

BOOK REVIEWS

S.O.E. in France. M. R. D. FOOT. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1966. Pp. xxvii + 550. Illustrated, 45s.

The reviewer has, of course, read the whole book, but for obvious reasons can only speak with some measure of authority on a very small facet of this amazing book, of which he had personal experience. Speaking in general terms of all the S.O.E. work here recorded, the author has bent himself backwards to record the true facts; and in doing so has been successful in exsanguinating so many "Resistance" stories, which by the nature of their circumstances were often fantastic. In this respect the book is an encyclopaedia of understatement.

In so far as the R.A.M.C. was involved, there were in fact three members of the Corps who played their part. Ian MacKenzie, who was dropped and operated most successfully in the Limoges area, treating sick and wounded Maquisards. MacKenzie was awarded a M.B.E., but there is no mention of his work that I can trace in this book. The second Doctor was I believe named Hamilton, and it is to him that a brief mention is made of an episode when stark naked and equipped with a monocle and a revolver he successfully led a counter attack against the local Germans. My own brief experience is recorded, and to some extent overstated, but I must join issue with the Author over his sarcastic references to the "Medicos" role in such a conflict in relation to the Hippocratic Oath. The Hippocratic Oath is a code of relationship between Doctor and Patient, be it in peace or war. Our fate, if caught in the Maquis by the Germans was death—and not always a quick one. Our medical rapport was with the Maquis only, and to carry out this work the carrying and sometimes the use of defensive weapons was obligatory. The job was to be a good Doctor, and to keep alive for that purpose.

I mentioned that the terms of reference laid down to the Author in preparing this mammoth work did not include contact with the agents actually in "the field". This seems a pity. We all know that our stories do not grow less colourful as they are told and retold through the years—but a good author could discount this in telling this colossal story, and at the same time breathe a little life into what is in effect an arid if factual record of events.

G.E.P.

Notes on Radiological Emergencies. Revised reprint. G. ANSELL. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. 11, 10s.

This publication is a guide to the diagnosis and treatment of major emergencies in the X-Ray room

This publication is a guide to the diagnosis and treatment of major emergencies on the X-Ray room arising from the use of contrast media, local anaesthesia, etc. Such emergencies are by no means rare, and some scheme to deal with them must exist in all departments. These "Notes" consist of a set of eleven cards with a stiff cover on a larger base. They are designed to be kept clearly visible and thus immediately available in the X-Ray room. The eleven cards are of increasing length and changing colour from front to back, with the title of each card clearly printed on the bottom edge. The appropriate card can be therefore located in a second or so. The print is large and clear, the subject matter short and authoritative, the few diagrams well drawn and arranged. The treatment in many cases is arranged to be understood by medical auxiliaries as well as doctors. This publication is a very fine example of a medical emergency scheme and could well be followed in designing emergency schemes for other parts of a hospital. Its purchase for all hospitals can be strongly recommended.

K. H. HARPER.

Urinary Diversion: British Association of Urological Surgeons Prize Essay, 1965. T. COETZEE. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. 36. Illustrated, 10s.

This brochure is an essay which was awarded the 1965 British Association of Urological Surgeons' prize. The author discusses various methods of urinary diversion and describes the results of his own experience. When the rectum is free from disease two methods are advised viz. vesicorectoplasty and the more intricate Gersuny operation of ureteric transplantation into an isolated rectosigmoid pouch with perineal colostomy. In both the aim is to achieve a sphincter controlled urinary reservoir. For the palliative treatment of inoperable carcinoma of the cervix ileocolic ureterostomy is described. Where obstructed ureters are dilated and thickened by disease cutaneous ureterostomy is indicated. The paper is of a high standard and will be of interest mainly to those engaged in urology.

J. M. MATHESON.

Anthology of Orthopaedics. MERCER RANG. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. xi + 243. Illustrated, 42s.

What a joy to read a refreshingly different book after so many textbooks. Mercer Rang has done us a great service in presenting some of the original works of the great names in such an interesting volume. There is much to be learned here as the old masters are so often misquoted. One is able to appreciate just how great were the powers of clinical observance of Pott, Brodie, Tom Smith, Morton and Paget to name only a few. A selection of classic descriptions of disease has been made. To each is added a useful little biography and a portrait of the original author. At the end there is a note on how to find biographies and original papers and a bibliography. I wonder how many of us who use the abbreviation "IDK" know that it was first used by William Hey of Leeds in 1803; or that the sciatic nerve stretch test was not described by Lassegue but by his pupil Forst. Long before Mixter and Barr, disc protusions were described in 1911 by Joel E. Goldthwait and their original recognition dates to the nineteenth century and Virchow and later Luschka. There is the first description of the carpal tunnel syndrome, not by Brain in 1947, but by Ormerod in 1883. It is to be hoped that Mr. Rang will produce another volume of these classics of observation.

