REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

Uterine Hæmorrhage. By Samuel J. Cameron, M.B., F.R.F.P.S.G., and John Hewitt, M.B. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1926. (8s. 6d. net.)

This book treats of uterine haemorrhage from all sources, both obstetrical and gynaecological, and is therefore unique in its scope. It is clearly the work of men who are in the habit of dealing regularly in practice with the lesions described. The treatment is clear and detailed, and leaves the practitioner in no doubt as to the proper method of combating each emergency. Where surgical procedure is called for, the appropriate operation is indicated but is not described. It is evident, therefore, that the book is intended for the general practitioner rather than for the specialist. But even the latter will find in it much that is helpful. There are no diagrams except in the appendix, which deals with methods of transfusion and forms a very useful adjunct to the book.

Thoracic Surgery: The Surgical Treatment of Thoracic Disease. By Howard Lilienthal, M.D., F.A.C.S. Two Volumes. London: W. B. Saunders Company, Limited. 1925. (90s. net.)

These two volumes are the outcome, for the most part, of the personal experience of the author, but others have collaborated by contributing articles on special subjects, such as physiology, roentgenology, the treatment of tuberculosis by induced pneumothorax, &c. For anyone not familiar with the advance in modern thoracic surgery this work will really come as a surprise. It is only within comparatively recent years that the surgical possibilities of the thorax have begun to be appreciated, and these volumes show how rapid has been the advance. The great war undoubtedly gave a stimulus to thoracic surgery, and put the treatment of the septic pleural cavity, so far at least as the general surgeon was concerned, on a sounder basis altogether. But the modern thoracic specialist goes far beyond that: he invades the thorax for the surgical treatment of its many affections with as little fear as surgeons opened the abdomen at the beginning of this century.
Yet this department of surgery can only yet be said to be in its infancy. In the book under review the subject-matter is well arranged, beginning with a full description of the physiology of the chest and its contents. The value of x-rays in determining the affections and in observing the effects of treatment is given due weight. Anaesthesia is also considered widely. The technique of the various operations is fully described with a lucidity that makes reading the books a pleasure. Naturally a large section is devoted to empyema, acute and chronic, and suitable measures are described for the various conditions. Extra-pleural thoracoplasty, much more widely performed on the Continent than in Britain, gets just recognition. Those not familiar with the results of this operation will be surprised how trivial is the resulting deformity. Dr. Lilienthal is to be congratulated on compiling a work which will be of interest to all surgeons, and of considerable value to those devoting themselves specially to the thorax. The make-up of the volumes is worthy of the publishers, and the profuse illustrations are a valuable aid in augmenting the text and in elucidating the various steps of operations.

**Principle of Early Active Movement in treating Fractures of the Upper Extremity.** By J. W. Dowden, M.B., F.R.C.S.E. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1925. (16s. net.)

This book is a plea for early active movement in the treatment of fractures of the upper extremity, i.e., movement carried out by the patient under the supervision of the surgeon and without splints, and Mr. Dowden makes out a good case for his methods. Included in the work are a large number of excellent x-ray photographs showing fractures and also photographs showing the after-results at various periods in the treatment, and these latter graphically corroborate the contentions of the author. The various fractures of the upper extremity are dealt with in detail, and in each case not only a perfect functional result, but a considerable shortening of the convalescence is demonstrated. The book is said to be primarily for the general practitioner, but it is to be feared that until the methods advocated are tried and adopted in the teaching hospitals the practitioner will be chary of giving up the older methods of splintage he has been taught, especially as he may have to appear in court in workmen's compensation cases, and may be presented with an x-ray plate, which shows considerable deformity of bone, and be asked to explain why such a deformity is not a disability. Mr. Dowden's contention that early
restored function is of more importance than perfect contour of bone will be agreed with by most surgeons of experience, but a large number of practitioners and most laymen will be difficult to convince that there is nothing wrong with a bone when the x-ray plate shows marked irregularity of outline. Mr. Dowden’s methods are really an amplification of the earlier recommendations of Lucas-Championnière, and both from a pathological and economic standpoint there is much to be said for an extended trial of his suggestions, but we think that responsible hospital surgeons should, in the first instance, make the experiment. It cannot be said that the general practitioner, without special instruction, and in view of his early training in the treatment of fractures, should be asked to carry out a method of treatment which requires all the skill and surgical acumen of an expert. Mr. Dowden’s distinguished eminence in the surgical profession and his experience enables him to obtain results which this book shows to be excellent, but it is doubtful if the ordinary practitioner emulating his example would be entirely free from the occasional disaster for which he might be mulct in damages. The book is well printed, and the photographs are excellently reproduced. We recommend its perusal by all who are interested in the treatment of fractures.

