BOOK REVIEWS


The impressive title of this book is somewhat misleading; it is essentially a primer, and as explained in the preface, it is intended for medical students and newly qualified doctors, who regrettably these days often acquire only a rudimentary knowledge of the principles and practice of anaesthetics.

In outlining the subject necessarily briefly and superfluously, it manages to touch on almost every aspect of the anaesthetist’s task.

It is a curious mixture of simplicity and complexity, which perhaps is inevitable in a book written for both undergraduates and postgraduates. It should, however, prove of general medical educative value to both these classes, and I commend it particularly to the young General Practice Service Medical Officer, who may even to a greater extent than his civilian counterpart have reason to be a “jack-of-all-trades”.

The chapters on resuscitation and intuitive care are valuable adjuncts.

K. F. Stephens.


Most people either don’t know, or have forgotten, that the Battle of France in 1940 didn’t end with the evacuation from Dunkirk. This small, well printed, paperback book tells the story of 51st Highland Division, the only complete British Division to take part in the final phase of the battle, a phase which ended on 12th June at St. Valery-en-Caux.

The first quarter of the book sets the scene magnificently with histories of the Highland Division, and its Commander, and of the small town of St. Valery. All the sentiments of “Auld Alliance” between Scotland and France are evoked. St. Valery was awarded the Croix de Guerre and in its Hotel de Ville there is a Salle d’Ecosse partly furnished by Highland towns. All this makes even a Sassenach’s heart beat faster.

The description of the withdrawal to St. Valery is a detached, factual account of movement, of difficulties with liaison with the French, and of the last minute failure of evacuation by sea. The point is frequently made that the Division could have got away but for the loyalty of its Commander to his French comrades in arms. It is a great tribute to General Fortune and the officers and men he commanded.

It is interesting to read of the parts played by the comparatively unknown Major Generals de Gaulle and Rommel—so unknown that both their names are wrongly spelt in the Divisional War Diary.

The reviewer would like to know more than is in the book. The ADMS of the Division is not mentioned and the three field ambulances are only noted in the Order of Battle at the end. Presumably there were many casualties and the medical service must have been heavily involved. This is perhaps only a small point, but the book would be more realistic with the occasional human interest story and the “Jocks” must have provided many.

A. D. Young.


Much information is given in small space in this synopsis. Clinical description of disease, diagnostic methods, treatment and prevention are fully covered. At the end of each section there are well selected references for further reading—most valuable for the student. There is however little indication of relative frequency of the diseases. This information is important to practitioners both in tropical and temperate countries. The dangers of travellers moving by air during the incubation stage of an infectious disease and the hazards to Armed Forces operating in tropical regions are rightly stressed.

J. P. Baird.


This book is the Proceedings of a Seminar jointly sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organisation. The list of participants is impressive and includes nearly 200 experts in various relevant fields of work.

The scope covers all the public health aspects of radiation emergencies, e.g. radiation emergencies requiring public health and agricultural actions, the problem of setting maximum acceptable levels of radiation exposure to the population in emergency situations, assessment of emergency situations, planning for accidents, details of recommended measures and so forth.

All who are required to study or give advice on the health aspects of radiation emergencies would find this book extremely useful, and there is much which is relevant to problems associated with fall-out from nuclear weapons.

M. M. Lewis.


The Occupational Therapy Department of the Astley Ainslie Hospital opened, in 1960, a Home Unit whose aim is the resettlement of disabled by advice and training in self-care, household and day to day activities.

To find out if the Home Unit justified its cost the authoress followed up the 189 cases referred in its second year.
This book gives in detail the procedure adopted in the follow up, analyses the results, points out difficulties met and discusses weaknesses found.

Easily readable, the tables are simple to follow and the conclusion that the Home Unit plays a useful role is justified.

To anyone considering such a follow up this book is well worth study.

J. B. M. Milne


This book aims to present the modern practice of infectious diseases to general practitioners and medical students. This paperback, now in its eleventh edition, is brought up to date in some respects particularly with regard to the newer antibiotics. Viral diseases of the nervous system are inadequately dealt with, whereas hardly annuals like diphtheria and haemolytic streptococcal infections get more than their due attention. The lay-out is attractive and well systematised, but a lot more is required to make this book a worthwhile synopsis.

I. Michie


Miss Powell writes in her preface to the first edition that 'this book has been written primarily for nurses and physiotherapists working in orthopaedic hospitals while training for the Orthopaedic Nursing Certificate. It is also hoped that it will prove useful to those engaged in orthopaedics in the wards and departments of general hospitals.' Miss Powell has again succeeded in fulfilling this aim in the fifth edition.

It is a book of the highest degree able to give the seeker an immediate and detailed account of how to carry out a procedure, treatment or move a particular patient. Although rather detailed for general use by the student nurse it forms an indispensable addition to the reference library in the classroom and on the orthopaedic ward.

H. P. K. Brett


This is an excellent elementary text-book on nutrition, written in a clear, concise and easily readable style. It is remarkable for the skilful way in which the author has managed to avoid the pitfalls of oversimplification. The author assumes that the reader will wish to acquire more information and recommends a list of other suitable publications.

The first half of the book includes a description, without chemical formulae, of nutrients, the major sources of nutrients in common foodstuffs, the function of nutrients and the amounts needed by individuals from birth to old-age: the remainder explains, very simply, the basis of diets for individuals suffering from nutritional disorders. In the latter, the inclusion of the names and addresses of food manufacturers who can provide food items for use when the diet must be low in, or free of, sodium, lactose, phenylalanine, gluten etc, is of special value.

While the book is primarily intended for nurses in training it could equally well be recommended to anyone with an elementary knowledge of chemistry and an interest in the importance of good feeding habits.

G. M. Mann

**BOOKS RECEIVED**


Medical Group—Royal Photographic Society

The annual exhibition of medical photography will be held in the Claire Wand Gallery, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1 from 4th March to 29th April, 1966.