

## *Book Reviews*

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY IN GENERAL PRACTICE (from the *British Medical Journal*).

Publishers—B.M.A. Pp. 314 and an index. 21s.

This series of articles culled from the *British Medical Journal* from October, 1953, to July, 1954, has been put together in a palatable fashion and should be of great use to medical officers.

So often the medical officer is at loss to know in what form or manner to send specimens; he either has to waste time getting in touch with the pathologist or send the specimen as he thinks it should be sent, which does not always agree with the pathologist.

This book supplies a long-felt want, making the position clear, and is also helpful in suggesting the exact tests to be asked for in various situations.

The book is by no means to be ignored by the pathologist. Many chapters give excellent advice from his end; for example, the chapter on Laboratory Control of Chemotherapy.

Altogether this is a publication of great use in clinical medicine and surgery.

L. R. S. M.

A PRACTICAL MANUAL OF DISEASES OF THE CHEST. By Maurice Davidson, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., with the assistance of John H. Friend, M.D., M.R.C.P. Oxford University Press. Pp. x+647 with 255 figures. 84s.

Since the last edition of this classic book, advances in antibiotic therapy and thoracic surgery have been rapid, calling for revision after only five years. As the result of modification in the clinical picture of lung diseases by modern treatment, many alterations in the descriptions have been necessary. The result is an up-to-date, complete and essentially practical survey of the subject.

The pathology essential to a practising physician has been carefully selected so that the main emphasis is on clinical medicine, a most welcome balance. The inclusion of illustrative case histories and temperature charts is most effective.

About a quarter of the text is devoted to a survey of pulmonary tuberculosis.

The quality of the illustrations is high and the reproductions of radiographs of beautiful clarity.

This book is strongly recommended to all practising physicians and particularly those interested in chest diseases or studying for a higher examination. It is not only a book of reference but also a readable and practical manual.

J. P. B.

A TEXT-BOOK OF MEDICINE FOR NURSES. By E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P. Oxford Medical Publications. Pp. 492. Illustrated. 30s.

The text of this book has been considerably modified since the last edition in 1949, but the familiar layout and the excellent illustrations remain. The result is an up-to-date comprehensive text-book for study or reference.

Useful features are the chapter on therapeutics and the tabulated summary for revision. The quality of production and printing is first class. The book is strongly recommended for use by senior nurses and sister tutors.

J. P. B.

A THERAPEUTIC INDEX. By C. M. Miller, M.D., M.R.C.P., and B. K. Ellenbogen, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. xii + 148. First Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 12s. 6d.

This little book will be most useful for newly qualified doctors puzzled by many therapeutic problems, and for practitioners requiring a brief, up-to-date review of treatment. The alphabetical arrangement makes for easy reference and detail of clinical procedures—*e.g.*, chest aspiration, lumbar puncture—is given.

Its value is much greater than the familiar "pocket prescriber."

In size it is most convenient, fitting snugly into the pocket of a hospital coat or jacket.

J. P. B.

HANDBOOK OF FIRST AID AND BANDAGING. By A. D. Belilios, M.B., D. K. Mulvany, F.R.C.S., and K. F. Armstrong, S.R.N. 4th Edition. Pp. xii + 464. 200 illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 8s. 6d.

This book on First Aid covers the subject exhaustively and with a great wealth of detail. It represents an ambitious project and strives to be helpful to the beginner and the advanced student, but it is felt that the beginner will be bewildered by the extensive anatomy and physiology chapters, and the many alternative methods which are given. In many places, although the First Aider is warned to secure medical aid, extensive and prolonged methods of treatment, which do not properly come within the province of First Aid, are described and also the late complications of many conditions are discussed in detail. Nevertheless, for instructors in First Aid this book undoubtedly includes in one volume all the known facts and myths about the subject. There are several minor inaccuracies, most of which do not militate against the value of this book.

The Thomas's splint is described as having been devised originally for the treatment of fractures of the femur whereas in fact it was designed for treatment of tuberculosis of the knee by the late H. O. Thomas and only adapted to its present use during the 1914-18 war.

It is debatable whether the extensive detail of the anatomy of the brain is really of value in understanding the treatment of head injuries, and one cannot agree with the tremendous stress laid on recumbency and rest for three weeks

in concussion, as this is more likely to result in permanent psychogenic headache and in any case hardly comes under the province of First Aid.

It is interesting to see that in 1955 the sun's rays are still given as a cause of heat stroke. Drowning is still regarded as merely another form of asphyxia and the great importance of the immediate commencement of artificial respiration without wasting a second in draining the lungs or moving the patient is not stressed.

Carbon monoxide is stated to resemble carbon dioxide poisoning in its symptoms, signs and effects. The extremely dangerous nature of carbon monoxide compared with carbon dioxide is not, however, stressed and, curiously enough when compared with the wealth of detail exhibited elsewhere in the book, there is no description of its mode of action.

The chapter on emergency delivery is excellent and should prove of immense value to ships' officers and air hostesses, on whom, to judge by the papers, this duty so often devolves.

In view of the excellence of the official manuals of the Red Cross and the St. John organizations the value of this book would appear to be limited. It may, however, appeal to lay teachers of First Aid who require a yet more extensive work, and to persons likely to be far from medical aid.

J. C. W.

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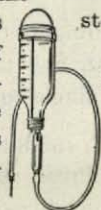
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