REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

Developmental Abnormalities of the Eye. By Ida C. Mann, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S. London: Cambridge University Press. 1937. (50s. net).

Miss Mann has again written a brilliant book. It is a natural sequence to her studies in the development of the eye and supplies a reasoned explanation for the numerous congenital ocular defects. Miss Mann's knowledge of ocular embryology and comparative anatomy, together with her extensive clinical experience, make her most fitted to discuss the histological nature and the probable pathogenesis of such conditions.

No ophthalmic practitioner who wishes to understand the developmental diseases of the eye, can afford to be without this book. It is praise indeed to say that it is as readable and as clearly illustrated as her volume on the development of the eye.

Text-book of Histology for Medical Students. By Evelyn E. Hewer, D.Sc.Lond. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books) Limited. 1937. (15s. net).

Considering the expense involved in publishing a book which, of necessity, must be profusely illustrated it seems remarkable that new text-books of histology should continue to appear in spite of competition.

The scope of this book is confined strictly to the territory which has to be covered by the medical student; it is not weighted with unnecessary material. Most of the illustrations are made from human preparations. In the earlier chapters the characteristics of cells and tissues are described; the later chapters deal systematically with the various organs. A good feature of the chapter on the central nervous system is that each photograph is accompanied by a labelled sketch of the same section, and there is a diagram of the brain stem to show the position of each of the sections illustrated. The relation between structure and function has not been forgotten. For example, the appearance of bladder epithelium is described in the distended and relaxed state; also, the endometrial and mammary pictures are related
Reviews

to the activities of these organs. In these last two cases more, perhaps, might have been made of the opportunity to correlate structure with hormonal activity.

The great merit of this book lies undoubtedly in the excellent drawings of tissues and organs. The ability to recognize tissues can be acquired only by actual use of the microscope—but the wealth of detail seen must be overwhelming to the beginner. The bold simplicity of the line drawings given here will at once draw the student’s attention to the essentials of structure. This is the kind of diagram which he should be encouraged to make in his notebook and compelled to put in his examination paper.

This book is reasonable in price and is well produced. It can be recommended confidently to the medical student.

Some Human Ailments. By William Howard Hay, M.D. London: George S. Harrop & Co. Limited. 1937. (8s. 6d. net).

Auto-Intoxication has apparently been accepted by Dr. Hay as the cause of all human ailments and, on this basis, he deals in some detail with the cause and treatment of many well-known diseases. Amongst those dealt with in “Some Human Ailments” are pernicious anemia, diabetes mellitus, pneumonia and infantile paralysis, for each of which he evolves a pathology which is far from convincing. The loose manner in which he uses the terms toxins, intoxications, nutritional balance, alkaline reserves and buffer salts may appeal to what he himself calls “the gullible public” but it fails to impress the intelligent reader.

A discriminating reader may find some interest in this book, and we agree with his advocacy of natural foods including raw milk and his condemnation of the use of so much manufactured food.

To many, the practice of colon lavage “a thorough irrigation of this sewer every day by means of the enema,” the study of alkaline reserves and nutritional balance in diet with the correct chemical combinations are likely to become an even more distressing obsession than the diseases which they are likely to cure.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Practice: A Modern Conception. By R. C. Wingfield, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.P. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1937. (9s. net).

Any volume from the pen of Dr. Wingfield on tuberculosis is well worth reading. Like his predecessor, Dr. Marcus Paterson, he looks
Reviews

at the subject which is his specialty in a manner that is peculiar to himself.

This book is the product of wide experience, over many years, and shows the intimate knowledge and relationship of the writer to his subject.

It is in three Parts. The first Part deals with the pathogenesis of pulmonary tuberculosis and, in a novel and interesting manner, describes the broad pathological facts relative to the disease. No minute details are entered into. This Part, illustrated by a series of charts and diagrams, calls for close study but is definitely helpful.

