REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

Sixth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and Meetings of the Permanent Committee, The Hague, Netherlands, June, 1931. Report of Commander William Seaman Bainbridge. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1933. ($1.)

This little volume of some 150 and odd pages gives an account of the work of the Congress held, in 1931, at The Hague. The subjects reported upon at the Congress were (1) recruiting, training and advanced training of military medical officers and pharmacists; (2) psychoneuroses of war; (3) haemostasis on the battlefield; (4) preparation and storage of medicinal ampoules in use in the naval and military medical services; and (5) sequelæ of war wounds of the teeth and inferior maxilla.

Brief reports of the remarks of those taking part in the discussions are given, and the "Conclusions" of the Congress on these discussions are formulated in the closing pages of the Report.

We have already had occasion to notice at least one of Commander Bainbridge's reports on previous military medical congresses, and we have once more to thank him for the present Report. It is interesting reading, and as a book of reference will be found of use to all medical officers belonging to the fighting services of the Crown.

Giza Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory, Cairo. Seventh Annual Report, for the year 1932.

This report, like its predecessors, is a record of excellent work done by the staff of the Giza Memorial Ophthalmic Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Rowland P. Wilson. Professional interest naturally centres on the sections dealing with cases of pathological or clinical interest seen during the year, and on the record of special pathological and clinical research. The acute ophthalmias are still responsible for most of the blindness in Egypt, but the director is able to record a marked decrease in blindness from this cause, the result of the persistent efforts of the Government Ophthalmic Hospitals. Trachoma, though it is so widespread and leads to a good deal of impaired visual
Reviews

Acuity, takes quite a secondary place among the causes of blindness. In spite of the fact that the mortality from all forms of tuberculosis is high in Egypt, ocular tuberculosis seems to be exceedingly rare. Dr. Rowland Wilson again emphasizes the fact that trachoma is not a highly infectious disease and that it can easily be prevented. The administrative defects in the way are far from negligible, but the results achieved in Bahtim, a typical Egyptian village near Cairo, have been extremely encouraging. Although several new forms of treatment of trachoma have been given a fair trial nothing has emerged to supplant old and well-tried methods.

The researches of Major F. H. Stewart have dealt with the rôle of the Prowazek-Halberstaedter bodies or "inclusions" in the pathogenesis of trachoma. His conclusions are important, and are, briefly, that the Prowazek-Halberstaedter body is not the cause of trachoma, that it is formed by the phagocytosis of various bacteria by the epithelial cells, and that its association with trachoma is due to secondary bacterial infection. He thinks it is possible that these bacteria (Koch-Weeks and others) may carry the virus of trachoma, and, in his opinion, "inclusion blenorrhœa" is not a separate disease.

Aids to Pathological Technique. By D. H. Haler, M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1933. (3s. 6d. net.)

This little book would be more accurately entitled "Aids to Clinical Pathology"—the field covered pertaining to the work carried out in a clinical laboratory. A wealth of technical detail is condensed in its modest dimensions, the author having collected what seems to him to be the most satisfactory methods of carrying out a very comprehensive range of laboratory tests.

In our opinion, the work presupposes too much to be of value to the undergraduate, and most experienced laboratory workers will prefer the larger works of reference.

An Outline of Medicine for Nurses. By James Fanning, M.D. Lond., D.P.H. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1933. (2s. 6d. net.)

The enthusiastic support of a hospital sister confirms one’s favourable impressions of this very readable and compact little primer. The author follows the syllabus of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. He omits practical details, as he intends his book to be read in conjunction with one of the
ordinary text-books of nursing. In the descriptions, there is a pleasing and consistent absence of those "signs" which no nurse can be expected to observe or elicit; but this is, at all times, without any sacrifice of the intrinsic completeness and lucidity of these descriptions.

NEW EDITIONS

Recent Advances in Psychiatry. By Henry Devine, O.B.E., M.D., B.S., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1933. (12s. 6d. net.)

The new edition of this excellent book has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date without materially increasing its size. A comprehensive and balanced outlook is maintained throughout, the expositions of current and often conflicting theories on debatable points are invariably both clear and fair, and questions of treatment are very adequately dealt with. This is not a cram-book for students nor a reference-book for practitioners seeking a diagnostic label for some particular case, but we warmly recommend it to all those, whether specialists or otherwise, who are seriously interested in psychiatric problems, and who recognize the close relationship of many of these problems, not only to general medicine, but also to various wider aspects of social life. The book is of a very convenient size, admirably printed and arranged.

Chronic Nasal Sinusitis and its Relation to General Medicine. (Chronic Sinusitis and Systemic Sepsis.) By Patrick Watson-Williams, M.D. Second Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1933. (15s. net.)

The second edition of this excellent work, originally produced in 1930, enhances the high reputation of the previous edition. A short chapter has been added on some of the more obscure problems of mixed infection symbiosis, also agranulocytic angina, influenza, cerebro-spinal meningitis, encephalitis lethargica, &c., in their relation to sinusitis. There are few additions to the original chapters, which are of absorbing interest to medical men in whatever branch they practice, family physician and consultant alike. Some new illustrations are included, but in spite of the extra material there is only a slight increase in bulk. The new edition is dedicated to the Bristol Medical School in the year of its centenary, and contains a foreword by Sir Humphry Rolleston.