BOOK REVIEWS.

_Patients and Appendixitis_, by Sir Crisp English, K.C.M.G., F.R.C.S. Pp. vi. and 155. Price 10/6. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1946.

The greater part of this book is concerned with the diagnosis, pre-operative and post-operative care, and treatment of appendicitis. The first chapter, however, is devoted to remarks about 'patients' and might form a suitable introduction to almost any monograph of surgical interest. To-day, in the realm of teaching and treatment, there is perhaps an increasing tendency to concentrate on the treatment of an isolated area or surgical condition and disregard the patient as a whole. Thus, Sir Crisp English's remarks are timely and pertinent.

The book has not been written for the practising surgeon, but rather as a book of reference for the general practitioner and 'occasional' operator. It contains little information that cannot be found quite readily in any of the recognised works on operative surgery, but perhaps the size of this book, its limitation to the description of a condition encountered almost weekly in general practice, and its cost may appeal to general practitioners. Books of this type would have been very useful over twenty years ago when a patient's family doctor was more intimately concerned with treatment. It is in some ways regrettable that the inevitable gravitation of all forms of surgery to hospitals deprives general practitioners of a share in the welfare of certain cases.

Many of the authors, mentioned in an extensive bibliography at the end of this book, have played a part in reducing the mortality rate of appendicitis—an explanation of its cause remains undiscovered—but it should be remembered that early diagnosis and early hospitalization of doubtful cases has played its part too. If observance of the doctrines in this book serves to convert the hesitant or over-confident diagnostician, its publication will have been amply justified.

_The Pathology of Traumatic Injury: A General Review_, by James V. Wilson, M.D., M.R.C.P.(London), Major R.A.M.C.(T). Foreword by Philip H. Mitchiner, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. xii and 192. Price 20/- Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1946.

The sub-title of this monograph may give the impression that it is a superficial survey of the pathology of trauma or injury (there is more than a suggestion of redundancy about the expression 'traumatic injury'). Actually it is a most comprehensive, unique and up-to-date treatise of the subject. Fully half the book deals with shock, burns, crush injury, fat embolism, blast injury and wounds; and the remainder discusses injuries to the chest, blood vessels, abdomen, nervous system and bones and joints. Throughout these various chapters there is evidence of much painstaking reading, careful selection of material, research and original work. At the end of each chapter is a list of references which should satisfy the requirements of those who desire to consult original papers or extend the scope of their reading.

Not a little of the text is based on the personal experience and observations of the author who, while serving in the R.A.M.C., had abundant opportunity of witnessing the pathology of trauma during three grim years in Malta (1940-1943), and later under more peaceful surroundings in Alexandria where he was Associate Professor of Pathology, Farouk I. University, and Pathologist to the Anglo-Swiss Hospital, Alexandria.

Dr. Wilson is to be congratulated upon the production of a most useful, readable, reliable and well-illustrated book. The publishers are to be complimented too on the very high standard of their work.

The price of the book is reasonable.