The second Part deals with the clinical aspects of the disease and is particularly good in what it has to say regarding diagnosis and treatment. In it, the pathological facts outlined in the first Part, are correlated with clinical facts and radiological findings on examination. The pathology of the disease is also made the basis of the various courses of treatment advocated. Dr. Wingfield is emphatic on the great importance of rest in the treatment of active forms of tuberculosis. One would have expected him to be more emphatic in his advocacy of artificial pneumothorax and other forms of collapse therapy in the treatment of the earlier stages of the disease. A method of treatment that can produce dramatic results in a small percentage of apparently hopeless cases may be expected, if resorted to at an early state, to produce perfect results in a very large percentage of the cases, and that it does.

The third Part of the book is essentially practical. It describes the technique of and expresses opinion regarding Mantoux reaction and the blood sedimentation test. It also gives the author’s views on how haemoptysis, pleural effusion, ischio-rectal abscess, spontaneous pneumothorax and tuberculous laryngitis should be dealt with.

The book is not written for the specialist in tuberculosis but for the general practitioner. The author hopes that it will help to “bridge the gap” between the two. It can be recommended to the student of medicine in general practice who desires to obtain a well-balanced view of a difficult branch of medicine— the ramifications of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis and its many complications.

Modern Psychology in Practice. By W. Lindesay Neustatter, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (10s. 6d. net.)

In this book, which is intended to be a useful guide to medical practitioners and students in the diagnosis and treatment of mental
illness in the widest aspect of that term, the author has succeeded in presenting in a very clear way a remarkable amount of information and guidance in a book of conveniently small size.

The book opens with a section on Psychopathology, in which the author deals briefly with the psychological theories of Freud, Jung, Adler and Stekel. Under separate headings he discusses the Unconscious Mind, Repression, Dreams, and the Role of Conflict in Mental Disorder. One of the most valuable sections of the book is devoted to a discussion of the aetiology, the diagnosis and the treatment of mental abnormalities occurring in children. The neuroses and the psychoses are dealt with in a fairly comprehensive way, and the author gives very sound advice on the treatment of these conditions. A description of the aberrations of the sexual instinct is also given, and the treatment of these conditions is dealt with.

A chapter is devoted to the psychological features of certain physical conditions such as asthma, rheumatism, chorea, rheumatoid arthritis, gastric disease, and gynaecological conditions. The book closes with a section on the law in relation to mental disease.

The author expresses himself with clarity, and he succeeds in communicating to his readers his own sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of those suffering from mental illness. In his discussion on treatment, his advice on what not to do, and what not to say, to the patient (if taken to heart by his readers) is likely to be of even greater value than his suggestions for active therapeutic interference; and his emphatic condemnation of aggressive and punitive therapeutic measures, especially in the treatment of children and sexual perverts, is particularly commendable.

The excellent qualities of the book, and the modest and unpretentious way in which it is written, disarms criticism, but certain of the author's statements call for critical comment. One feels that the author is less at his ease with his subject in discussing the psychoses than he is in his description and treatment of the neuroses.

There is little evidence to support his statement that "It is quite likely that manic-depressive psychosis is some disturbance of the mood regulating mechanism—possibly endocrine;" and to dismiss the psychopathology of the manic-depressive psychoses with the statement that "Psychological causes may precipitate an attack, but there is no real evidence to suggest that the psychopathology of the condition is the primary factor" is very misleading to the uninformed reader.

Few psychiatrists will agree with the author's opinion that if mania lasts longer than two or three months "it is doubtful if the
condition is not schizophrenia;” and it is rather startling to read that “the psychology of schizoid patients is comparatively easy to understand.”

In his section on “the legal procedure to be adopted for the admission of patients to a mental hospital,” the author does not make it clear that he is describing only the procedure adopted in England. As one hopes that his book will be read by practitioners and students in Scotland, it is unfortunate that the author did not deal briefly with the procedure under the Scottish Lunacy Acts. The section on Crime and Insanity is too brief to be of much value.

On the whole, the book is an excellent one, and can be thoroughly recommended to students and practitioners as a guide to the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness occurring in general practice.

