

Reviews.

TROPICAL MEDICINE. Fifth Edition. By Sir Leonard Rogers, *K.C.I.E., C.I.E., F.R.S.*, and Sir John W. D. Megaw, *K.C.I.E., B.A.* London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1944. Pp. x + 518. Price 21s.

This textbook on tropical medicine has been very popular ever since its first appearance, and justifiably so, for it contains most of the essential information in a volume sufficiently small to be easily transportable in a medical officer's personal kit. The present fifth edition maintains its excellent standard of production from a publisher's point of view; the paper is good and the print very easy to read.

There have been considerable advances in tropical medicine since the onset of the war, accelerated by the large number of troops now occupying tropical areas. These have been included in additions to the chapters on malaria, kala-azar, trypanosomiasis and fevers of the typhus group. Perhaps a little more emphasis might have been laid on the value of mepacrine as a suppressive against malaria and mention made of some of its advantages in the therapy of malaria, such as the decrease in the incidence of blackwater fever since its more general use. The term "Infantile or Mediterranean Kala-Azar" is still used in this volume. This term is somewhat misleading, as we now know how frequently the disease in these localities may affect adults.

In dealing with administration of stilbene, the difficulties of intravenous administration are perhaps not sufficiently emphasized. Even when the administration is given in considerable dilution, venous thrombosis not infrequently results.

The chapter on typhus is good and should be studied carefully by those proceeding overseas, for, even with our new method of protection against lice, mite typhus still presents many difficult problems.

Great advances have taken place in the therapy of bacillary dysentery. It is a little disappointing therefore to find that saline treatment is still given priority of place; surely the time has now arrived when the excellent results of therapy with the sulphanilamide group justifies the value of this line of treatment being given more emphasis. The danger of producing emetine-resistant strains of *E. histolytica* is emphasized; this is most important as the results of short ineffective courses of therapy are now causing considerable difficulties to the clinician who has to tackle their treatment in the later stages.

This textbook will be a valuable addition to the library of all doctors proceeding to, or working in, tropical or sub-tropical areas.

A MANUAL OF DISEASES OF THE EYE. Ninth Edition. By Charles H. May, M.D., and the late Claud Worth. Revised by Montague L. Hine, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1944. Pp. viii + 538. Price 16s.

Since 1906 May and Worth's Manual of Diseases of the Eye has deservedly been a popular handbook for students and practitioners. Its ninth edition has now appeared under the familiar editorship of Mr. Montague Hine. The book is not by any means an exhaustive treatise on the subject but contains all the fundamental information required for any but the advanced student. Moreover it keeps well abreast of present-day knowledge—such subjects as virus infections, keratoplasty, contact glasses, vitamin diseases and chemotherapeutics by sulphonamides and penicillin being adequately noted.

Its value to the military ophthalmologist is enhanced by the inclusion of a chapter on tropical ophthalmology and another on war injuries including the common casualty from

fragments of glass. One thing in all this modernity stands out oddly,—that in the illustrations of clinical testing (as by the Maddox rod) the very inadequate and old-fashioned candle still appears; in the R.A.M.C. ophthalmology has progressed considerably further than that.

SURGERY OF MODERN WARFARE. Part VI. Third Edition. Edited by Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. Price 15s. net.

This volume concludes the sections on wounds of the trunk. A short section on surgical diseases encountered in sub-tropical countries, a section on administration and an Appendix conclude the work.

An excellent description of wounds of the large intestine is given by Gordon Taylor. The paragraph at the foot of page 908 leaves one a little in doubt about exteriorization and colostomy. The reviewer agrees definitely with the advice given on the following page in these respects. A little more detail on the technique of the operation of colostomy and the optimum sites might be helpful. The technique and time for closure of colostomies might be included. The section of wounds of the rectum (Gordon Watson and Naunton Morgan) is practical and contains much sound advice.

Wounds of the genito-urinary system are well dealt with by various authors. For injuries of the kidneys, the point is made that, when practicable, pyelography should be carried out, not so much for information about the suspected kidney but to determine the presence of the other kidney.

