NEW BOOKS

Cancer. International Contributions to the Study of Cancer in Honour of James Ewing. Edited by Frank E. Adair, M.D., F.A.C.S. Pp. xix + 484, with 168 illustrations. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1931. Price 45s.

This homage volume on Cancer is a tribute by colleagues and workers to Professor James Ewing, as an eminent scholar, an eminent trainer of scholars, and an international leader in pathology, upon the attainment of his sixty-fourth birthday. It is a noble tribute to the distinguished author of *Neoplastic Diseases* and many other important contributions to medical literature. It is also a valuable collection of important papers upon various aspects of cancer, all the contributors being workers of outstanding international reputation.

The volume is divided into four parts which deal respectively with (1) Cancer in its general relations, (2) Cancer research, (3) Regional Cancer, (4) Radium and Röntgen-ray therapy. It may be said with truth that from the first paper by Sir G. Lenthal Cheatle on "Natural Law in Pathological Growth" to the last by J. E. Gendreau of Montreal upon the "Far-reaching Effects of Gamma Rays and Short X-rays upon the Human Heart" there is not a contribution which will fail to interest and to stimulate the student of malignancy in all its aspects. The contributors are fifty-five in number and are drawn from the leading centres of investigation in Europe and America. It would be invidious to mention particular contributions where all are good. It would also be unnecessary, as we strongly recommend their first-hand study.

Quantitative Clinical Chemistry. Vol. I., Interpretations. By J. P. Peters and D. D. Van Slyke. Pp. xvi + 1264, with 124 figures. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. 1931. Price 54s.

In this volume the authors discuss in turn the various substances which are clinically and physiologically important, and for which methods of estimation are available. The methods themselves are relegated to a second volume which is to appear shortly. In each chapter is given a comprehensive account of the functions and physiological variations of the substance under consideration; on the basis of this, the abnormalities in disease are treated along with the significance of determinations for diagnosis and prognosis. Extensive bibliographies are appended to the various chapters—over 4000 references are given in all—and there is a good index.
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One can say without hesitation that this book must be in the reference library of every clinical biochemist, and that it will be of great use to all physicians and surgeons who have a leaning towards laboratory work. In parts, however, it demands a considerable knowledge of physical chemistry on the part of the reader, and, on this side of the Atlantic at least, this will undoubtedly diminish its appeal to the clinician.

In a work of this scope and size it is not surprising to find a number of minor omissions and mistakes. The number and kind of those which appear on even a somewhat cursory reading, however, give one an uncomfortable feeling that certain sections of the literature have been overlooked, and that this book is no exception to the regrettable tendency on the part of American authors to ignore British work and to glorify that of their own countrymen. It is true that a great deal of important work is done in America, but much is done here and on the European continent. Thus (p. 238) it is stated that fractionation of the blood lipoids has not yet been accurately carried out, but a discussion of the existing partial fractionations includes no mention of the careful work of Channon. Keilin’s work on cytochrome (p. 523) is quoted as indicating the identity of that substance with Warburg’s “respiratory enzyme,” whereas a careful reading of Keilin’s papers or of Dixon’s review of oxidation mechanisms indicates that Warburg’s enzyme is to be tentatively identified with indo-phenol oxidase, an enzyme which oxides cytochrome (which itself is not an enzyme at all). Hypervitaminosis-D (p. 838) is dealt with briefly, and references are given to the work of Hess and of Brown and Shohl; there is no reference to the European workers who have done so much on this subject (e.g. Harris and his collaborators). Incidentally it is strange to find no reference at all to Mellanby in the section on vitamin-D and rickets. The account of phosphocreatine (pp. 1092-3) is doubtless a fair summary of the views of Fiske and Subarrow, but some credit at least should have been given to the work of the Eggletons. As it is, they are only mentioned as discovering arginine phosphoric acid in mammalian smooth muscle and in invertebrate muscle, whereas actually they showed that the former contained only small amounts of phosphocreatine and the discovery of arginine phosphoric acid in invertebrate muscle is due to Meyerhof. “Mueller’s amino-acid” (p. 1155) is now known as methionine, its constitution having been determined and its synthesis accomplished by Barger and Coyne. Although Hopkins and Ackroyd considered histidine and arginine to be precursors of purines (p. 426), later work (e.g. that of Rose and Cox in America) has shown that only histidine possesses this function. The discussion of the necessity of carbohydrate for muscular work (pp. 40 ff.) omits any reference to the work

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of Lundsgaard, which has demonstrated the possibility of muscle contraction without the production of lactic acid.

