NEW BOOKS

*Mental Disorders.* By Hubert J. Norman, M.B., D.P.H. Pp. xv + 463, with 57 illustrations. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1928. Price 14s.

This handbook by the lecturer in mental disorders in Westminster Hospital Medical School will be welcomed by those who are making their first acquaintance with the study of mental disease. It is divided into two sections, in the first of which there is an excellent account of the symptomatology of the various psychoses and psycho-neuroses. In the second section, a miscellaneous group of subjects is dealt with—historical, psychological, pathological, therapeutic, and legal. In this section one of the most interesting chapters deals with clinical examples of mental disorder culled from life and literature, in the course of which the author administers a well-earned rebuke to Mr H. G. Wells and others equally eminent and just as ignorant, for fostering prejudice at the expense of the asylum. The classification of mental disorders followed is the usual one, and by far the best part of the book is that in which the symptoms of the various forms of disorder are outlined. It is doubtful, however, whether the student will find the rest of the book so satisfactory. It is all very well to say that much of modern psychiatry “is still in an inchoate condition,” but it is precisely in such circumstances that one ought to be most chary of dogmatising with regard to aetiology and other obscure factors. That apart, however, the book is of value for its clinical descriptions, and might be cordially recommended to an even wider circle of readers, embracing not a few of the general public whose interest in mental disease has never been so keen as now.

*The Polynuclear Count.* By W. E. Cooke, M.D., and Eric Ponder, M.D., D.Sc. Pp. xiii + 79. London: Griffin & Co. 1927. Price 6s.

The significance of the Arneth count has long been recognised by the medical profession, but owing to its complexity it has not been widely adopted in clinical diagnosis. Dr W. E. Cooke and Professor E. Ponder describe a new classification which has the merit of simplicity without loss of accuracy. Only five cell types are recognised, and the distinction between them is clearly defined, thus eliminating the personal factor as a source of error.

A chapter is devoted to the polynuclear count in health and the physiological variations met with in the normal subject, and effects of various stimuli in producing a leucocytosis. The counts peculiar to infection states, including tuberculosis and blood diseases, are recorded, and their significance is discussed, the observed results clearly indicating the value of the method in diagnosis, especially in the case of obscure conditions when the existence of an infective focus is in doubt, or in
New Books

chronic cases when prognosis is in question. The authors point out that their method should be supplementary to other investigations and should not be given precedence over careful clinical examination. The question of the origin of the "macropolycyte" is discussed and the life-history of the polynuclear cell is traced in health and in disease.

There is an extensive bibliography and an appendix containing details of staining methods and other matters relating to technique. The absence of an index is to be regretted.

It may be hoped that, since the classification has been simplified and the accuracy of the method demonstrated, a polynuclear count will soon become as much a routine method in clinical medicine as other methods of blood examination.

A Textbook of Biochemistry. By A. T. Cameron. Pp. x+462, with 14 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1928. Price 15s.

Professor Cameron's book gives a well-balanced, succinct account of the usual subjects dealt with in a course of biochemistry intended for students of medicine. After a general survey of biochemistry and an account of enzymes, he passes to a consideration of the chemistry of foodstuffs, thence to digestion, the chemistry of the blood, of respiration, and of the excreta. Chapters on intermediate metabolism, vitamins, etc., follow, and a brief outline is then given of the chemistry of reproduction, energy exchanges of the body, and diet. Useful addenda for medical students are the chapters on immunology and a biochemical introduction to pharmacology.

The subject is treated somewhat dogmatically, but one can agree with Professor Cameron's contention that this is necessary in a book addressed primarily to students in the early years of their course. Serious differences of opinion are, however, indicated, and the book is accurate. The reviewer has detected only one or two minor inaccuracies which are not of any importance, and are indeed unavoidable in dealing with a rapidly growing subject. The sub-title states that the book is intended for students of medicine and science. For the former it can be heartily recommended; for the latter it forms an excellent introduction to the subject, though the treatment is hardly full enough for the specialist.

Bacteriology and Surgery of Chronic Arthritis and Rheumatism.
By H. Warren Crowe, D.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Pp. x+185, with 45 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford. 1927. Price 30s.

In this work the author first deals with the classification of chronic arthritis, and emphasising the difficulty of co-relating the clinical and pathological pictures, he adheres to the simple method of employing
three main headings, viz. rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and mixed arthritis. He then deals with the important rôle that streptococci play in regard to pathological changes in joints, and briefly reviews the literature concerning the experimental production of joint lesions, produced by the injection of streptococci isolated from focal infections. He reviews and praises the work of Dr Weston Price, especially in regard to the reproduction of specific lesions in animals by the introduction of streptococci isolated from focal teeth infections. The observations on rarefaction and condensing osteitis about the roots of infected teeth are most interesting. The author criticises Dr Price's technique in some particulars, and is inclined to the view that certain strains of streptococci are in themselves specific for certain tissues, rather than that there is any peculiar property of the tissues themselves. In regard to the handling of teeth infection, great importance is attached to the point of whether rarefaction or condensing osteitis is present. Foci of infection other than dental in cases of osteoarthritis are dealt with and the prevalence of streptococci emphasised. The author is firmly convinced by the clinical and experimental data to hand that osteoarthritis has a streptococcal etiological factor.

