

## Reviews.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL, 1937. Editors: H. Letheby Tidy, M.A., M.D.Oxon., F.R.C.P., and A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Bristol: John Wright and Sons, Ltd. London: Simpkin Marshall, Ltd. Pp. lxxii + 704. Price 20s. net.

The Medical Annual of 1937 gives an excellent summary of medical activities during 1936.

Macdonald Critchley contributes a series of articles on Neurological subjects. In dealing with migraine he quotes literature regarding the theories of the ætiology of this condition, a question that is still far from settled. He agrees that femergin (ergotamine tartrate), especially when administered hypodermically, is a valuable adjunct in the treatment and possibly to a lesser extent in the prophylaxis of this disease. He discusses the treatment of narcolepsy and mentions the occasional occurrence of nocturnal insomnia when large doses of ephedrine are used or when the last dose is given close to bedtime. Benzedrine sulphate is considered by some workers to be three times more efficacious than ephedrine. The initial dose should be 10 mg. after which it may be increased to 30 mg. three times a day; this sometimes gives complete relief from symptoms.

The article on Nervous Disorders in Boxing or Punch-Drunkness should be of special interest to pugilists. It is pointed out that there is some parallelism between the degree of facial disfigurement and the intensity of the punch-drunkness; for this disorder is particularly associated with these pugilists who have been distinguished less for their speed and foot-work than for their capacity to "take it." Differentiation may sometimes be difficult between such cases and cases of disseminated sclerosis and G.P.I.

R. G. Macfarlane writes on Snake Venom in Medicine. He deals with the nature and action of the poison in the *Viperida* and the *Colubrida*. Therapeutically as a local hæmostatic the venom of the *Russell viper* has been found to be particularly active producing a thrombokinase type of coagulant. A solution of 1 : 10,000 can be applied with perfect safety. Sterilization of the venom is ensured by filtration; the sterile solution maintains its potency when evaporated to dryness and kept in ampoules. The injection of a dilute solution of the venom of *Ankistrondon pescavorum* is reported to have given favourable results in cases of "idiopathic" uterine bleeding.

R. St. A. Heathcote discusses new therapeutic remedies. First he deals with the chemotherapy of streptococcal infections by the relatively insoluble preparation prontosil which is given orally and by the soluble preparation prontosil S. used intramuscularly. He considers that these drugs raise our hopes for the successful treatment of this very serious infection to a great height. He next deals with the therapy of angina

pectoris and quotes the work of Hoyle and Evans in which they showed that nitrites and organic nitrates were the best drugs for relieving spasms. Glyceryl trinitrate in doses not exceeding  $\frac{1}{30}$  grain was found to be best provided absorption was allowed to occur in the mouth. This drug acts equally well either to relieve spasm once it has occurred or as a prophylactic given immediately before exertion. Coramine or cardiazol are also dealt with. They have been shown to exert their beneficial effects by stimulation of the cerebrum, the respiratory and the vasomotor medullary centre. There is, however, little or no direct action on the cardiovascular system. Novurit, the newest of the mercurial compounds, is put up with theophylline as the addition of this purin derivative makes it a more effective diuretic. Novurit can be employed by the intravenous route or given in the form of a suppository. Like the older preparations it acts more effectively if ammonium chloride is given for twenty-four hours beforehand. Other new preparations described are anahæmin, protamine insulinate, magnesium silicate and benzidrine.

Blood transfusion is dealt with by Lambert Rogers. He discusses the continuous drip method of Marriott and Kekurck and describes the use of the blood of cadavers as introduced by Yadin of Moscow.

The literature on burns is reviewed and the opinion is expressed that coagulation remains the local treatment of choice in the majority of cases of burns and scalds, certainly when extensive and severe. In less severe cases cod-liver oil gives good results.

H. Letheby Tidy gives a short summary of the findings of the First International Congress of Gastro-Enterology held in Brussels in August, 1935, when the subject of non-amœbic ulcerative colitis was discussed. The surgery of this condition is dealt with by Rendle Short.

