

Cold water is supplied to the drum through a funnel head—a section of a 5-gallon drum—to which a piece of pipe ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch diameter) is fitted. This is passed through the small plug opening at the top of the drum and should reach to within 3 inches of the bottom.

When the 40-gallon drum is filled, the fire is lit beneath it and the whole of the water contained is heated to a temperature suitable for the washing of greasy utensils. Boiling temperature can be reached, if desired, the drum being encircled by fire at its lower section and the greater part of the upper portion being insulated by turf, etc.

Fixed as shown in the illustration, one half of the water—approximately 20 gallons—can be drawn off under its own “head” and without any addition of cold water. This is sufficient to supply the two small sprays running continuously for approximately one hour. The remaining 20 gallons of hot water can be drawn off by displacement, i.e. by the simple expedient of adding cold water via the funnel inlet. This may be done by hand or, alternatively, a reserve drum may be fitted above the heater in the manner shown in the illustration. By these means, although one half of the hot water is actually below the point of draw-off, the whole is available for use and can be drawn off at the sprays or taps.

The apparatus may conveniently be fitted to an ordinary standard E.F. Wash-up Bench (See E.F. Camp Structures D.F.W. Drawing No. 10505). The  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch screw-down tap normally supplied with this structure can be used to control the supply on the reserve drum. When the apparatus is in use, this tap may be kept open and delivering water at a rate roughly equal to that at which hot water is being drawn off. If at the same time the fire is kept burning a constant supply of hot water—limited only by the amount of the cold water supply—is obtainable.

This hot water apparatus is in every sense an improvisation. It consists of materials normally available as salvage in the field and its construction is well within the scope of any unit possessing semi-skilled labour. Any sort of fire is suitable for its purpose; if waste oil is used, either in a surface burner or as an oil and water flash fire, the flue surrounding the drum should not be less than 3 inches in width. In the drawing a surface burning oil fire is shown.

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## Reviews.

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HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES. By A. E. W. McLachlan, M.B., Ch.B.Edin., D.P.H., F.R.S.Edin. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1944. Pp. vii + 364. Price 15s. net.

Venereal diseases have been much in the picture during the war years so that the appearance of McLachlan's Handbook of Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases is most timely. It can be said at once, and without hesitation, that this little book, which is of handy size, should prove most useful to both practitioners and students. Dr. McLachlan is well known as a most competent and careful venereologist and, throughout his book, there is evidence of trained observation and painstaking investigation; the illustrations, many of them in colour, are beautifully produced and could hardly be bettered; in fact the book is worth buying for these alone; a coloured plate showing the *Trichomonas vaginalis* would have added to its value. The contents are set out on more or less standard lines and details of treatment conform to modern ideas; opinions expressed are founded on experience and the latest methods of treatment are not paraded as panaceas, those which have stood the test of time being preferred to half-tried novelties. The treatment of early syphilis recommended is the concurrent-intermittent, the one most generally employed in this country, but the alternating-continuous is also described; neoarsphenamine is apparently preferred to mapharside, a comparatively new drug more favoured in U.S.A. than in U.K.

It would seem almost churlish to criticize adversely such an excellent little book but it does appear that the author has rather spread himself at the outset and had to compress the

last part; ten lines only are accorded to the section on non-gonococcal urethritis, a condition which is worrying many venereologists nowadays.

Provocative arsenical injections, recommended in several places, are seldom used by modern syphilologists, who regard them as of little value, whilst the expression "positive serology," as was recently pointed out in a contemporary journal, is unscientific. More, with advantage, might have been said about the interpretation of serum reactions in syphilis, a subject which daily becomes more complicated and one on which the learner needs sound guidance; the same applies to intravenous T.A.B. therapy; this latter is a most useful therapeutic measure in certain conditions, notably sulphamide-resistant gonorrhœa and chancroid, but one which carries a certain risk to life and which should not be undertaken by the inexperienced or without all modern hospital facilities for combating shock and hyperpyrexia.