The Life of Sir William Osler. By Harvey Cushing. Two Volumes. London: Oxford University Press. 1925.

From the memory of the present generation of medical men the name of William Osler will not readily be effaced. To an unusually large number he was a personal friend, to a long series of students he was a beloved teacher, and to a still wider circle, both lay and medical, he was a cultured writer. It is too early to assess his position in the history of medicine, and, as the author indicates, the present volumes aim at producing merely the outline for the final portrait, while it is hoped that they may convey something of Osler’s spirit to a generation that has not known him. Many will criticise the method adopted in presenting the biography. The man is made to speak for himself in letters and extracts from writings, and the reader is thus left to form his own opinion of Osler’s character. One is able, as it were, to see the figure of Osler projected on to the background of passing events which the author has drawn for us. The chronological method is adopted in the book, the first volume being devoted to the Canadian and United States periods, and the second volume to the Oxford period. Whether in the earlier or later years of Osler’s life, one
is struck with the multitude of his interests and the many spheres in which he held a commanding position. One can readily appreciate the remark of the foreigner to a Johns Hopkins' physician, "And how is your Osler? He must be centuries old." It is impossible to do justice to the biography itself in the space at our disposal. Interspersed with interesting photographs, the work is well produced and eminently readable, and we can cordially recommend it as a book full of details about a truly great man.

The Doctor's Books. By A. P. Bertwhistle. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1926. (1s. 6d. net.)

This little book describes a practical method of book-keeping for medical practitioners, which is both simple to run and easy to understand. A special feature of the system is the use of a case-book which facilitates the recording of the histories of individual patients as well as affording an easy means of analysing the collective results. The author claims that by the use of his system the practitioner can find at a glance the medical history of each patient, the various forms of treatment employed, and the financial state in daily, weekly, and monthly receipts.

Tumours and Cancers: A Biological Study. By Hastings Gilford, F.R.C.S. London: Selwyn & Blount, Limited. 1925. (42s. net.)

The author of this remarkable work approaches the problem of neoplastic growth from a new standpoint, and attempts to replace the inductive methods now in vogue by a deductive method of research similar to that advocated by Descartes. The subject is dealt with from many different angles, and the information with which the book is packed displays a knowledge of medical and biological literature which must have taken a life-time to acquire. We feel, however, that the author's industry in collecting data rather exceeds the discrimination shown in selecting many of the seventeen thousand odd sources of information cited. We doubt whether the conclusions reached will meet with universal acceptance, and we fear that the last word in the solution of the problems attacked still remains unwritten. Briefly, the author's thesis is that cancer is essentially of intrinsic origin, and is a disorder of that cycle of development which is composed of a progress from the more simple to the more
complex and a regress from complexity to simplicity. Such a bald statement does little justice, however, to this suggestive and stimulating book.

The Basis of Vital Activity. By Sir James Mackenzie, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., LL.D. London: Faber & Gwyer, Limited. 1926. (6s. net.)

As the latest effort of the author, and completed less than forty-eight hours before his death, this small work will make an appeal to those readers who have profited so much from his earlier labours. From his work at St. Andrews he hoped to discover a "guiding principle" which would direct the line of his researches to a successful conclusion. In this book he has described the attempt, and has furnished us with his views on certain principles, notably "the reflex arc" and "the law of fluctuation," which he hoped would elucidate many of the problems at present confronting the clinician. The book is perhaps best read in conjunction with some of the more detailed papers already published in the reports of the "St. Andrews Institute." Some of the ideas suggest old thoughts in a new dress, while others are more original. We commend the book to our readers for its own sake, as well as for its association.

