

Reviews.

PENICILLIN. Its Properties, Uses and Preparations. The Pharmaceutical Press.
Pp. 191. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This book aims at giving general practitioners and pharmacists guidance as to the best methods of preparing and using penicillin. After brief accounts of the history and commercial manufacture of this substance, successive chapters deal with its composition and chemical properties, stability, standard units and methods of assay, pharmacology, clinical use, dispensing procedures, pharmaceutical preparations and legal considerations. Appendices give the text of relevant Statutory Rules and Orders and amendments to the British Pharmacopœia. The aim of the publishers to give practical considerations first place in the text is carried out with success. Those for whom the book is intended will find their needs of reference clearly set forth and the book can be strongly recommended for inclusion in military medical and pharmaceutical libraries.

J. B.

A MANUAL OF TOMOGRAPHY. By M. Weinbren. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd.

This manual contains the case records of a wide variety of conditions, including lesions of the skull, facial bones, spine, pelvis, limbs, larynx, chest and stomach, pyelographies and cholecystographies. The cases are profusely illustrated with excellent reproductions of both straight radiographs and tomographs which demonstrate the help given by, and in many cases the necessity for, the taking of tomographs in order to arrive at a correct diagnosis. The book concludes with a chapter on the technical factors employed by the author in tomography. This book is excellently produced, both with regard to the print and the reproduction of the films and should prove of great interest not only to the radiologist but also to the surgeon.

J. E. S.

A SHORT HANDBOOK OF PRACTICAL ANÆSTHETICS. By Hoel Parry-Price, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1946. Pp. 127, illustrated. Price 12s. 6d.

This small book is the outcome of twenty years' experience of anæsthetics, during which time the author has seen the growth of modern anæsthetic methods as we know them to-day.

From his large experience as an honorary anæsthetist on the staff of a large county hospital and from his work in the Royal Navy during the war, Surgeon Commander Parry-Price has produced a very readable short book dealing with the practical side of anæsthesia.

Some anæsthetists might disagree with his views on nasal intubation, and on oral premedication in children, but these views do not detract from the general

value of the book which abounds in excellent practical advice, aptly illustrated by cases from the author's large experience.

The chapter on the difference between anæsthetics in the Service and in civil life is of particular interest, and the book can be recommended to all medical officers, and especially to those who may be called upon to act as an "occasional anæsthetist" in the Service.

W. H. S.

THE COMMON COLD. By N. D. Fabricant, M.D.

This book describes in simple, balanced manner, the ætiology, clinical picture, and treatment of the common cold. Of particular interest to the prevention of this disease in the Services are the references to the potentialities of aerosol sprays, for use in ships, barrack-rooms and billets. This book should be read by all who appreciate the amount of time lost in the Services through this widespread, and as yet uncontrolled, disease.

A. M.

MEDICAL DISORDERS OF THE LOCOMOTOR SYSTEM, including the Rheumatic Diseases. By Ernest Fletcher, M.A., M.D.Cantab., M.R.C.P.Lond. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. 625.

This is a unique book in English systematic medical literature and will be of considerable interest to the Army Medical Officer. Briefly stated, in addition to an exhaustive review of the rheumatic disease, the limb neuralgias, backache and fibrositis, it provides a review of medical disease of bone, disorders of the shoulder and foot, and the simpler methods of remedial treatment. A chapter of particular interest deals at length with the applied anatomy of the locomotor system and in this are included useful tables of muscle actions and innervations and one of ossifications. Appendices deal with solutions used for injection, serial plasters, technique of joint and muscle injections, optimum position for ankylosis and, for those especially interested in rheumatism and locomotory disorders, manipulation. Special subjects are dealt with by contributors. Among these are The Teeth as a Source of Focal Infection, Fibrositis, Radiology in Arthritis, Laboratory Findings in Rheumatism.

Numerous radiographs and photographs are well reproduced and a list of bibliographical references is given with each chapter.

The work is not without imperfections, and in the preface the author frankly admits a lack of proportion in some parts of the book. Reiter's disease syndrome receives scant treatment considering the interest which it has aroused in recent years, and the statement that keratosis blennorrhagica is a syndrome consisting of gonorrhœa, polyarthritis and cutaneous keratosis and is extremely uncommon is open to criticism by those who have reported the condition not infrequently and not always in association with gonorrhœa.

Reviewing this book for a military medical journal representing a section of the medical community often beset with problems of a locomotion not fitting into any system of readily available knowledge, we welcome its advent and recommend it for inclusion in medical libraries and to the general duty and specialist medical officer.

J. B.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. Fifth Edition. Described for practitioners and students by F. M. R. Walshe, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.London, F.R.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. 551.

The demand for this work can be inferred from the fact that it emerges in a fifth, revised, edition in the course of a life of less than seven years. A study of its pages readily reveals the cause of its success, the clear and concise statements and descriptions of disease which dispel many mists and in which are expounded the fundamentals of sound neurological doctrine, all within a range not too formidable for the reader of general medicine. A short account of the psychoneuroses and a simple scheme for examination of the nervous system is included.

The preface to the first edition warns us that a number of the rarer affections of the nervous system find no mention in the book, and we look in vain for reference to Wernecke's superior hæmorrhagic encephalitis. The statement that the diagnosis of cysticercosis epilepsy depends on the radiographic recognition of calcified cysts might with advantage be coupled with mention of the finding of palpable nodules and biopsy of same by which diagnosis has frequently been reached at a much earlier stage of the disease.

The general practitioner and student, however, will welcome the readiness with which this book meets his requirements of reference and systematic study respectively.

J. B.

ERRATA

Page 93 of the Journal for February 1947. "The History of a Case of Diverticulosis, with Observations on Treatment," by Bernard Myers, M.D., F.R.C.P. First line of the Appendix.

For "A patient informs me" read "Mrs. Hare informs me."