A short account of sub-tropical surgery (McNeill Love) is given.

An outline of the Medical Services in the British Army is given (T. B. Nicholls). In several details this is now not up to date. Field Surgical Units are referred to but no description of them is given. A C.C.S. nowadays cannot form surgical teams for loan to other formations. A hundred-bedded General Hospital with its own vehicles is certainly not a normal unit.

General Hospitals are seldom capable of sending out surgical teams, because their surgeons are generally fully occupied when the forward units are.

No mention is made of Field Hospitals, Orthopædic Centres or the Base Transfusion Units.

An interesting description is given of wounds in naval action (C. Keating).

An account is given of the hospital organization in the Emergency Medical Service.

The volume ends with an Appendix which is intended to supplement omissions and to review literature which has appeared while the work was in progress.

The need for this addition gives one cause to reflect on the difficulties in bringing out a textbook of this nature in the middle of a war, when constant changes are occurring and new developments are taking place.

J. M. W.

MINOR SURGERY. Second Edition. By R. J. McNeill Love, M.S., F.R.C.S., Surgeon, Royal Northern Hospital, London; Consulting Surgeon, London County Council. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1944. Cap. 8vo. Pp. viii + 392, Figs. 201. Price 15/-

The first edition of this book appeared in the early months of the war and its popularity has been such that a second edition is now published. Extensive rewriting has not been judged necessary, but complete revision has been undertaken.

Mr. McNeill Love contributes nearly one-third, writing on general subjects such as sepsis, wounds and infections, and the remaining portion is by collaborators, each dealing with his speciality.

R. E. Norrish and A. W. Bone cover a wide field of minor operations and omissions are few. The types of operation described are conservative and standard surgical practice, new and possibly controversial techniques being avoided. It is noted, for example, that the rubber tube wound round with ribbon gauze is still inserted in the rectum after the removal of internal hæmorrhoids and is retained until the end of the second day, during which time the patient

has had fluids only by mouth. A reference to the Army blood transfusion apparatus would have been helpful, and a mention of the existence of the Rhesus factor could have been included in the incompatibilities. Genito-urinary surgery is clearly and concisely described by A. W. Badenoch and the chapter on anaesthetics introduces all the newer drugs. Some ninety pages are devoted to fractures and dislocations, and F. P. Fitzgerald does not neglect rehabilitation in the description of after-treatment. A full and adequate index completes the book.

The reproductions, some in colour, are clear and sufficient for the scope of the work and the printing and paper are excellent for this stage of wartime conditions.

This book will appeal to the junior student and the practitioner who is occasionally called upon to perform minor surgery and does not claim to attract the more advanced reader.

H. T. S.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AVIATION MEDICINE SUPPLEMENT. By E. C. Hoff, D.Phil., B.M., B.Ch.Oxon, and John F. Fulton, M.D. Published by the Committee on Aviation Medicine, Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, 1944. Illinois, U.S.A., 301-327, East Lawrence Avenue.

We have received a copy of the above which has been placed in the Library, R.A.M. College.

Notice.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL UNITED HOSPITAL.

Royal Southern Hospital Branch (274 beds).

Applications are invited for the post of *MATRON* to the Royal Southern Hospital, a Branch of the Royal Liverpool United Hospital. The successful candidate will be required to commence her duties as soon as possible after the date of appointment, but if she is serving in H.M. Forces the post will be held vacant until her demobilization.

The Hospital is a General Teaching Hospital in the Clinical School of the University of Liverpool. It is approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales for complete training and has a Preliminary Training School for Nurses. It has also a School of Physiotherapy.

Candidates must be fully trained State Registered Nurses and should have had Nursing Administrative experience. Salary and emoluments will be in accordance with the Rushcliffe Scale. The Federated Superannuation Scheme is in force.

Applications, giving age, qualifications, religion, present appointment and details of previous experience, must be accompanied by three recent testimonials, and should be addressed to the Chairman, Royal Southern Hospital, Fazakerley, Liverpool, 9, so as to arrive not later than March 31, 1945.

FRANK SOLMAN,

Superintendent,
Royal Southern Hospital.