Acute osteomyelitis in childhood is described by E. W. Hey Groves and after a careful survey of results he concludes that early operation gives no assurance of recovery; it is wiser to wait till the second week and then do the minimum necessary for bone drainage.

John Fraser and Reginald Miller review the recent work on undescended testes and special mention is made of treatment by pregnyl, an anterior pituitary substance, a gonadotropic hormone, found in the urine of pregnant women.

A. Tudor Edwards considers amongst other things, the literature on malignant disease of the lung. He shows that the condition is still far too frequently not diagnosed or even suspected until too late in the disease for successful removal to be possible.

Disease of the pericardium, including Pick's disease, is dealt with by A. G. Gibson. He describes the ætiology, differential diagnosis and treatment of constrictive pericarditis and points out the satisfactory results to be obtained from the Delorme operation of pericardial resection when the diagnosis is certain and suitable cases are selected for this treatment.

Ivor S. Davies contributes the article on urinary infections and the

treatment of pyelitis. In considering mandelic acid and its salts he points out the type of case suitable for this form of treatment. He considers ammonium mandelate to be as efficient as the sodium salt, with the advantage of enabling one to obtain the necessary pH reaction without the addition of the unpleasant ammonium chloride. This article is followed by a consideration of urinary antiseptics by Hamilton Bailey.

Recent advances in ear affections are dealt with by F. W. Watkyn-Thomas. He points out that benzylmethyl carbinamine (benzedrine) has a powerful effect in causing shrinkage and relief of congestion of the nasal passage without any subsequent paralytic dilatation leading to congestion. This drug has been found of value in eustachian catarrh.

Blomfield contributes articles on anæsthesia. He considers that pentothal, the new barbituric for intravenous injection, promises to oust evipan which it resembles in action and rapidity of detoxication. It should be used without other sedatives or narcotics, but may conveniently be followed by other anæsthetics when used for operations longer than half an hour. Recovery is rapid and comfortable, vomiting being almost invariably absent.

There is an interesting section on radiology by J. F. Brailsford, in which many aspects of this special branch are discussed. The use of pitressin (10 pressor units) in cases where large collections of gas in the colon are troublesome, interfering with gall-bladder and renal pictures, is mentioned. Effective results were obtained in 82 per cent of cases after these injections. It is considered inadvisable to use this preparation in patients having a systolic blood-pressure below 100 mm. of mercury or in patients who have advanced hypertension or suspected coronary disease.

The gastroscope is described by A. Rendle Short. He says it may be that the time is coming when it will be looked upon with the same respect as the cystoscope. In a favourable case almost the whole stomach can be seen, including the pylorus. With experience one can see ulcers and distinguish them from carcinoma. Gastritis can also be recognized. Coloured pictures illustrating the appearance in the normal stomach and in an organ with an untreated atrophic chronic peptic ulcer are shown.

This volume is packed full of valuable information and should be studied in detail by everyone who wishes to keep abreast of recent advances in medicine.

A. G. B.

**KATHERINE LYNTON'S PORTRAIT.** By F. G. Hurrell. London: John Long, Ltd. 1936. Pp. 287. Price 7s. 6d.

Mr. Hurrell has drawn his portrait with accuracy and imagination though with a certain amount of exaggeration. This is inevitable in the description of a "type," and this book is in effect an indictment of those women who, while working in the world of men, yet retain the feminine instinct of being vitally essential to whatever they are doing. They are incapable of keeping their own lives separate from their job which becomes

eventually to them a matter of life and death. Fortunately for the world of women workers this type is fairly rare, but undoubtedly the danger is there, and Mr. Hurrell has exposed the danger, and incidentally the supreme foolishness of it in Katherine Lynton's Portrait.

There can be no doubt that Katherine Lynton was an exceptionally foolish woman, and as such excites no sympathy from the reader. But perhaps Mr. Hurrell decided this precise effect.