Perspectives in Biochemistry. Edited by J. Needham, Sc.D., and D. E. Green, Ph.D. London: Cambridge University Press. 1937. (15s. net.)

Biochemists are roughly classified by most medical workers into two main groups—the people who do blood sugars and basal metabolic rates, and the people who study molecular chemistry and devise the graphic formula. The work of this latter group is recondite, but has of recent years become of increasing interest and importance to medicine in connexion with the rapid progress of knowledge about the sex hormones. The medical men who, as a result, are engaged in a re-study of biochemistry will begin hopefully on a book with the engaging title of “Perspectives in Biochemistry.”

This was written as a Festschrift for the seventy-fifth birthday of Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins by thirty-one biochemists who had worked under him. They were each asked to write an essay indicating the most promising lines of advance in the field they surveyed and speculating a little on the likely paths of future thought. A rather vague demand, and one which clearly gave the various writers some difficulty in deciding how to deal with it. Certain of the essays are abstruse and detailed résumés of personal research, some are lucid reviews of the present state of knowledge, and one or two appear to be popular science talks for the wireless. The field ranges from pure biochemistry to pure zoology and bacteriology; such subjects being discussed as surface films, the biochemistry of flower colour variation, carbohydrate chemistry, and the morphogenetic fields in the embryo.

No attempt is, of course, made to cover the whole of biochemistry or to indicate all the lines of infiltration of biochemistry into the related
Reviews

sciences. The only real connecting link between the essays is that they are all written by people who have at some time or other worked in Hopkin's laboratory. Everyone will agree that the collection and presentation of these essays to Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins personally is a fitting and commendable tribute to the many-sided interests of a great leader of thought. It would perhaps be ungracious to raise the question whether, however, any useful purpose is served by the actual publication of such a book, which is inevitably heterogeneous both in subject and treatment yet not comprehensive in its scope.

Individually most of the essays are of the high individual merit that would be expected from the fact that they are written by recognized authorities. In the more purely chemical papers one notes the tendency common to many biochemists to begin with a rather too easy introduction for a couple of pages and then to plunge suddenly and without warning into the most difficult complexities of the subject. The essay of Szent-Gyorgyi on oxidation and fermentation stands out among these as a model of lucidity. Among the papers of more medical interest, particular mention may be made of those on the molecular physics of muscular contraction, on the chemistry of hemoglobin and its derivatives, and of one on the meaning of the word "life"; this last is a very successful handling of a subject on which a second-rate essay could so easily have been written.

Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Reports. Vol. LXX. London: John Murray. 1937. (21s.; to Subscribers, 15s.)

It is with regret that we open a new edition of Saint Bartholomew's Reports to read the names of Professor E. H. Kettle and Mr. T. H. Just in the obituary list. Their respective lives are succinctly described and publications appended.

Mr. W. Girling Ball reviews a hundred cases of gall-bladder disease, with a personal exposition of his own gall bladder's attenuated egress from the normal, which began at the age of 14 years. Calculous cholecystitis, he finds, starts earlier in life than is generally believed and the accompanying colic comes on especially at night and during the winter months.

Dr. C. Harris, on the subject of pre-operative and post-operative treatment of congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis, points out the relatively infrequent admissions of their cases as compared with those of the Infants' Hospital, and Mr. G. Keynes completes this article by a discussion on Rammstedt's operation. Analysing twelve
Reviews

cases of nasopharyngeal tumours, Mr. F. C. W. Capps computes that lympho-epitheliomata are not so uncommon and pleads for more meticulous early diagnosis.

Dr. H. J. Broadribb and Dr. B. C. Nicholson report their theses on artificial fever produced by physical agents and the cardiac arrhythmias of thyrotoxicosis with special reference to quinidine sulphate.

The pulmonary section comprises articles by Dr. J. Maxwell on massive collapse in bronchitis and asthma, Dr. F. G. Chandler on gomenol injections for non-expansion of the lung after pneumothorax, and Dr. P. D. R. McEwan on accessory lobes of the right lung.

