouch for the truthfulness of the pictures of French army types so delicately portrayed in these pages. There is no doubt that books of this kind will provide very important data for the historian of the future, when he deals with the part of women in the war. And it was a great part the women medicals and their staffs played; indeed, the record in this book errs on the side of modesty in describing the units with which the author was connected. Perhaps more detail, however, would have made the book too technical for the market for which it is obviously intended—the non-medical one. The impression left on the present writer is that Dr. Murray's strongest side would be best developed if she gave us some war sketches similar to Duhamel's Vie de Martyres or Civilisation. She has certainly gifts for higher things than memoirs like this—good though it is. Creative art still has much to do before the great war is adequately represented by it. Neither Gibbs nor Barbusse has reached any way near adequacy, and yet they are our best so far.
The Early History of Surgery in Great Britain. By G. Parker, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S. London: A. & C. Black, Limited. 1920. (7s. 6d. net.)

This latest addition to the series of "Medical History Manuals" forms a fitting companion to the numbers which have already appeared. The subject is dealt with in successive periods from 1000 A.D. to 1850 A.D., and in the space at his disposal the author has given a very compact view of the rise of surgery in the country and its relation to contemporary progress on the Continent. Of much interest is the part devoted to the guild system and its influence on surgery both from the public health and educational points of view. The revival of hospitals in the eighteenth century after their wholesale disappearance after the Reformation, and the rise of hospital and university medical schools, brings the history up to more modern times. Short sketches of the lives of some of the leaders in surgery add life to the work. This book will well repay the reader who wishes a connected survey of the period, and we have much pleasure in recommending it.

Venereal Diseases: Their Clinical Aspect and Treatment. By J. E. R. McDonagh, F.R.C.S. London: William Heinemann, Limited. 1920. (£3, 3s. net.)

Mr. McDonagh has produced another large volume on the venereal diseases, in which he gives special attention to their clinical aspects and to their treatment. The section on syphilis is vividly written and well illustrated; the chapter on soft sore is the best we have seen on this subject; the section on gonorrhoea is less satisfactory. The author holds original views which he has been at much expense to elaborate, both on the life-history of the spirochæte and on biological chemistry. That he has not so far succeeded in convincing biologists and chemists of the truth of his theories decreases the practical value of this volume as a guide to the student of venereal disease. The specialist, who may be expected to view it critically, will find this book stimulating to dip into.