It is inevitable that the finding of such errors and omissions as these should raise doubts as to the complete accuracy of other sections of the book with which one is less familiar. Nevertheless, none of the points noted here is of prime importance, and the picture presented by the book is, on the whole, a fair one. It forms an exceedingly useful book of reference, and one which is stimulating to read.

The Teeth, the Bony Palate, and the Mandible in Bantu Races of South Africa. J. C. Middleton Shaw. Pp. xvi + 134, with 54 illustrations. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd. 1931. Price 12s. 6d.

Since the days of John Hunter, through Owen and Huxley, teeth, and the structures which support them, have been studied with increasing intensity. The anatomy and physiology of the teeth have been worked out as never before and, from the individual study as it were, has gradually evolved the world-wide conception of dentition and all its attributes. For this purpose it is necessary that intensive investigations should be made into teeth, prehistoric and recent, of different races and tribes and of the latter is Dr Middleton Shaw's book on the teeth of the Bantu. In this work the inspiration of Professor Raymond Dart is not far to seek and the outcome is a monograph which will hold a permanent place as authoritative on the subject with which it deals.

There is a temptation for anatomists and anthropologists to neglect the study of the teeth for that of the skull, or perhaps to be more correct of the cranium and its quondam content, but in the shaping and development of the facial bones the teeth stand supreme, for in Nature respiration and mastication precede speech, and vocalisation is modified by the teeth and jaws, not vice versa. Of this Dr Middleton Shaw is fully appreciative and in his study of the dental attributes of the Bantu includes the bony palate and the mandible.

Dr Middleton Shaw's material comprised 132 complete skulls and with extracted Bantu teeth entailed the examination and odontology of over 10,000 teeth. After details of the numbers, shape, and form, the author proceeds to the consideration of some developmental anomalies, such as the so-called "dental masses," enamel nodules and molar pits, and then a paragraph, all too short, on occlusional attrition. Some pathological conditions are then briefly dealt with and this is followed by a very interesting chapter on tribal tooth-extraction and tooth-mutilation, the second only being a Bantu custom. Some thirty pages are occupied with description of the bony palate and mandible and the volume concludes with a short dissertation on taurodontism.
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The book is well printed on good paper, in clear type and with well-reproduced photographs of skulls and parts of skulls and several good line drawings in the text. Dr Middleton Shaw is to be congratulated on the excellence of his monograph.

Observations on the Courses of Different Types of Bright's Disease and on the Resultant Changes in Renal Anatomy. By D. D. Van Slyke et al. Pp. 130, with 41 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1930. Price 13s. 6d.

In nephritis the significance and interpretation of the clinical phenomena are still obscure, prognosis is difficult, the results of treatment are uncertain. Further, there is no uniformity in the clinical classification of Bright's disease, while the nomenclatures adopted by clinicians and pathologists are not in harmony. The record of 67 cases of Bright's disease, with 17 autopsies, presented by Van Slyke and his nine collaborators is therefore of much interest. Their careful observations, which are in general agreement with those of Volhard and Fahr and of Addis, indicate that there are three distinct forms of Bright's disease: (1) hemorrhagic, (2) arteriosclerotic and (3) degenerative. The course of acute hemorrhagic nephritis is traced into either "latent" nephritis and healing, or into "chronic active" and "terminal" nephritis. Emphasis is laid upon blood urea clearance, microscopic hæmaturia and "hypertension," and upon the relation between plasma protein deficiency and œdema. The conclusion is drawn that the general nature of the pathological changes in the kidney may be deduced from clinical observations. The charts showing the hæmoglobin value, blood urea clearance, plasma protein, blood pressure, œdema, albuminuria and hæmaturia throughout the months while each case was under observation are particularly instructive. The book is one which will well repay a close study.

The Scientific Detective and the Expert Witness. By C. Ainsworth Mitchell, D.Sc. (Oxon), F.I.C. Pp. x + 234 with 64 illustrations. Cambridge: W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd. 1931. Price 3s. 6d.