In an expedite way Dr. A. Wormall apprises us of the recent work on immunity. Other two biochemical studies are supplied by Dr. H. F. Brewer on the titre of iso-haemoglutinins and a consorted report by Mr. J. Paterson Ross, Dr. G. Wiscombe and Dr. Robb Smith on a case of multiple myelosis.

Finally, let us mention Mr. J. P. Hosford’s 50 per cent good results in twelve cases of acute suppurative arthritis and Mr. H. J. Burrows and Mr. Coltart on treatment, by manipulation, performed in the orthopaedic department during the years 1932-6.

Eyestrain and Convergence. By N. A. Stutterheim, M.D. (Rand.). London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Limited. 1937. (7s. 6d. net).

In his summary of the book the author states that the extrinsic eye muscles act as tensors and not antagonistically, and that his conception of convergence is that it represents an autonomic power of the mind and brain. It manifests itself as the basic movement of the dual eye and forms the kinetic principle of bifoveal single vision. This convergence acts by visual reflexes only, and not through volition. During vision this convergence keeps the convergence muscles in constant action, namely, the internal recti, superior and inferior recti, and the oblique muscles. He believes that if this power of convergence is inadequate then eyestrain results.

He tests the power of this convergence at 6 metres by asking the patient to observe a vertical white line, 7·5x1 c.m. in size, on a black screen, and determines the prisms base-out and base-in which are required to elicit diplopia. For some unexplained reason he objects to the use of rotary prisms and uses a battery of prisms for the test. If the patient has not a total of 50 prism degrees of convergence then training is required. This the author applies in daily 10-minute sessions in the same manner in which he determines the total amount of convergence. He believes that by “unfolding” the convergence all
Reviews

forms of eyestrain are cured, and, in addition, amblyopia disappears, muscular imbalance is cured, and the necessity for wearing of glasses for a refractive error may disappear.

The author is obviously an enthusiast, and while there may be something in his system of training convergence, his claims appear to be too sweeping. His material is sufficient to make an article for a journal rather than a book.

_Biology for Medical Students._ By C. C. Hentschel, M.Sc., and W. R. Ivermey Cook, B.Sc., Ph.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1937. (18s. net).

A considerable amount of careful work has obviously been expended by the authors in preparing the second edition of this well known text-book. The whole book has been carefully revised and brought up-to-date. Some new sections have been added, so that this edition is enlarged by some 50 pages and 31 illustrations. The first edition was extensively used by students of the University of London, but the additional matter included makes the book of use to many students pursuing syllabuses which differ from that of London.

The book is attractively written, well-printed and profusely illustrated. The numerous photographs deserve special mention as they are of a very high standard, and with one exception—the dissection of the neck region of rabbit on page 263—the diagrams are admirably clear.

The authors have borne in mind the fact that this book is primarily intended for medical students, and have, therefore, rightly stressed the medical aspects of biology, but the book is well-balanced and all aspects of biology which affect man receive attention, so that the book gives a wide education in addition to laying the foundations of future medical study. The chapters on bacteria, histology, evolution, and adaptation to environment are particularly admirable in that they should stimulate the student to further study.

This book should continue to find a favoured place among biology text-books in use in medical schools.
Reviews

NEW EDITIONS

Minor Maladies and their Treatment. By Leonard Williams, M.D. Seventh Edition. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox. 1937. (10s. 6d).

This admirable work has now reached its seventh edition, and very considerable changes have been made in the present edition. An entirely new chapter has been added on dietetics, in view of the interest now taken in this subject. It is divided into ten chapters—Coughs, colds and sore throat; indigestion; constipation, diarrhoea, &c.; rheumatism, neuralgia and headache; salient symptoms, albuminuria, glycosuria, &c.; minor glandular deficiencies; general health; minor dietetics; insanity; remedial measures.

In addition to being a very practical aid to everyday practice, the book very genuinely endeavours to direct the student away from the "impotent contemplation of the full-blown" in disease, towards the "buds and tendencies."