Psychology for Nurses. By Mary Chadwick. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1925. (6s. net.)

The purely Freudian standpoint from which this book is written makes its title somewhat misleading. Miss Chadwick has shown considerable skill in producing a tolerably accurate, fairly lucid, and not too technical account of strict psycho-analytic theories, with special reference—at times a trifle forced—to nurses and their work. A sympathetic knowledge of human nature, and a clear recognition of the importance of psychological factors in bodily illness, are very essential qualities in a nurse, but any teaching offered to nurses on these subjects must surely have a simpler form and a far broader basis than are here provided. We think it right to say plainly that we regard the book as much more likely to do harm than good. And however much we might otherwise admire a woman who had the capacity and the inclination to read all the books marked in the bibliography as "of the greatest interest to nurses," we should be strongly disinclined to have our patients, or ourselves, nursed by her.
NEW EDITIONS.

The Pathology of Tumours. By E. H. Kettle, M.D. Second Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1925. (12s. 6d. net.)

This little volume fulfils admirably its purpose, in that it provides a manual for students in which they will find a clear exposition of modern views on the pathology of tumours. The second edition has been thoroughly revised, and many of the illustrations have been altered from photographs to drawings, with resultant improvement from the teaching point of view. We regret to note that the confusion of nomenclature on myeloid sarcoma and myeloma has been perpetuated. The term myelomata (p. 87, line 5) used in the middle of a description of myeloid sarcoma is very confusing to the student, while a comparison of Figs. 20-23 only befogs him more. The book is an excellent one, written in an easy, readable style, and can be thoroughly recommended to senior students and practitioners who have retained a fondness for more scientific reading.

Diseases of the Heart. By Sir James Mackenzie, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., LL.D. Fourth Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1926. (30s. net.)

Mackenzie's "Diseases of the Heart" will for long mark an epoch in the history of cardiology throughout the medical world. The work that went to the production of this volume has certainly revolutionised our ideas of many of the cardiac irregularities. That it has been advanced by methods other than those which the author commonly employed does not detract from the merit of him who was in many ways a pioneer. The present edition was completed very shortly before his death, so that he was just enabled to read the first proofs, and it fell to the lot of his colleague at St. Andrews, Dr. James Orr, to go over the proofs again, verify the references, and see the book through the press. It differs in many respects from the others, as in it Mackenzie has incorporated much of the work which has been done at St. Andrews, and which he summarised in a book also completed just before his death under the title of "The Basis of Vital Activity." Readers who are not acquainted with previous editions will be surprised at the comparative absence of electrocardiograph records in the many tracings that illustrate the text. While on occasion the
author has made use of the electrical method, he had much more confidence in the clinical polygraph which he himself had introduced, and with which most of his work was done. One cannot read any chapter of this book without obtaining some fresh view of the author's idea of the cardiac mechanism, and the numerous case-records which are interpolated add materially to its value. It is a little difficult to assess the true value of the author's altered attitude to certain conditions in this volume. Sometimes even when he stresses the importance of his remarks one has difficulty in grasping that there is anything vitally new. One has the feeling that it is simply a new description of an old fact. Needless to say, the book will well repay careful study, and throughout it one will be able to appreciate the mental attitude of one of the great men of medicine of his time.

_Psychological Medicine._ By Sir Maurice Craig, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Thomas Beaton, O.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1926. (21s. net.)

The new edition of Sir Maurice Craig's well-known work has been very largely rewritten. Recent research on the physiological aspects of the subject is adequately noticed, a number of coloured plates have been introduced, and there is a useful new chapter on laboratory work. It is evident that the authors expect further progress to be on these lines rather than on the psychological side, as, apart from a few references—some of them grossly inaccurate—to Freudian sexual theories, there is no indication, even in the section dealing with minor mental disorders, that they place any value on modern psychological theories of causation or methods of treatment. This edition deserves an even more favourable reception than has been given to its predecessors, as the broad biological standpoint which has been adopted offers the student an immediately interesting line of approach to the study of mental disorder and a clear idea of its relationships with general medicine.