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The Beloved Physician: Sir James Mackenzie. By R. Macnair Wilson. Pp. 314, with photogravure portrait. London: John Murray. 1926. Price 12s.

Although the main features of Sir James Mackenzie's life were well known, and the record of his work and his teaching has been fully given in his own writings, this biography adds many interesting circumstances of his life, and also attempts to trace the development of his mind and to expound his medical philosophy. The story of his career was unusually rich in dramatic interest—his schooling short and unsuccessful, his years as a chemist apprentice in Perth, his undistinguished University course at Edinburgh, and finally his immersion in medical practice at Burnley where at last he found himself and his life-work. The fruits of that work seemed long in appearing; he went to Burnley in 1879, and his Study of the Pulse was published in 1902 at the age of 49. After this his reputation quickly spread beyond Burnley. In 1907 he boldly went to London, and in the following year published his Diseases of the Heart; and it was not long before he was recognised as the greatest authority on heart disease in this country. He remained in London until 1918, and seemed to have reached the summit of worldly success and reputation. But in that year there was another dramatic change. He came to St Andrews and there founded his Institute for Clinical Research, and remained the active director and inspirer of its work until 1924. In January 1925 he died in London of angina pectoris.

These apparently abrupt changes were really in keeping with certain fundamental ideas which had taken shape in his mind in his early years of practice at Burnley. He set himself to study the symptoms of disease, the physiological mechanism which produced them, their early appearance, their development, their significance for the future health of the individual. And what he achieved at Burnley in his own unaided investigations of pulse irregularities, he extended at St Andrews into a general investigation of the symptoms of disease with the assistance of the band of workers that he gathered round him there. The wide range of his mind is shown by the titles of his later books, Symptoms and their Interpretation, The Future of Medicine, The Basis of Vital Activity. Mackenzie's intellectual power and honesty, his courage and force of character at last compelled the attention of his generation; and his is not the story of a neglected or obscure pioneer.

His work was presented in a way that often challenged opposition; some of his teaching quickly overcame opposition, but his later phase in which he made a more general attack upon the whole method of medical teaching and medical research is still a matter of controversy.
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His present biographer has done good service in bringing together the circumstances of his remarkable career, and in following out the development of his medical creed. Perhaps he has laid too much emphasis on the opposition that these new ideas have created. They are revolutionary ideas, and time and the most scrupulous criticism are justified when radical changes in any department of human thought are proposed. Mackenzie himself was a man of battle. He loved a contest, and threw down his challenge with blunt directness of speech. In that he was not unlike Samuel Johnson, of whom Goldsmith said, "To be sure, he has a roughness in his manner, but no man alive has a more tender heart. He has nothing of the bear but his skin."

Dr Macnair Wilson is to be congratulated on giving us so true and living a portrait of this remarkable man. The final judgment on his contribution to medical science must be left to the future.

*The Riddle of Personality (Mechanism or Mystery).* By P. McBride, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Pp. viii + 190. London: Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. 1926. Price 6s.

In this clearly written and compact work, the author has stated fairly the chief theories at present held as to the relation between body and mind, and arrives at the conclusion that the phenomena of mind are best explained on a mechanistic hypothesis. He discusses the views of recent well-known writers on the subject, and submits their theories and facts to criticism in the light of physiology. He seeks to show on the mechanistic hypothesis how personality is built up and how the various characteristics of the individual and of different personalities may be brought about by the building up of different neurone patterns in response to stimuli or experiences acting on the varying nervous systems of the individuals, i.e., the reaction of the individuals to their environments. He states that such a theory need not interfere with the theological conception of God.

It seems to us that whilst the author marshals his arguments in as convincing a way as they probably can be put, he, like other authors approaching the subject from the physical side, has a difficulty in bridging the gulf that lies between physical and mental just as the pure metaphysicians and psychologists fail to prove scientifically the existence of a mind or psyche which they more or less start off by assuming. Much of course depends on what each means by mind or a mental phenomenon. Reflex action can be explained, action in response to stimuli, but when one comes to speak about feeling, knowledge of sensation, consciousness, what material terms can explain what we mean. We grant that we may indicate the mechanism involved in the manifestation of consciousness, but that does not altogether explain what consciousness is or how it results from the action of physical forces. We are now using terms of a somewhat
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different kind from material terms. Metaphysicians, on the other hand, have even a greater difficulty in proving the existence of a separate psyche, and those who, like Hollingworth, speak about a "psycho-physical continuum" do not make the subject much clearer. Not the least interesting part of this well-written book is where is discussed personality as exhibited by some of the higher animals. The author brings together many facts from the publications of various scientific observers, showing that many animals not only exhibit cleverness, etc., but actual intelligence and reasoning, only differing in degree from that shown by man. The book should be read by those interested in psychological subjects and the riddle of man's personality, which, as the author says in his preface, "in spite of everything is likely to remain a riddle."