The work is eminently egotistical, the result of the author's own personal experiences in practice, but its most striking feature is the frequent vigorous, vehement, and invective language of the text, for example:—Treatment of boils, on page 208—"There are three measures to which the ordinary practitioner clings with inexplicable obstinacy." The Knife—"To incise a boil at any stage of its career is to lengthen its existence;" Poultice—"The damp and messy mass produces a crop of acne-like pustules like satellites round a major constellation;" Squeezing—"The ugliest crime perpetrated on boils is to squeeze them, disseminating the painful inflammatory mischief with damnable profusion. The stupidity of it all—the uselessness—the lack of imagination!"

One excellent chapter in the book is on remedial measures, and perhaps the least convincing is that on minor glandular deficiencies, because of the multiplicity of the manifestations described under the condition.

The book contains much truth and many excellent prescriptions, but to appreciate it properly one should have been in practice for a time before reading it, in order to have cut or squeezed a boil, to have learned to smoke, or to have drawn up a diet sheet for an unsuspecting patient.
Reviews

Recent Advances in the Study of Rheumatism. By F. J. Poynton, M.D., M.R.C.P.(Lond.), and B. Schlesinger, M.A., M.D.(Camb.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (15s. net.)

The second edition of the book is again divided into two parts—acute and chronic rheumatism. In Part I. the recent work on viruses in relation to the aetiology of acute rheumatism receives comment and the existence of a virus fixed in the tissues is discussed, the suggestion being that this virus becomes active when the general resistance is lowered, as by a streptococcal infection. Among numerous other additions to the book pyrotherapy in the treatment of chorea is discussed and condemned. In the authors’ cases an attack was frequently shortened by the use of nirvanol, but this happy result has not been attained by all those who have employed that drug. In Part II. the results of gold therapy in rheumatoid arthritis are discussed, and a new chapter has been added on the industrial aspect of rheumatism. The book provides an excellent summary of the present knowledge of rheumatism.

Dixon's Manual of Human Osteology. Second Edition. Revised by E. B. Jamieson, M.D. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1937. (21s. net.)

To those familiar with the first edition of Professor Dixon’s Manual, recognition of this second edition may indeed be difficult, as the Manual has been rewritten completely.

In the first instance, there is the adoption of the Birmingham Nomenclature (approved by the Anatomical Society in 1933), which makes for easier reading; secondly, the accounts of the Development of Bone, the Ligaments of Joints, and the Movements of Bones have been greatly and quite rightly amplified; thirdly, an account of those structures, visceral and otherwise, which are related to bones, has been introduced; lastly, the original but excellent illustrations of the first edition have been supplemented by drawings and x-ray plates of the highest class borrowed from Cunningham.

The finished work, therefore, gives us a valuable book of great merit and it should perpetuate the memory of Francis Dixon. The smoothly flowing and almost conversational style, the completeness of the subject-matter, the almost total absence of conventional anatomical “Jargon,” and the very high standard of production, make it a delightful book to read.

It can be recommended with confidence to every medical student,
Reviews

junior or senior, with the knowledge that it would become an essential unit in a medical library.

Feeding and Care of Baby. By Sir F. Truby King, Kt., C.M.G., M.B., B.Sc. Revised and Enlarged Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1937. (3s. net).

The new edition has been reorganized within, given modern illustrations, and generally spruced up, but the contents are essentially unchanged. Of particular value are the sections dealing with the promotion of an adequate supply of breast milk and the question of teething, both of which can be recommended to the medical profession as highly as to the layman.

On the subject of artificial feeding the instructions are too diffuse and not quite consistent. Particularly does this apply to the commencement of solid food, insistently demanded but actually deferred almost twice as long as is the general rule. Again, scrupulous cleanliness is rightly insisted upon, yet the five feeds for the day are left in bottles covered only by wet butter muslin.

The advice given as to clothing, bathing, and general management is still widely applicable. There is an excellent list of "what every baby needs" and another of "popular errors" which should be, but are not, common knowledge, and these should be sufficient reason for recommending the book to all who wish to learn or ought to know about babies and young children. The price is within the reach of all.