R. H. FREEMAN.

Textbook of Operative Surgery. Third Edition. E. L. FARQUHARSON. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. viii + 951. Illustrated. £6 6s.

The very readable, revised edition of this popular textbook of operative surgery largely repeats the previous edition with additions to bring it into line with current surgical thought and practice. It is not intended, as the author modestly acknowledges, to be completely comprehensive, and as a result it remains commendably limited to a single volume of reasonable proportions. However, in scope it covers all those operations and surgical procedures which the younger surgeon is likely to undertake and omits or relegates to small print only the rarer and more highly specialised ones. As a textbook it has always been noteworthy for its clarity and simplicity, features not always as evident in current texts. The inclusion of an increased number of illustrations improves it still further in this respect.

From the point of view of the military surgeon the management of war wounds in general follows a traditional regime, although the advice to pack the wound with gauze would gain little favour. Some confusion seems to exist between the meaning of delayed primary suture and secondary suture. At the other end of the scale the management, for example, of malignant melanoma is clearly dealt with on generally accepted lines. It is a little surprising that lignocaine, one of the most commonly used local anesthetic agents, is omitted from the section on the surgery of minor lesions.

Provided that it is realised that a surgical textbook of this size cannot cover all spheres in detail and that it may lack guidance for the older and more experienced surgeon, it must be accepted as one of the best books of its type and one which it is also a pleasure to read.

The fact that this book has practically become standard reading for candidates sitting the final surgical Fellowship examinations, speaks for itself. I would strongly recommend it both for this purpose and as a guide for all younger surgeons.

J. F. IFFLAND.

Ischio-Femoral Arthrodesis. J. CRAWFORD ADAMS. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. vi + 112. Illustrated. 35s.

In this excellent monograph Mr. Adams discusses the indications for arthrodesis of the hip joint and traces the history of ischio-femoral grafting. He describes in detail his technique using a nail to fix the femoral head and a graft, taken from the tibia or fibula, inserted through a tunnel in the femoral shaft into the ischial tuberosity by both closed and open methods. He analyses the results of 125 cases with 79 per cent primary fusion and quotes experimental work to support his technique and minimise complications. These chapters make interesting reading. The most frequent complication is fracture of the graft due to stress which occurred in 37 cases although it was symptomless in twelve of them. Although there was only one case of minor injury to the sciatic nerve, he stresses the danger of this complication particularly by a surgeon not skilled in the technique.

The work is a valuable contribution to the surgery of the hip and should be read by all interested in this subject.

P. R. WHEATLEY.

Prisoner on the Kwai. BASIL PEACOCK. Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons Ltd., 1966. Pp. ii + 291. 25s.

Now that the years have rolled away some of the bitterness of the wartime atrocities, the Japanese achievements can be more dispassionately assessed. It was not until as late as 1867, when the Emperor Meiji ascended the throne, that their feudal order was broken up and the modernisation of the regime started. By 1894 Japan had defeated the Chinese forces in Korea and crushed her navy. In 1904 she defeated the Russians in Manchuria and later entered the Great War on the side of the Allies. By 1942 she had overrun South-East Asia sweeping aside all Western forces that interposed. One of the by-products of this startling success was a potential labour force of eighty thousand unwounded soldiers. The "Far East Co-Prosperity Sphere" required a strategic railway linking the Pacific to the Indian Ocean via Bangkok, Moulmein and Rangoon. In what better way could these prisoners be employed?

Basil Peacock, a combatant officer in both World Wars and a dental surgeon between them, has written a most readable day to day story of the macabre life of one such prisoner on that river where there was once a bridge since immortalised by Alex Guinness. He had perhaps a standing start in survival techniques as he had earlier been a prisoner in World War I and was also later able to use his professional skills. It must be remembered too that discipline in the Japanese army was rugged. As one lance-corporal informed the author: "In Japanese army no soldier became sergeant till he has been beaten more than fifty times for good discipline". Twenty years after the events described in the book, he revisited the River Kwai in Thailand and found that his memories were most vivid and detailed of the unusual, odd and even crazy incidents. Those of horror were curiously blurred for the scars had healed. F. G. NEILD.

Poisonous and Venomous Marine Animals of the World. Volume One. BRUCE W. HALSTEAD. Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1965. Pp. xxxv + 994. Illustrated.

This unique volume is almost three inches in thickness, and comprises approximately one thousand pages of text and illustrations. It draws together the known facts regarding poisonous Marine Invertebrates and is a masterly compilation likely to be the chief reference on the subject for years to come.