In Paris, where the book starts, Katherine, earning her living as a secretary, becomes the comparatively innocent cause of an extremely nasty suicide. We next find her in England acting as secretary-companion to an old lady, head of a large family, with a shrewish elder daughter. Katherine's Paris episode finds her out and she flies from the house rather than protest her innocence. She becomes private secretary to the head of a city firm; he comes a disastrous financial crash and decamps to Paris. Katherine, full of impassioned loyalty, goes with him, lands herself in a slightly invidious position and the man eventually drowns himself. Katherine decides to devote herself to her younger sister and carries her possessiveness to such extremes that the girl goes off with a man she has fallen in love with but who doesn't propose to marry her. Katherine marries a scientific farmer and decides that his laboratory is of more vital concern to him than she is. A child would have restored her sense of proportion, but he doesn't want children. He eventually goes blind and Katherine is the cause of his blindness. Loving him desperately she runs away to France and the book ends with her death just as her blind husband is arriving to find her.

The book is easily written with a certain dramatic sense, and is an accurately detailed portrait of a woman hungry to be vitally essential to someone or something, and who has no conception of the finer meaning of the word service.

ELEMENTS OF ORTHOPÆDIC SURGERY. By N. Ross Smith, M.B., Ch.M.Sydney, F.R.C.S.Eng. Bristol: John Wright and Sons. 1937. Pp. ix + 246. Price 10s. 6d.

This is a rather remarkable little book. In the space of 246 pages, which also contain nearly one hundred illustrations, the author has compressed much useful information. He not only deals with the usual orthopædic subjects but includes chapters on nervous diseases, fractures and bone tumours.

Apart from a few slips, such as saying that abduction of the hip causes apparent shortening of the leg, there is little to cavil at, and much to praise.

Though the subjects are dealt with briefly, the descriptions are clear and the forms of treatment recommended are sound and up to date.

The illustrations including the X-ray photographs, are well reproduced and helpful.

This does not set out to be a book of reference; but for anyone who wishes to get a rapid grasp of the essentials of the subject for an examination or to rub up his knowledge of orthopædics, the book can be strongly recommended.  
C. M. F.

A MANUAL OF RADIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS. By Ivan C. C. Tchaperoff, M.A., M.D., D.M.R.E.Camb. Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd. 1937. Pp. 256. Price 21s.

This book as the author states presents a synopsis of the essentials of radiological diagnosis. The illustrations are excellent, being clear, and demonstrate together with normalities many of the chief pathological conditions met with in an X-ray department.

It is a book in which X-ray diagnosis is presented in an original and welcome form, and can be recommended to medical practitioners and students as a valuable aid to film interpretation.

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### Notice.

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#### "WELLCOME" BRAND WHOOPING-COUGH VACCINE.

WE have received the following notes from Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co.

In response to many requests Burroughs Wellcome and Co. are issuing whooping-cough vaccine. It should be mentioned, however, that there is no satisfactory laboratory test for potency, nor does the clinical evidence yet provide complete proof that all batches of the vaccine made in different parts of the world are effective in *prophylaxis*, but as whooping-cough is often so serious any promising prophylactic measure is worthy of trial. There is no general agreement that the vaccine is effective in the *treatment* of whooping-cough.

"Wellcome" Brand Whooping-Cough Vaccine is prepared at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories from recent strains of *H. pertussis* (the Bordet-Gengou bacillus), isolated by the cough-plate method, and in the smooth virulent phase 1, described by Leslie and Gardner, 1931, *Journal of Hygiene*, xxxi, 423. Cultures are grown on the Bordet-Gengou medium and killed by antiseptic constitute the vaccine.

As regards prophylaxis, in a recent paper Gardner, 1936, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 29 (Section of Epidemiology (1)), stated that "the evidence that has accumulated justifies the provisional belief that prophylactic vaccination is effective both in reducing the chances of attack and in attenuating the disease in those attacked." It is, of course, desirable that "further statistics of really evidential value should be obtained." Since whooping-cough is most serious during the early years