The Bed-Bug: Its Habits and Life-History and How to Deal with It. British Museum (Natural History) Economic Series, No. 5. By A. W. McKenny-Hughes, D.I.C. Fourth Edition. London: Adlard & Son, Limited. 1937. (6d. net.)

The problems associated with the prevention and eradication of bug infestation have received the close attention of Public Health authorities throughout the country during the past ten years or so. Slum clearance and re-housing concentrated the attention of local authorities upon this insect in a way undreamt of before. The bed-bug is well worth close study if only because of its peculiarities to which it owes much of its immunity from attacks. It can be safely said that no one can eradicate this elusive insect from buildings unless he is armed with a knowledge of its life-history and habits. This new edition of the British Museum Economic Series will be found very
Reviews

comprehensive in the information supplied regarding life-history and methods of control and eradication. Mr. McKenny-Hughes, who is alive to all the housing problems associated with the bed-bug, has touched on all the recognized methods of eradication and has fairly set forth the worth of each method. The illustrations are excellent and the coloured frontispiece is perfect. This booklet is recommended to all Public Health officials concerned with re-housing, house factors, and University students.

The Diabetic A.B.C. By R. D. Lawrence, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond. Fifth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1937. (3s. 6d. net.)

Details of the line ration and five gram schemes are given, full examples of how to work out diets therefrom and sixteen pages of recipes; also instructions to patients as to insulin, their life in general, the various risks and pitfalls they may have to encounter and how to behave in illness.

Not much attention is given to the more recent and higher carbohydrate diets, but some directions as to how to work them out are included. The booklet is eminently practical as regards recipes, completely full details of these being given. They are many, and varied, and to read them over is almost enough to make one wistfully wonder as to whether it might just be possible, that a diabetic, using this book, may possibly fare better than many of us.

A Text-book of the Practice of Medicine. By various Authors. Edited by Frederick W. Price, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.P. Fifth Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1937. (India paper, 45s. net; ordinary paper, 36s. net.)

This text-book is too well-known to require any recommendation. In the present edition the former arrangement has been followed but the material has been thoroughly revised and brought up-to-date.

Five of the original contributors have died since the appearance of the last edition, but the high standard of the work has been maintained by their successors, each a recognized authority on his subject. As in the earlier editions, the section on diseases of the nervous system is of outstanding merit: it has been revised by Dr. F. M. R. Walshe and incorporates much experience gained at the National Hospital, Queen's Square.

The section on diseases of the circulatory system by the Editor has
Reviews

also been brought thoroughly up-to-date, and the recent, and as yet somewhat controversial, advances in treatment are critically and helpfully discussed.

The work is extremely comprehensive including, as heretofore, diseases of the skin and psychological medicine: it is, in fact, almost a "system" in one volume. In order to reduce the weight the publishers have issued a more expensive edition on India paper. The book sums up current medical teaching in the London School, and can be confidently recommended to those requiring a work at once authoritative and rather more full than the average text-book of medicine, and particularly to those reading for one of the higher medical qualifications.

Medical Emergencies. By Charles Newman, M.D.Cantab., F.R.C.P. Lond. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (8s. 6d. net).

The second edition of this small book has been thoroughly revised and in places re-written, notably the section on war gases and the treatment of gassing. All the medical emergencies likely to be met with in civil or military practice are dealt with. In a work of this type the choice of treatment is necessarily somewhat arbitrary but the methods described are those of proven value. The volume is of handy size, the type is clear, and the instructions are crisp and lucid: there is no doubt that it will find a wide sphere of usefulness.

Surgical Anatomy. By Grant Massie, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1937. (18s. net.)

In our opinion this remains one of the best books on Surgical Anatomy for medical students. In this, the third edition, thorough revision has been carried out and a number of valuable diagrams added. The work is extremely comprehensive, attractively illustrated, neatly arranged and printed; we regard the price as being reasonable.

Teachers of surgery will find this an eminently suitable book for rapid references as, unlike several books on Surgical Anatomy, it is not burdened with systematic surgery and surgical pathology.