

Reviews.

DESCRIPTIVE ATLAS OF VISCERAL RADIOGRAMS. By A. P. Bertwistle, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., and E. W. H. Shenton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: Henry Kimpton. Pp. 245 with 330 illustrations. Price 21s. net.

This atlas produced by the above authors presents a very comprehensive series of modern technical radiograms and has the additional advantage that many of the systems have been illustrated and augmented by typical specimens collected from such specialists as Dr. Spriggs (alimentary), Mr. Kidd (urinary) and Dr. Rowden.

The volume together with its companion on bones, etc., also by A. P. Bertwistle, now forms a very complete guide to the whole subject of interpretation of medical and surgical radiograms, excluding localization.

The work of interpretation constitutes "Medical Radiology" and with the technical production of good films and reproductions such as these, better and more accurate results must follow.

The supply of accurate information is the aim of the radiologist, and this volume will help surgeons, physicians and radiologists themselves in many ways, not the least being that the all-important fluoroscopic notes made prior to the making of the film have been added; the importance of this in chest and abdominal radiology cannot be over emphasized.

The line drawings attached to most of the radiograms give rather a false idea of the ease of completing a radio-diagnosis, as the deductions from appearances of many radiograms are almost impossible to convey on paper to anyone who has not actually conducted the examinations.

To study this book in detail is a real pleasure, but it is a big undertaking for those whose knowledge of interpretation is scanty, and it will bring home to many not only the great scope and usefulness of the subject, but also, in particular cases, the limitations of the information that can be deduced.

The production of the book is excellent, and all the plates are of the highest radiographic and lithographic quality. D. B. McG.

ORTHOPÆDIC SURGERY. By W. A. Cochrane, F.R.C.S.E. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1926. Price 21s.

The author of this book has aimed at producing a manual of ready reference for students and practitioners, and in this he has succeeded admirably. It is not a manual of orthopædics, and those requiring detailed information of treatment will have to seek elsewhere.

It is the first book of its kind published in this country, as it deals with the modern conception of orthopædics, and there must be many members of the medical profession who have often sought for information as to the

raison d'être of the osteopath without wishing to explore the larger volumes on this subject by American authors.

Part I of this book deals entirely with the mechanistic conception of disease as originally formulated by Goldthwait of Boston.

Part II is a good exposition of the ætiology, prevention and treatment of deformity. The teaching is chiefly that of the American school represented by Goldthwait and Osgood. Sir Harold Stiles has also largely contributed.

The author lays stress on the neglect of the chronic type of case; and points out the wide field wherein lies a practical ideal for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of such cases. With this end in view he emphasizes the necessity for the ability to diagnose the potential cripple, rather than the treatment of any fully developed condition.

Much attention has been paid in recent years to the importance of physique and correct posture in relation to the art of medicine, but unfortunately the majority of the medical profession in the British Isles have so far failed to realize either the importance or scope of this mechanistic conception of disease. The ignorance which at present surrounds this subject will be very largely dispelled by such an able contribution to the literature of the subject as has been produced by Dr. Cochrane.

The book is abundantly illustrated and the typescript is good.

R. R. G. A.

THE TREATMENT OF THE ACUTE ABDOMEN. By Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., &c. London: Oxford University Press: Humphrey Milford, 1926. Pp. xvi + 238. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The publication of "The Treatment of the Acute Abdomen," by Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng., occurs at a very opportune time.

The advisability of medical practitioners, other than consulting surgeons, undertaking major surgical operations has been discussed in the medical press during the past year.

Views for and against this practice have been freely expressed, and the subject may still be considered an open question.

When a patient is ill he places himself unreservedly in the care of his medical attendant, and the doctor accepts this trust fully and without reservations. Any indefiniteness or qualification of this responsibility would in practice be found unsatisfactory.

If the medical man in charge of a case is able to perform the operative treatment his patient may urgently require, no valuable time need be lost by waiting until the services of a consulting surgeon can be obtained.

Mr. Zachary Cope's book is a clear and reliable guide to medical men faced with the necessity of providing urgent operative treatment for their patients, when a consulting surgeon is not available.

Practitioners in country districts or abroad will find this small volume

invaluable, as they are unlikely to have in their possession the large works on operative surgery.

Even when a consulting surgeon is available, a careful perusal of Mr. Zachary Cope's book will help the local medical practitioner to realize the requirements for the operation, and thus enable him better to anticipate the needs of the visiting surgeon.