Unfortunately the literary standard leaves much to be desired; discords abound and grammar is at a discount; plural nouns with singular verbs are common, cannula and canula occur with almost equal frequency, mistakes in spelling are numerous, whilst the figure on page 220 of the doctor examining the "prostrate" (*sic*) but looking at the camera instead of at his patient is likely to irritate rather than instruct the reader.

These are but comparatively minor failings in a book which is full of sound teaching but which should be used rather for reference than read at one or two sittings.

REGIONAL ANALGESIA. By H. W. L. Molesworth, F.R.C.S.Eng. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1944. Pp. viii + 90. 42 illustrations. Price 8s. 6d. net.

A surprising amount of information is included in this excellently-produced, easily-readable, slender volume by a surgeon who has a wide experience of regional analgesia. There is no padding here. The author's opinions are very pleasing and, though an enthusiast for the method, he is no fanatic. As he says, "Extreme views are nearly always wrong; but it is just as wrong to condemn the possibilities of regional analgesia unheard as it is to assert that general anæsthesia is rendered obsolete by the advances which have been made in a sister art."

The opening chapter on general principles is very sound and indications and contra-indications for the method are clearly given. The way in which apparatus should be cared for is well described and there is an excellent discussion on the concentrations and dosages of drugs to be used, together with a useful warning against unnecessary excessive dosage which is all too frequently encountered. The author deals only with the drugs which he himself has used—chiefly procaine (to which he refers as "novocain") and nupercaine. It is surprising that he still refers to the latter as "percaine (nupercaine)," since the makers of this drug changed its trade name to "nupercaine," some time before the publication of this book, to avoid confusion with procaine (a serious confusion against which Molesworth gives a warning). Anethaine, now widely used when long-lasting regional analgesia is required, is not mentioned.

Simple descriptions are given of methods which the author himself has found useful and his background of personal experience is very evident. Details are given of the nerve blocks suitable for operations in various parts of the body. The author points out that it was not possible to include as many diagrams as he would have wished but the anatomical drawings are adequate, clear and easily understandable. The chapter on regional analgesia for abdominal surgery is especially useful and the description of paravertebral block is particularly good. Ear, nose and throat surgery and dental surgery are the only branches for which detailed descriptions of regional methods are not given. The book concludes with a chapter on spinal analgesia which is brief and helpful but which does not pretend to be comprehensive.

Indebtedness is acknowledged to Pauchet of Paris, chiefly, and in particular to "Anæsthesie Régionale" by Pauchet, Sourdat and Labat. The English translation of this work by Labat has for long been a standard textbook on regional analgesia. References to works on regional analgesia would be a welcome addition to Molesworth's book.

Due regard is given to individual preferences of patients and surgeons but, in his final discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of regional analgesia for abdominal surgery, the author wisely says, "The objection that individual surgeons may be temperamentally unsuited to operate under regional analgesia is as true as is the fact that individual patients may be unsuited to undergo what is at best something of an ordeal. Whilst respecting the conclusions of both it is open to us to say that we believe both types of individual to be less common than is generally supposed." This opinion will be upheld by those with any practical experience of the method. Although the writer is obviously a surgeon who himself administers regional analgesia this book will be equally valuable to surgeons and to anaesthetists who wish to develop a sound and practical technique and may be confidently recommended to them.

F. B. B.

**COMBINED TEXT BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY.** For Students and Medical Practitioners. Fourth Edition. Revised by J. M. Munro Kerr, LL.D., M.D., F.R.F.P. & S.Glas., F.R.C.O.G. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1944. Pp. xii + 1,208. Price 42s. net.

The new edition of this well-known textbook preserves the same general arrangement as previous editions, stressing the interdependence of obstetrics and gynæcology.

Several chapters have been revised and expanded in the light of recent knowledge, including those on analgesia and anaesthetics in midwifery, the investigation and treatment of sterility and the treatment of gonococcal infections. A sound article on contraception is now included and mention is made of the rhesus factor in blood transfusions in obstetrics, though not yet in the treatment of hæmorrhagic disease of the newborn.

The section on the care of the infant in the neonatal period is detailed and practical. As before, stress is laid on the investigation and treatment of functional disorders and minor affections rather than on details of major operative technique. As a textbook for medical students and guide for general practitioners this book will maintain its deserved popularity.

