NEW BOOKS

The Surgery of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By John Alexander, B.S., M.A., M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan. London: Henry Kimpton. Price 21s.

This is a book of many attractions. In its primary object of presenting a reasoned account of the present-day aspect of thoracic surgery it has been completely successful; only in minor points of detail and soundness of argument is there room for criticism. A surgeon (Mr Hugh Cabot) and a "phthisiotherapist" (Mr Edward R. Baldwin) contribute introductions to the volume. The description of the latter writer is a new venture in the terminology of our profession, a shadow of that ultra-specialism which tends to obscure much of the issues of our art; in this instance a modest description adopted perhaps for convenience of space.

After dealing with a general perspective of the surgery of pulmonary tuberculosis, the author provides an interesting chapter on "the evolution of surgical therapy." The summary is a comprehensive one, but we disagree with the statement which ascribes to Freund the observation that apical tuberculosis is more common in those persons whose first rib is shorter or whose first costal cartilage is stiffer than normal; Seton made the observation as early as 1836.

This chapter necessarily deals extensively with references to literature and the subject-matter has been brought up-to-date.

As the modern surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is largely based upon a process of pulmonary compression, it is natural that attention should be paid to the anatomy and physiology of this procedure. Chapter III. is concerned with these considerations, and a reasoned view is given of the principles upon which pulmonary compression depends. Reading this chapter one is left with a realisation of the uncertainty which must attend even the most radical compression procedures.

It is not too much to say that the future prospects of the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis mainly centre round the problem of indications and contra-indications. The section which deals with these all-important considerations, while irreproachably comprehensive, is somewhat disappointing. It presents a great variety of opinions, many of them divergent, yet the eventual summing up to which the reader looks for the author's view is indefinite. We sympathise with the attitude, and probably the time has not yet arrived when more concise indications and contra-indications are possible.

The portion of the volume dealing with technique is excellent. The various methods of the past and of the present are fully described, carefully analysed, and when necessary rationally criticised.
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Brauer and Wilms-Sauerbruch operations present advantages over all others, and it may be said that these have become established as the operations of choice in the average case, the Brauer (the more extensive thoracoplasty) being particularly applicable to extensive upper lobe lesions which include a large cavity. Para-sternal thoracoplasty is considered as an additional means of inducing chest wall collapse, but it is evident that the indications for this operation must be exceedingly rare.

There are instances in which the benefits of thoracoplasty are increased by such procedures as phrenicotomy, extra-pleural and intra-pleural pneumolysis and artificial pneumothorax; all these various means are brought under review. It is evident that the author thinks well of the benefit which follows phrenicotomy, particularly when the operation is carried out according to the radical technique. Our experience concurs with this view, and the operation is one which deserves fuller consideration and more extended use.

Tuberculous empyema and the too often associated pleuro-pneumonic fistula are among the most dreaded and fatal complications of pulmonary tuberculosis; the author gives these problems careful consideration and (wisely, we think) thoracoplasty is advised as the operative treatment offering the best prospects of success.

An ingenious technique for closed drainage is described, but in the reviewer's experience the method is of little value—in fact it is dangerous, because of the secondary infection which so frequently supervenes.

The reading of the volume has been a real pleasure. The book is an exceptionally good one; it presents in a considered and sound fashion the various and often obscure aspects of a branch of surgery which is only now receiving widespread attention.

The Diagnosis, Treatment, and End-Results of Tuberculous Disease of the Hip-Joint. By George Perkins, M.Ch., F.R.C.S. Eng. Pp. x+118, with 50 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford. 1926. Price 6s.