The book is divided into two sections, the first being devoted to a detailed description of operative technique, while the second deals with after-treatment.

In the first chapter of the book the surgical instruments recommended for acute abdominal work are fully described, and important points in connexion with the number and pattern of these instruments are pointed out.

The actual cause of an acute abdominal condition is sometimes uncertain until the abdomen has been opened, and the surgeon must have ready certain accessory instruments and apparatus in order to be prepared for any emergency. A description of these accessory instruments is given, and the various abnormal conditions which may necessitate their use are fully described.

The second chapter deals with the operative details involved in opening and closing the abdomen. While the most suitable incision for any particular case must depend upon the location of the lesion, the author recommends the right para-medial line of incision when the diagnosis of the case is a provisional one. Very free access is obtained to the abdominal cavity through this incision, and it does not predispose to hernia formation afterwards.

The operative treatment of appendicitis is very fully described, and the various difficulties which the surgeon may meet with are mentioned, together with the best way of dealing with each of them.

With regard to the treatment of appendicitis when a local abscess has already formed, the author in these cases recommends that the local abscess should be incised and drained, without an attempt being made at the same time to remove the appendix, appendicectomy in these particular cases being often a very difficult and delicate procedure which is best reserved for more skilled and experienced hands.

The chapter on post-operative complications of acute appendicitis and their treatment will be found most useful, not only to surgeons undertaking operative work, but also to those who may have the after-care of cases which have been operated upon by another surgeon.

The operative treatments of perforated gastric ulcer, acute pancreatitis, acute intestinal obstruction and strangulated hernia, are all dealt with in a most practical and thorough manner.

The accompanying illustrations are clear and help greatly to explain and amplify the text, which is necessarily condensed owing to the small size of the volume.

In dealing with the subject of gut resection, the author gives in full the various important points which should guide the surgeon in dealing with damaged intestines. With regard to intestinal anastomosis, the author prefers the end to end method of union, but the lateral form of anastomosis is also described.

The chapter on ectopic gestation and ovarian cysts, while somewhat condensed, deals with the subjects in a clear and practical way. The treatment of acute cholecystitis and general peritonitis is included.

The second section of the volume contains chapters on dressings, nursing, diet and the treatment of post-operative complications.

This book is the companion volume to the author's "Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen," and like it is essentially practical in its outlook.

The busy medical practitioner who may find difficulty in obtaining the information he requires from the large surgical works will find in these two small books all the surgical information necessary for acute abdominal operations presented in the clearest and most accessible form.

C. C.

LIGHT TREATMENT IN SURGERY. By Dr. O. Bernhard (St. Moritz).

Translated by R. King Brown, B.A., M.D., D.P.H., M.O.H. (Bermondsey), and Lecturer in Public Health, Guy's Hospital Medical School. London: Edward Arnold and Co. Second edition. Pp. 317, 104 illustrations. Price 21s. net.

This book by Dr. Oscar Bernhard is a very comprehensive study based on some thirty years' experience of actinotherapy. It has been translated into English by Dr. King Brown.

The history of artificial sunlight is dealt with in a fascinating and interesting way.

The book is divided into two parts dealing respectively with general aspects, e.g., Light, Light Biology, Pathology of Sunlight, Climatology, and special aspects, e.g., the indications and technique of specialized applications of the various forms thereof.

Many of the author's cases and results are really marvellous; he, however, recognizes that these miracles are due not only to sunlight but also to the climatic conditions under which he works in Switzerland.

Anyone who has sampled the light and air of St. Moritz can well understand the benefits patients receive when under the care of such an experienced observer as Dr. Bernhard.

The book is well illustrated and is the very last thing in treatment of this kind, but one must always remember that such consistently good results are not to be expected in the less invigorating air and gloom of the English winter.

D. B. McG.

THE CLINICAL STUDY OF MENTAL DISORDERS. By Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Lord, C.B.E., M.B., M.R.C.P. London: Adlard and Son and West Newman, Ltd. 1926. Pp. 82. Price 6s.

This book is the Presidential Address at the annual meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in July, 1926.

Colonel Lord commences with the following sentence, which indicates the trend of his address:—

“ . . . I should address you on some aspects of the practice of psychiatry, especially in regard to possibilities and lines of progress in the future and as to how the Association might better assist their materialization. The aspect I wish to dwell upon is that which is the title of my address.”