M. E. C.

**POLYGLOT GLOSSARY OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.** Contribution to the International Nomenclature of Diseases. By Dr. Yves Biraud, M.S., M.D., M.P.H. London: Allen & Unwin. Pp. 353. Price 4s.

Owing to the confusion which often arises in translating the meaning of the names of diseases from one language to another, the author, as Secretary to the Mixed Committee on Nosological Nomenclature of the International Institute of Statistics and the Health Organization of the League of Nations, has had occasion to appreciate the need both for unifying the medical terms used in the different countries and for defining their meanings, which has resulted in the introduction of many terms in Latin and in languages other than French together with notes on similarities or divergencies of meaning of certain terms in different countries.

In the present Glossary the author has gone further and presents in tabular form, parallel to the detailed International List, a series of terms relating to communicable diseases used in the principal European languages found in various publications.

The Glossary should be of value to those whose work entails translating names of diseases from one language to another.

**MANUAL FOR THE MICROSCOPIC DIAGNOSIS OF MALARIA IN MAN.** By Amice Wilcox, Washington (1943). U.S. Public Health Service. *National Institute of Health Bulletin*, No. 80. Pages 39 with 12 Plates of Illustrations six of which are in colour. Price 30 cents.

This booklet has been written by an experienced technician of the U.S. Public Health Service. It opens with an orthodox account of the life cycle of the malarial parasite but does not include any direct reference to the exoerythrocytic stage. This is followed by the usual textbook description of the morphology of the various plasmodia infecting man as seen in

thin film preparations. The technique of preparation, staining and examination of thick films occupies considerable space and is especially valuable. British readers will miss any reference to the staining methods of the Field type; the Giemsa or Giemsa-Wright methods are those recommended. The author gives sound advice regarding the recognition of the parasites in thick films and includes helpful tips in avoiding pitfalls.

The specimens for illustrations have been well chosen but their reproduction is not above the average. The publication will serve a useful purpose and will be welcomed by students but, good though this book may be, training in the recognition of malarial parasites can only be acquired in the laboratory under the guidance of an experienced teacher and by conscientious and long practice. These are acknowledged facts and are reiterated by the author. There is a golden rule which can be observed profitably by all those engaged in the identification of malarial parasites—"If in doubt you may be sure you are wrong."

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### Correspondence.

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#### A SIMPLE METHOD OF PREPARING AN EFFICIENT GENERAL ANTISEPTIC.

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

SIR,—With reference to Captain E. S. Anderson's article on the preparation of Sodium Hypochlorite by Electrolysis of sodium chloride, the same thing in a slightly different guise appeared in your pages in 1916; this was an article by Dakin and Carlisle, on the manufacture of sodium hypochlorite from sea-water. This was carried out on the "Aquitania," then in use as a Hospital Ship, under Lieutenant-Colonel Fuhr, R.A.M.C., who furnished remarks on the process. I believe this is still carried out on some of the Cunard White Star ships, the solution being used as a universal disinfectant.

I met Commander Bunyan some time ago and asked him if the solution would be suitable for the Bunyan bag treatment of burns but he had not heard of it. I should think it would be the very thing for this purpose, for burns occurring at sea, and also for measures against mustard gas.

Yours faithfully,

G. B. F. CHURCHILL.  
Major, R.A.M.C.

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#### EMPLOYMENT FOR EX-OFFICERS.

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

DEAR COLONEL CUMMINS,—Major-General J. W. West, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonel-Commandant, Royal Army Medical Corps, has received the following letter from Field Marshal Sir Philip W. Chetwode, Bt., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., President, the Officers' Association:—

The Officers' Association are anxious to bring the following to your notice in view of the fact that a certain number of officers are now leaving the Service on account of ill-health, wounds, etc., and more may be expected to leave in the near future and return to civil life.

(2) It was recently decided by the Army Council that the Employment Bureau for Retired Officers should be merged for the time being with the Appointments Branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and in consequence of this the Officers' Association Employment Bureau has now been expanded with a view to helping all types of ex-Officer to find employment wherever they may be domiciled. This expansion of the Officers' Association