This book was formerly published under the title of "The Expert Witness," but the author considered that title a little misleading inasmuch as it did not suggest that the book dealt with the scientific detection of crime as well as with the giving of expert evidence. The author has succeeded in compressing into 234 pages a considerable quantity of interesting and instructive material with reference to the manner in which the special knowledge of scientists may be utilised in the administration of justice. He discusses the manner in which the chemist, the bacteriologist, the microscopist and others may help in
investigation and deals shortly but most lucidly with the examination of handwriting and questioned documents. The use of the X-rays in the examination of faked pictures and of ultra-violet rays is also touched upon. The compression of so many subjects into such small compass has obvious disadvantages, but in spite of the small amount of space devoted to the different sections the author has succeeded in presenting a very readable and useful book.

_Chronic Arthritis and Rheumatoid Affections_. By B. L. Wyatt, M.D., F.A.C.P. Pp. ix + 166. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1931. Price 15s.

This book has been written primarily for the general practitioner who sees the early manifestations of chronic arthritis. The first part deals with the varying types of arthritis and their early diagnosis when most amenable to treatment. The major part describes the general management and treatment of the condition. The author, who has had much practical experience of these affections, describes and assesses the value of the different forms of therapy—diet, drugs, hydrotherapy, orthopaedic measures, etc. The only notable omission is the absence of reference to the urinary proteose of Oriel and treatment by desensitisation. The book can be recommended to all those having cases of chronic arthritis under their care.

_Primary Syphilis in the Female_. By Thomas Anwyl Davies, M.D. (Lond.). Pp. viii + 111, with 25 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1931. Price 12s. 6d.

This work gives a record of the author's personal observations during twelve years' study of primary syphilis in the female. A study of 584 cases entitles him to speak with authority on the subject. The fact that 44 per cent. of primary lesions are on the cervix should be carefully noted by all workers in venereal disease, and in gynaecology. This is an important clinical observation as a lesion on this site is not infrequently painless, and closely simulates other lesions of the cervix. The author's observation that the only safe method of diagnosis in such cases is by examining serum from the lesion or erosion by the dark ground method is very sound, and also the statement which Dr Davies makes that a patient who has been exposed to marital or other infection cannot be considered free from disease unless observed for at least three months after the possibility of infection. The author rightly stresses the absence of symptoms and signs of systemic infection in cases of syphilis during pregnancy, and the consequent need for utilising the Wassermann test. In an interesting section on condylomata acuminata, attention is drawn to
the fact that these growths are not necessarily the result of gonorrhoea, and that during pregnancy they may be caused by the physiological hyperæmia of the parts. This should be borne in mind by those examining pregnant women in antenatal work. Dr Davies is to be congratulated on producing an excellent monograph on primary syphilis in the female, and on the differential diagnosis of this disease from other conditions of the female genitals. The illustrations, most of which are in colour, are well produced and the bibliography is very complete. It can be recommended to all who are interested in venereal diseases in gynaecology.

Text-book of Gynecology. By A. H. Curtis. Pp. 380, with 222 illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. 1930. Price 24s.

The author is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the University Medical School, Chicago, and the book records his own impressions and ideas formed after years of teaching and clinical experience. At first sight the book does not appear to be a large one, but it contains a great deal more than is at first supposed. As page follows page, there is unmistakable evidence of extensive clinical work combined with careful and reasoned thought. The various chapters are written in a manner that is most pleasing, and the book is, therefore, eminently readable.

Throughout there has been maintained a true perspective of the relative importance of the different subjects discussed, though on one or two subjects the author has, perhaps, been too brief. For instance, "amenorrhœa" is dismissed in one page.

The opening chapter deals with gonorrheal disease of the female genitalia and is very well written. After extensive study, the conviction has been formed that gonococci do not remain viable in the Fallopian tubes longer than two weeks after the subsidence of fever and leucocytosis. Conservative treatment is, therefore, strongly advocated in cases of salpingitis.

Much importance is attached to the condition of endometriosis. A chapter is devoted to this condition, and reference is also made to it in many places. In retroflexion of the uterus it is held to play an important part in etiology.

Each disease is dealt with in its appropriate chapter, the text being simplified by the inclusion of diagrams. These illustrations form a notable feature of the production. The smooth glossy paper which has been employed for printing enables the diagrams to stand out with special clarity. Dr Curtis’ book is one of the best yet published among the smaller treatises on gynaecology.

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