Chapter I. traces the study of marine toxicology from ancient times to the present day.

Chapter II. contains studies of toxic marine protozoa, with emphasis on the dinoflagellates that form 'red-tide' and other oceanic 'blooming' and are also the cause of paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Chapter III. deals with poisonous sponges.

Chapter IV. is on poisonous coelenterates including Portugese men-o-war, sea wasps and toxic corals.

Chapter V. describes poisonous sea-urchins and sea-cucumbers.

Chapter VI. is on poisonous marine molluscs including the venomous cone-shell snails and squids and octopuses.

Chapter VII. brings together information on poisonous marine flat-worms, true worms, arthropods, etc.

This volume is obviously for study in the library rather than in the field, because of its large size and long reference lists. A copy may be seen in the Royal Army Medical College, on application to the Librarian.

J. H. GRUNDY.

World Eradication of Infectious Diseases. E. H. HINMAN. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas, 1966. Pp. xv + 223. \$8.50.

This book deals with the philosophy of eradication in general and with malaria, yellow fever, smallpox, yaws, syphilis and tuberculosis in particular. Also it deals briefly with poliomyelitis, measles, trachoma, pinta, epidemic typhus, marine typhus, bubonic plague, hookworm disease, schistosomiasis and onchocerciasis. Approximately one half of the book is devoted to malaria eradication. This is extremely well done and covers all aspects in detail yet concisely. But the omission, except as a co-author, of Professor George Macdonald from the bibliography is a surprising oversight, since his book "Epidemiology and Control of Malaria" (1957) contributed so much to the mathematical concepts which form the basis of the modern philosophy of readication. Anyone requiring a concise, authoritative and up-to-date account of progress in communicable disease eradication will find this book most useful. It is also strongly recommended for those studying for the D.T.M. & H. examination. The review copy has been placed in the Library of the Royal Army Medical College.

M. M. LEWIS.

Hospital Infection: Causes and Prevention. Second Edition. R. E. O. WILLIAMS, et al. London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., 1966. Pp. xii + 1342. Illustrated. 40s.

This book should be required reading for all medical officers concerned with planning and administration of hospitals, and could be read with advantage by senior nursing staff. It has something useful to say on all aspects of investigation, treatment and prevention of hospital infections. Military hospitals are fortunate in their low rate of hospital infections, but the application of the mixture of commonsense and expertise in the chapters on disinfection and sterilisation and on the use of antibiotics might reduce it even further. It might also bring to light risks of potential disaster run by members of hospital staffs because of ignorance or lack of thought. Critics may complain that this book is insufficiently detailed in its approach, but there is enough information for most readers in most circumstances and the comprehensive bibliography at the end of each chapter will provide for the rest.

R. J. C. HART

Atlas of Medical Helminthology and Protozoology. H. C. JEFFREY and R. M. LEACH: Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1966. Pp. 121. Illustrated 75s.

This atlas introduces a new concept to medical literature. Many fine atlases have been published in the past, particularly in the fields of histology and haematology, and many textbooks of parasitology have made use of illustrations to supplement the text. But this work is unique in practically replacing text by annotated diagrams and illustrations. It is an ambitious concept in a subject where descriptive detail plays such an important part. The fact that little of importance is lost and that understanding of essentials is greatly simplified is a tribute to careful planning of diagrammatic layout and sequence, and also to the exceptional clarity and detailed accuracy of the illustrations themselves.

Words are few and are used with the utmost economy. The resulting abbreviated style is, however, well suited to the purpose of annotation and is not difficult to follow. Indeed, the grief simplicity of words used and the fact that the essence of the work is illustration should make this atlas most acceptable as a teaching medium among tropical communities where little English is spoken.

Special credit is due to both authors and publishers for the superb colour illustrations of Romanowsky-stained protozoa, especially the malaria parasites. Some readers may find room for mild criticism in the sequence of Parts I, II and III, whereby the Protozoa at Part II are sandwiched between two slices of Helminths. It might have been preferable to follow nature's example and begin with the Protozoa.

This atlas fills a long felt want in presenting Medical Helminthology and Protozoology in an easily digested form, which will be greatly appreciated not only by D.T.M. and H. students but by many others, including technical staff, eager to learn the essentials of these fascinating subjects but unenthusiastic about reading heavy descriptive texts.

R. M. VANRENEEN

Professor of Experimental Pathology

This title has been conferred on Dr. John Chaplin Sloper, in respect of his post at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School. He served with the Corps as a member of the Dermatological Research Team in Singapore 1947-9.

Society of Apothecaries of London

Mr. Harold C. Edwards has been elected Master of the Worshipful Society.