

Book Reviews

THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES (Translated from the 13th German Edition), in two volumes. Lorenz Bohler, M.D. New York: Grune & Stratton. Vol. I 1956 and Vol. II 1957. Pp. 1508+xxxix. Illustrated. \$17.50.

In revising this classic work, Bohler has included the results of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War and in World War II as well as his work in Vienna. In twenty years his methods have changed only very little; the basic principles that he enumerated and the essential plaster technique remain firmly entrenched.

Volume I deals with fractures and wounds in general and with injuries of the trunk and upper limb in particular. It is a large volume of over 1000 pages, extremely well illustrated and containing many interesting case notes. Treatment is discussed fully and technique described in detail. Faults in technique and bad methods are pointed out in the text and by illustrations. His style of repeating important points is monotonous, but it serves its purpose in impressing them on the memory. No one who has read the book would for instance ever forget the danger of excessive traction.

Not all will agree with everything he advocates, such as insistence on the reduction of vertebral fractures and his decided bias towards the non-operative treatment of closed fractures, but his opinions are based on a vast experience of his own cases and of the mistakes of others. His opposition to operative treatment is directed not so much against the skilled specialist in osteosynthesis as against the inexperienced operator, and with this attitude few can disagree. If the inexperienced surgeon would read this book and carefully follow the instructions in it he could not go far wrong in the treatment of fractures.

Volume II deals with injuries of the hip joint and of the femur. In its high standard and in its style of production it is similar to Volume I. The book is out of date in advocating "baking" in the treatment of shock and in the use of the Judet acrylic prosthesis to replace the head of the femur. The Thomas splint is regarded almost as a curiosity used by the English, while the "Tobruk" is not mentioned at all. Apart from these obvious incongruities, the volume contains an excellent account of the injuries of the hip and femur and details of sound treatment of them. There is a good description of the techniques of the use of Smith-Peterson nails, nail-plates and intramedullary Kuntschner nails. These are some of the exceptions to the author's general adherence to non-operative methods of treatment.

P. R. W.

THE MICROSCOPIC DIAGNOSIS OF HUMAN MALARIA. PART II. A MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE ERYTHROCYTIC PARASITES. John W. Field, C.M.G., M.D., Director, Institute for Medical Research, Federation of Malaya, and P. G. Shute, Assistant Director, Malaria Reference Laboratory, M.R.C. Kuala Lumpur: B. T. Fudge. 1956. Pp. 251+x. Illustrated. Not priced.

This study is strongly recommended to all pathologists with tropical experience. It will, undoubtedly, be a salutary experience to many to realize how

little they actually know of the forms and variations of the human malaria parasites.

As well as a chapter on the history of the microscopic diagnosis of malaria, full of interest, with extracts from the writings of famous malariologists of the past, there are chapters on methods of examination and technical miscellanea which should be of considerable value. Particular attention should be paid to the methods of preservation of material for teaching purposes.

The bulk of the book consists of descriptions of the various forms of the malaria parasite, illustrated effectively by non-coloured and coloured plates. The pitfalls of foreign-bodies and artefacts masquerading as malarial parasites are also well exemplified.

Although this book will be of particular value to malariologists and pathologists, the clinician will find in it much of interest and assistance in the diagnosis and treatment of malaria.

D. W. B.

AN ATLAS OF DISEASES OF THE EYE. E. S. Perkins, M.B., F.R.C.S. and Peter Hansell, M.R.C.S., F.R.P.S. (with Foreword by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder)
London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1956. Illustrated. Pp. 91+ix. 42s.

This is an excellent book of illustrations of diseases of the eye, both internal and external, and should be of great value to the student, general practitioner, and general specialist alike. The pictures are of a high order of excellence, both artistically and as representing the conditions described, and short concise descriptions of each appear on the opposite page. A short foreword by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder defines the scope and purpose of a very useful book. The generosity of Roche Products Ltd. has made possible publication at a very moderate price.

J. B. G.

TEXTBOOK OF HUMAN ANATOMY. Various authors. Edited by Professor W. J. Hamilton, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.S. London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd. 1956. Illustrated. Pp. 1022. £5.

To those interested in the teaching of anatomy, this textbook, with six distinguished anatomists as authors and something quite new in the way of layout, offers a challenge. It may be true that it is not easy to teach an old dog new tricks, and the well-known standard textbooks will die hard if at all. However, topographical anatomy changes little, but this is not a reason why the approach to its study may not alter. In fact this change of approach is long overdue. Therefore, it is refreshing to recognize that an effort is now made by this book to bring teaching and learning of anatomy into line with modern requirements. It may not be too long now before further progress is made and some teaching of "physical signs" is included in the preclinical study of anatomy to the benefit of all concerned. Anatomy is a very living thing and the approach to it should be likewise.

A. G. D. W.