This little book represents the Robert Jones Prize Monograph for 1924, and is published under the auspices of the British Orthopaedic Association. Its four chapters deal respectively with the diagnosis, non-operative treatment, end-results, and operative treatment of the disease. The chapter on diagnosis is concise and eminently practical. The section on general treatment is brief, but sound and fundamental. Local non-operative treatment is fully, clearly and ably discussed, and the "Pyrford hip-frame" (presumably of the author's designing) appears to us to be a distinct advance on previous appliances. In the analysis of end-results, several significant points are brought out—e.g.
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the usual fibrous nature of the ankylosis in tuberculous disease and the consequent persistent tendency to deformity. The mechanical causes of such deformity are explained with convincing lucidity. The discussion of the relationship of the anatomical incidence of the lesion to the final functional result is enlightening. The chapter on operative treatment, while interesting and suggestive, is admitted by the author to be based more upon theoretical considerations than upon practical experience. The illustrations, chiefly radiographic, are good, and excellently produced.

We cannot quite agree with the author's outspoken disregard of the dangers of sinus formation. A description of the technique of aspiration and of incision of the tuberculous abscess is omitted. The occurrence of dislocation in tuberculous disease is credited solely to faulty treatment, and no allusion is made to dislocation as an early feature of the malady. The important distinction between tuberculous disease of the neighbouring bone without joint infection and true hip-joint disease is not made sufficiently clear either as regards diagnosis or treatment. An isolated comparison made between the mortality rate in 40 cases of excision of the hip published by Sir Harold Stiles in 1913, with those of 1025 cases treated by non-operative means published by Haworth in 1923, appears to us singularly futile and inappropriate. A preliminary description of the anatomical pathology of the disease would have enhanced the value of the book. The concise and clear presentation of the subject is marred by many shortcomings in literary style.

The book is well worth perusal by all who are practically interested in the subject. It "only presumes to be an inquiry into treatment and its results . . . ," and is indeed less complete than we would wish a modern monograph on such a subject to be.

Text-Book of Surgical Pathology. By C. Jennings Marshall, M.D., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), and Alfred Piney, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Pp. xvii + 469, with 173 illustrations. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1925. Price 21s.

With the exception of a brief introduction of twelve pages, the volume deals with surgical pathology entirely from a regional point of view. A general knowledge of such subjects as trauma, infection, immunity, repair and neoplastic disease is assumed. The survey is comprehensive, and the attempt to correlate anatomy, embryology, pathology and clinical observation has enhanced the value of the work. The teaching is generally sound and will be approved by most authorities. A few statements, however, do not accord with clinical experience, and a few definitions do not tally with those of other writers. By way of example, the following may be cited. A pure
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dislocation of the spine is said to be invariably confined to the cervical region. The defective development of both testes in association with retention is stated not to interfere with the formation of the secondary sex characteristics. The term ranula is said to be restricted as a rule to cysts originating in the salivary ducts in the floor of the mouth.

Many of the illustrations are very indistinct and will no doubt be improved in future editions.

The volume furnishes a concise account of regional surgical pathology, and will particularly appeal to the senior student preparing for the higher examinations.

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_A Text-book of the Practice of Medicine._ By various Authors. Edited by Frederick W. Price, M.D., F.R.S. (Edin.). Second Edition. Pp. xxxvi + 1828, with 110 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford. 1926. Price 35s.

The second edition of this successful book has been revised and a few of the articles have been re-written. Some new matter has been incorporated, including articles dealing with botulism and with tuberculosis of the kidney, and a review of quinidine therapy in auricular fibrillation and flutter. The descriptions of the various diseases are, for the most part, adequate and reliable, and the treatment recommended is, as a rule, wisely restricted to therapeutic methods whose value has been well established. The work of the various writers has been well co-ordinated so that there is very little overlapping or repetition in the book. The illustrations consist mainly of pulse tracings and electrocardiograms elucidating the excellent description of diseases of the circulatory system.

_Manual of Surgery._ By the late Alexis Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.S., and Alexander Miles, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.S. Seventh Edition. Vols. I., II. Pp. xxi + 565, with 169 illustrations, and pp. xvi + 663, with 299 illustrations. London: Humphrey Milford. 1926. Price 12s. 6d. per vol.

The first two volumes of the seventh edition of this standard work are now available. As in previous editions, the first volume is devoted to general surgery, and the other two volumes to regional surgery. Numerous minor changes have been made in the text and several new illustrations have been added. The essential characters, however, are retained, and special care has been taken not to add to the size of the work.