The author is co-editor of the *Journal of Mental Science* and Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Mental Hygiene and speaks with great knowledge and experience on the subject of clinical study of mental disorders, pleading for the furtherance of research and clinical psychiatry in its widest bearings, properly organized and routine team work in the investigation and treatment of individual cases, and the reconstruction of psychiatry as a science, in close partnership with general medicine.

The relation of psychiatry and general medicine is discussed, and the reasons given for the fact that British psychiatry grew up apart from that mutual collaboration and co-operation which has been so beneficial to other branches of medical science, and the hope is expressed that psychiatry now appears to be returning “not indeed as an errant child, but as an adult in the full vigour of life, seeking, not an apprenticeship, but a partnership, and bringing a capital—a rich offering of medico-psychological knowledge and experience, and something for which general medicine has begun to feel the need—and so affecting a union full of advantages to both, and all to the benefit of sick and suffering humanity.”

The methods of approach to clinical psychiatry are fully discussed, and the team work which is so desirable and essential in the treatment of mental disorder, involving as it does the psychical and physical aspects, receives attention in considerable detail.

The importance of detail work on individual cases is very great, there must be examinations conducted by specialists of all kinds in close consultation, “the issues are so momentous, the problems so baffling, the territory so unexplored, that psychiatry as a speciality needs all the aid that can be given by medical science and all its branches. . . . The psychiatry I envisage covers that practised by the general practitioner, the neurologist, and the mental specialist, to which must be added that of the ear, nose and throat specialist and the dentist.”

To build up the wider psychiatry more mental clinics in connexion with the medical schools for teaching purposes are necessary as well as a greater offering of clinical psychiatry in the public mental hospitals.

The relationship between psychiatry and neurology is also discussed. This has been summed up by Head, who said, “we work in the passageway between the physical universe and the dwelling place of the mind.”

The author concludes his address by saying that he started out with the intention of being severely practical, but fears his remarks have been mainly idealistic and philosophical. With this we do not agree, because throughout the address there is a very distinct path, hilly it is true, with delightful scenery around and often obscured by tropical vegetation, but leading to "a clear sky in the distance which gives promise of a brighter future for the wayfarer and hope of success to crown his efforts." "So may it be with psychiatry."

It is a most able address at a time when the problems of mental disorder occupy much time and thought, from their medical, legal, and sociological aspects, and have such great bearing on the future of our race.

W. L. W.

SPECIAL REPORT SERIES, No. 107: MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL. "THE EFFECT OF TREATMENT ON THE WASSERMANN REACTION OF SYPHILITIC PATIENTS." Published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London. Price 2s. 6d.

"The Effect of Treatment on the Wassermann Reaction of Syphilitic Patients," by Doctors E. E. Glynn, R. E. Roberts, and P. M. Bigland, gives a detailed account of the effect upon Wassermann reaction of the standard admission course "914," grey oil, etc. A detailed study, in 503 patients, of Wassermann relapses after the admission course is given as well as an account of the influence of continuation treatment with mercury, and of "no treatment" in the first Wassermann relapse in 109 patients.

The failure of continuation treatment as regards its effect upon the Wassermann reaction is dealt with in detail and the authors suggest alterations in this course.

An excellent chart has been devised by Dr. Roberts, which shows for each patient the relation between the Wassermann reaction and the various forms of treatment.

The exact nature of the standard admission course is described, and it is pointed out that the investigation could only deal with 711 out of 3,429 patients treated, e.g., one-fifth, on account of their inadequate attendance at the clinic.

A most valuable addendum to this report would be the study of the effect of the "inadequate treatment" on the Wassermann reaction in the four-fifths who did not complete the course, and a comparison of the results with those obtained in the patients who submitted to full courses of treatment and regular investigation of their serum reactions. The technique of the Wassermann reaction employed throughout the investigation was No. 4, described in the Interim Report on the Wassermann Reaction, published in 1918 by the Special Committee on the standardization of pathological methods appointed by the Medical Research Committee.

A special Wassermann machine is described and was used in the work

in order to shorten the time period necessary to carry out the technique in the case of large numbers of sera.

Tables showing the positive and negative errors in the delivery of 0.5 centimetres of distilled water indicated that in the case of the Wassermann machine, such errors were very low and almost the same as the lowest obtained by the pipettes, and definitely lower than those obtained by the burettes.