The work on the bacteriology of rheumatoid arthritis is carefully worked out and clearly presented. The author names as its probable cause a special variety of staphylococcus closely allied to the normal inhabitants of the skin. His views are strengthened by clinical and laboratory investigations. In discussing vaccine therapy stress is laid on the importance of using proper strains of organisms.

The chapter on surgical treatment by Herbert Frankling, C.B.E., M.R.C.S., deals with the part that surgery plays in the therapy of chronic non-tuberculous arthritis and is presented in a very clear and concise fashion.

The author concludes his work by a detailed account of his bacteriological technique and a scheme for the classification of streptococci. The plates and other illustrations have been well reproduced. The book should be of great interest not only to the research worker but to the practising physician as well.

*The Abdominal Surgery of Children.* By L. E. BARRINGTON-WARD. Pp. xiii + 283, with 85 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press (Humphrey Milford). 1928. Price 15s.

In this book Mr Barrington-Ward presents in a readable form an important branch of abdominal surgery. The book is well produced, clearly written, and the author draws largely on his own extensive experience of the subject, as well as on that of his colleagues at the Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street. The illustrations are excellent, and at the end of each chapter there is a full and helpful
New Books

bibliography of modern literature, the authors of which are also separately indexed at the end of the volume.

All the most important subjects are adequately and fully dealt with, and particular mention may be made of the sections on Ketosis, where the author wisely quotes Cameron as saying that cyclic vomiting is not a disease but a symptom; peritonitis, with a full description of pneumococcal peritonitis; surgery of the spleen, in which clear indications for splenectomy are noted.

One is glad to read that at Gt. Ormond Street Children's Hospital all cases of pyloric stenosis are now treated surgically as soon as diagnosed, with a consequent great reduction in the mortality. In 1917, 7 out of 9 cases treated medically died, while during six months of 1927 25 cases were treated surgically with only one death. The author stresses the fact that the longer the duration of symptoms the higher the mortality. He gives also a full description of the operative technique.

One wonders perhaps why herniotomy in a healthy infant should be delayed until the age of six months and why the subcutaneous ligature operation for umbilical hernia is not mentioned. But these are minor points. The volume is essentially practical, avoids controversial points, and should be in the hands of every surgeon who may at times have to deal with abdominal conditions in childhood.

*Annals of the Pickett-Thomson Research Laboratory*, Vol. III. (containing a historical survey of researches on the streptococci). By D. Thomson, O.B.E., M.B., D.P.H., and R. Thomson, M.B. Pp. 301 with 57 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1927. Price 42s.

The importance of the streptococci in the causation of human disease cannot be too strongly emphasised. A vast amount of bacteriological research has been devoted to the biology and pathogenicity of these organisms, and a stocktaking of present knowledge is much needed. The authors of this work have rendered a valuable service by reviewing the biology of the streptococci and their survey of the subject constitutes an important contribution to bacteriological literature. Following their previous work on other bacterial groups, Drs D. and R. Thomson have brought microphotography to their aid, thus recording pictorially the morphological and colony characters of various types of streptococci. They have been assisted by Dr Warren Crowe, who has contributed a chapter on the “Differentiation and Classification of the Non-haemolytic Streptococci,” a subject to which the writer has given most detailed and careful study. The authors are to be congratulated on the success of their “attempt to compile a reference work” containing “more or less organised information” regarding the subject under review, and they may be assured that their monograph will prove of undoubted value to research workers.
New Editions

*Physical Diagnosis.* By C. P. Emerson, A.B., M.D. Pp. xv + 553, with 324 illustrations. London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1928. Price 35s.

Physical diagnosis is, and doubtless will remain, the primary and the fundamental method of diagnosis. Every advance in scientific medicine makes its problems greater, therefore harder, and for this reason Professor Emerson aims at presenting to the medical profession a book which tries to reach the levels of the medicine of to-day and to train the student to be ready to meet the problems of the future.

This is an age in which laboratory diagnosis has tended to discredit physical diagnosis; those with access to radiological, chemical and serological laboratories seem unwilling to trust their personal skill in physical diagnosis. It certainly is a temptation to the clinician to let his laboratory associates assume the responsibility for his diagnosis rather than rely on himself, but this cannot with safety be done. The author is to be congratulated on putting together a book which treats physical examination not as a diminishing subject, but indeed shows it to be the fundamental method of diagnosis, the duties of which have not been lessened but increased by the contributions of laboratory diagnosis, since each new method imposes upon the physical diagnostician a new responsibility—that of evaluating and applying its results to the individual patient.

The arrangement of the book is excellent. In a general introduction the history of physical diagnosis is briefly sketched from the time of Hippocrates down to the present time. Following this, each region of the body is carefully dealt with and amply illustrated, the majority of the illustrations being from photographs of patients suffering from disease. A full index enables those who use it as a book of reference to have ready access to a wealth of information.

NEW EDITIONS

*Diathermy, Its Production and Uses in Medicine and Surgery.* By Elkin P. Cumberbatch. Second Edition. Pp. xii + 332, with 87 illustrations. London: Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1927. Price 21s.

The second edition of this book is revised and enlarged. It may now be regarded as forming a standard English work on diathermy. It deals fully with the subject in all its branches. The necessary apparatus is well described and illustrated.

The use of high frequency currents in surgery is now well established but it is only in recent years that its full value, as a form of medical treatment, has become recognised, and I would draw special attention