

Reviews.

PRACTICAL NOTES ON COURTS OF INQUIRY, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS. By W. F. Cox. Printed and published by Gale and Polden, Ltd., 2, Amen Corner, London, E.C.4. Pp. 138. Price 4s. net.

The author of this book is a solicitor of many years' standing and he has written upon a subject which is not well understood by many officers in the Army particularly those in the junior ranks.

He has applied his legal knowledge to that gained in military service and produced a work which should be carefully studied by all who, in the course of duty, are ordered to take part in, or deal with the Proceedings of Courts of Inquiry, Committees or Boards.

AIDS TO SURGERY. By Joseph Cunning. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1919. Pp. viii and 420.

The fact that a fourth edition has been issued is sufficient evidence that students freely use synopses of surgery and find them helpful. It is on this ground that the author rightly meets the gentle critic who failed "to see why this book has been written." We have always thought Mr. Cunning's epitome one of the best of many, and its value, in the present edition has been enhanced by a careful revision and the bringing up to date of such matters as the treatment of syphilis and tetanus, of gunshot wounds and fractures, and other advances in surgery. The author's main difficulty was to choose what to omit, and in the main he has chosen wisely and compressed a vast amount of useful knowledge into a small space.

ELEMENTS OF SURGICAL DIAGNOSIS. By Sir Alfred Pearce Gould and E. P. Gould. London: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1919. Pp. xiv and 722. Price 12s. 6d. net.

This is a new edition of an old friend, brought up to date with revision and additions and the substitution of more radiograms in place of figures in the text, but without that tendency to plethora to which new editions and mankind are so subject with advancing years. The reviewer remembers as a student his satisfaction at getting hold of an author who could bring to a focus and make fascinating reading of the details of one of the most difficult parts of surgery, and who moreover had just that touch of dogmatism which is such a help to one struggling with the beginnings of a subject. It is with a reminiscent interest that one reads the chapters on Pulsating Swellings, on Abdominal Diseases, and on Inguino-scrotal Swellings. The reduced photographs of X-ray plates are admirably reproduced and admirably indicative of the various conditions illustrated. And while we find a good many changes in the text, we find also that the authors have omitted with discretion and added with advantage. We give a hearty welcome to the Fifth Edition.

TECHNIC OF THE CARREL METHOD. By J. Dumas and Anne Carrel. Translated by Adrian V. S. Lambert, M.D. London: W. Heinemann, 1918. Pp. 90. Price 6s. net.

This is a description of the details of the application of the Carrel method of treating infected wounds.

As pointed out in the preface, it was written primarily for the information of nurses, and it fulfils this purpose admirably. As Dr. Carrel insists, the success of the method depends on an absolutely strict adherence to all the details which he

has laid down, and he attributes the failure to obtain results as favourable as his own in the hands of other workers to omission of some of these details.

It is quite true that one seldom sees the method carried out in its entirety, and few seem to realize that the aim of the method is to produce a wound which in the shortest possible time will be fit for safe secondary suture.

If the details laid down in this little book are carefully followed the complete method will have been attained.

It is well and clearly written and the illustrations of the apparatus are excellent.

To read it without any previous information on Carrel's work would prove unconvincing, but with this previous knowledge it is interesting and instructive.

We note that Plate II has been unnecessarily inserted twice.

J. W. W.

THE URETHROSCOPE IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF URETHRITIS. By Major N. P. L. Lumb, O.B.E., R.A.M.C.(T.C.). London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1919. Pp. xii and 51. Price 10s. 6d.

THIS little book should form an excellent guide to those taking up the use of the urethroscope for the first time. It is well and clearly written, and the plates with which it is illustrated are excellently reproduced and have the great merit of having been drawn from actual cases.

The author strongly recommends the Windham-Powell Urethroscope, which permits of air distention, for all examinations of the anterior urethra, and Buerger's latest model of cysto urethroscope for examinations of the posterior urethra.

Chapters II and III give a very good description of the appearances of the normal urethra and its associated glands, and the beautiful reproductions of the urethroscopic appearances make the text particularly clear.

Chapters IV and V are devoted to the pathological appearances produced by an attack of gonorrhœa, and should be of the greatest assistance, especially in clearing up the cause of protracted attacks which obstinately resist treatment, and in controlling by direct observations the result of treatment.

Chapter VI gives the indications for urethroscopic examination in cases of urethritis.

The whole subject is put briefly and clearly and there is an entire absence of padding.

We hope that the author will carry out the intention expressed in the preface, of producing later a more extended work on the same lines.

J. W. W.