The drop error, so troublesome to those who have used dropping machines for the delivery of Wassermann doses and amounting on an average to eight per cent, is eliminated by the suddenness with which the flow of fluid is cut off after each distribution.

The authors concluded that the No. 4 technique, judged by the analysis of their percentage of error, was very accurate.

The statistical tables all indicated that the sooner syphilis is treated the greater is the probability of cure. In 1922, Kolle showed that salvarsan cured infected rabbits if treatment was started within forty-five days, but failed when ninety days had elapsed after infection.

Finally, the authors conclude from their statistics that: (1) Mercury tablet courses definitely do not diminish the relapse incidence, and (2) grey oil definitely increases the relapse incidence of syphilis. They emphasize the point that their conclusions as regards the value of mercury refer only to its administration in Wassermann negative, latent syphilis, and that its value in clinically active, Wassermann positive syphilis is not questioned.

TYPES OF MIND AND BODY. By E. Miller, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.M.
London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co. 1926. Pp. 132.
Price 2s. 6d. net.

Dr. Miller has written a charming essay, which is published as one of the medical series of "Psyche Miniatures."

It consists of four chapters and a bibliography. The first chapter discusses the difficulty of classifying human beings into types, but points out the easy way of doing so by the study of types of physique, as has been done by Dr. Ernst Krebschmer, of Tübingen. The resulting two types evolved are the psychic and the asthenic, with certain offshoots from them.

The second chapter considers the physiological background, with special reference to chemical pathology, the internal secretions and the influence of the nervous system, especially the vegetative nervous system. A concise and brief description of the known effects of each of the endocrine glands is next given without any attempt at being dogmatic.

In Chapter III we pass from the realm of physical phenomena to that of the mental, and, as the author says, we seem to move from one language to another. Types here are only seen in extremes, and only in the examination of large numbers does grouping become possible. Again, two main types may be noted, the manic depressive and the schizophene group;

these opposite forms of mental disorder represent the morbid and exaggerated development of one or the other of the tendencies which are common to us all. These types are discussed with reference to the physical types.

The last chapter, entitled "Cross Currents," shows how the types may suffer great modification and be apparently disguised—John Bunyan, Byron, John Milton, with special reference to his "Paradise Lost," are here discussed and analysed, and the conclusion is arrived at that "in order to envisage the whole character of man we must view him, not as a body, nor as a mind, but as an integrated dynamic system of forces which in its inheritance and its own history wears the fabric of personality."

To those whom the above resumé interests the book is very strongly recommended; it contains much real medical knowledge, and is delightfully written, its interest being increased by the author's easy humorous style.

W. L. W.

PRACTICAL NURSING FOR MALE NURSES IN THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS AND OTHER FORCES. By Colonel E. M. Hassard, A.M.S. (Retd.) and A. R. Hassard. Second Edition. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 1927. Pp. xvi + 407. Price 4s. 6d. net.

This excellent manual, the first edition of which was published when Colonel Hassard was on the active list of the Royal Army Medical Corps, brings the subject of practical nursing well up to date. The chief features in the new edition are a chapter on radiant heat, electricity and massage, by Miss Staveley Skinkwin, late head masseuse, Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, and notes on insulin treatment in diabetes by Miss Millicent Ashdown. Other chapters cover all the essential subjects which nursing orderlies in military or civil life should master, and which the authors explain clearly and practically. In this respect the opening chapters on bed-making and washing of patients are exceptionally well described. The remaining chapters deal with the observation of patients, the application of various measures and appliances in the nursing of patients, and the special points to be attended to in the nursing of different classes of disease, in the preparation and after-treatment of operation cases, in cleaning ward utensils, and other details. There are thirty-seven chapters in all, and a good index. The chief defect in the book is the almost entire absence of illustrations or descriptive sketches. Its value would have been enhanced by a more liberal supply of these. It is a work, however, which we can thoroughly recommend to the nursing orderlies of Colonel and Mrs. Hassard's old corps, and to those of them who are now engaged in nursing in civil life.

AN INDEX AND HANDBOOK OF X-RAY THERAPY. By Dr. Robert Lenk, University of Vienna. Translated by T. I. Candy, M.B., D.M.R.E., Newport, Mon. Oxford University Press: Humphrey Milford. 1926. Pp. 120. Price 6s. 6d. net.