Surgery of Neoplastic Diseases by Electrothermic Methods. By
GEORGE A. WYETH, M.D., New York. Pp. 316, with 137 illustrations. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. Price $7.50 net.

The treatment of neoplastic diseases by surgical diathermy is making headway. The author suggests the term endothermy as a comprehensive name to include all three forms of high frequency currents in their surgical application, and that the use of the word diathermy should be restricted to medical applications of these currents. This, he urges, would make for clearness of terminology and do away with existing confusion. Nevertheless the term surgical diathermy is well established and is likely to persist.

Three forms of endothermy (to use the terminology suggested by the author) the monopolar, the bipolar and the endotherm knife are described and the technique outlined. Many case records are given which prove the value of this method of treatment in skilled hands, and the claims made for it are not overstated. It is a good book, beautifully printed and illustrated, which can be highly recommended as a valuable addition to the literature of electro-therapeutics.

Surgical Treatment of Pulmonary and Pleural Tuberculosis. By J. GRAVESEN, M.D. Pp. 155, with 87 illustrations. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson.

We have come to regard the Scandinavian countries as sources from which much of our knowledge regarding the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis has been and continues to be derived. Dr Gravesen has increased our debt by contributing this concise and most readable treatise.

The book follows the well-accepted scheme of introducing the subject by discussing the principles which originated and governed the development of collapse therapy; the volume is thereafter divided into sections, one dealing with the surgical treatment of pulmonary
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tuberculosis, the other with the treatment of pleural tuberculosis. Indications and counter-indications, methods, results and consequences, statistics, each receives attention and is clearly and accurately discussed.

Within the comparatively small bulk of this admirable volume a number of points are presented from what are at least new aspects. Attention is drawn to the risk of mistaking adventitious sounds transmitted from a diseased lung into a healthy one for signs of disease in the lung to which they are transmitted, a warning which clinicians would do well to bear in mind.

The author is not inclined to be too absolute in his recommendations for excluding from surgery those cases in which one lung, otherwise suitable for thoracoplasty, is complicated by minor evidences of disease in its fellow. Similarly, he does not regard laryngeal tuberculosis and abdominal tuberculosis as contra-indicating collapse therapy (Entspannung). An interesting and important distinction is drawn between the risks which attend collapse on the right and left sides respectively; a right collapse is dangerous because the thin-walled right side of the heart is apt to be secondarily affected.

The volume contains many such golden truths and rules, in fact it is evident that this is no "embellishment of theory," but a practical treatise written by one who has experienced the dangers, the difficulties, and withal the successes of the measures he describes.

A Handbook of Renal Surgery. By F. McG. LOUGHNANE, F.R.C.S.
Pp. xiv + 210, with 46 illustrations. London: Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., 1926. Price 10s. 6d.

In this handbook the author presents a concise and practical treatise on the commoner surgical affections of the kidney. The main acquired deformities, inflammatory and neoplastic diseases are considered in turn, and a separate chapter is devoted to operative technique. Orthodox theory and practice are followed, and methods of simple clinical diagnosis are emphasised throughout. From the therapeutic standpoint the author has included only those measures which he has found from experience to be efficacious. The non-operative methods of treatment might with advantage be considered in greater practical detail, and in particular, the summary abnegation of the value of renal lavage is somewhat surprising.

The majority of the illustrations take the form of pyelograms. Some of these, especially when combined with perirenal oxygen inflation, are very good, but several others do not maintain the same standard and their value is further reduced by the absence of accompanying descriptive paragraphs. A description of the technique of pyelography would increase materially the sphere of practical use for a handbook which, in several respects, is an admirable one.