This is an admirable translation in handbook form, by Dr. Candy, of the technique and formula of Dr. Lenk. The book is claimed to be more useful

for the general practitioner than for the radiologist, but I think it is more a labour-saving book for the specialist, as the average practitioner who includes X-rays in his daily work cannot have time to deal adequately with radiotherapy to the extent detailed herein.

The technique and formula are those of the Vienna school and have been produced after much experience and thought, and at present cannot be bettered.

The adoption of the metrical system must come eventually, but it is sometimes difficult for us to grasp at first.

There is no attempt to insist on a rigid technical standardization of the X-ray dose, or on a biological standard, as such margins are given that the dose really becomes a clinical problem.

MANUAL OF MEDICINE. By A. S. Woodwark, C.M.G., C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Third Edition. Oxford University Press: Humphrey Milford. 1927. Pp. xi + 523. Price 15s. net.

The popularity of Dr. Woodwark's "Manual of Medicine" as a vademecum for students and general practitioners, especially for those who have come under his teaching as lecturer on medicine in the Medical School of the Westminster Hospital, is evidenced by its reaching a third edition. The Manual was first published in 1912; but the remarkable advances in the causation and knowledge of disease during and after the war alone would have necessitated a revision of practically all manuals of this class. In his revision of the second edition, which was published in 1920, the author has managed to retain the original character and size of the book, while introducing many alterations and additions to the text. When put to the test of certain war experiences, such as food deficiency diseases and war neuroses, the volume falls short of our expectations. The references to these subjects are too concise, and, in our opinion, do not give a true picture of the conditions. For example, it is scarcely correct to state that scurvy is "always associated with defective hygiene, overcrowding, and physical and mental fatigue." It would have been more correct to associate it with conditions of famine such as occur in sieges, and it may occur where there is neither overcrowding nor defective hygiene provided the essentials in dietary are defective. The same may be said of the author's treatment of the subject of beri-beri, which he states to be endemic in certain localities and certain ships. We fail to see how it can be endemic in certain ships. A better description would have been to say that it affects communities whose dietary consists chiefly of highly-polished rice, a condition which is not necessarily restricted to certain localities and certain ships. As regards war neuroses the author appears to give undue prominence to exposure to concussion from the explosion of powerful shells without visible injury, and probably "also to poisoning caused by carbon monoxide set free in the explosion of shells." We know of no scientific basis for these statements; on the contrary, the experience

of the war attributed so-called shell-shock to conditions quite apart from concussion or poisoning by gas.

No doubt the author has endeavoured to produce a manual suitable as a guide for medical students, but, from the point of view of the general practitioner, it will be found too condensed. Such points as differential diagnosis and prognosis are in many cases referred to in a manner that does not help the reader or are omitted altogether. In this respect the book may be described as occupying a place in medical literature half way between a *memoria technica* for students and the more comprehensive treatises on the practice of medicine.

Correspondence.

THE STERILIZATION OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF WATER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—Major Hattersley has described in the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS of February, 1927, a method of sterilizing small quantities of water, e.g., two gallons upwards. Still smaller quantities, e.g., a glass or a water-bottle, may be efficiently sterilized by the following method, which requires no skill, no measuring apparatus, and can be used anywhere by anybody:—

A strong solution of the ordinary stabilized bleaching powder, obtainable in every military hospital, is made by adding a handful of the powder to a water-bottle, or about an inch in the bottom of an ordinary 4-ounce medicine bottle. The bottle is then filled with water, shaken for a few minutes, and allowed to settle. The supernatant fluid forms an excellent sterilizing solution, which will keep its chlorine content unaltered for about a month.

(1) A glass of water is treated simply by stirring it vigorously with a match which has been dipped to the hilt in the solution.

(2) *Water-bottles.*—A wire is fixed to the cork of the water-bottle, extending to the bottom of the bottle and about as thick as a match. This is dipped in the solution for a few inches, and the cork and wire applied to the bottle of water, which is shaken thoroughly. The taste of chlorine in either of these cases is so slight as to be negligible, even if tasted immediately after adding. It is better to wait a quarter of an hour before drinking, however, so as to be sure of sterility. Bacteriological tests were recently made in Lahore of this method, using a clear water which contained lactose-fermenting organisms in as small a quantity as 0.1 cubic centimetre. These were sterilized immediately, or rather as quickly as tests could be taken after adding the sterilizing solution. The presence of