1914-18 war, was replaced in this country by the .38 pistol firing copper or nickel-jacketed bullets. Consequently in Great Britain today most of the remaining .455 lead ammunition and the revolvers which fire it are preserved as souvenirs of the Great War and are over 30 years old. Usually neither the guns nor the ammunition have been well stored, with the result that the normal muzzle velocity of 600 ft. per sec. is greatly reduced, due to pitting of the barrels and deterioration of the propellant charge. Wounds caused by these neglected war trophies therefore bear no resemblance to the extensive and mutilating injuries inflicted by identical weapons in the 1914-18 war.

The case described above illustrates this clearly. Relatively little damage has been done, whereas if both weapon and ammunition had been in good condition the effect of two .455 missiles, each weighing over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and fired at a range of less than 6 ft., would have been devastating.

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BOOK REVIEWS

LAW RELATING TO HOSPITALS AND KINDRED INSTITUTIONS

By S. R. SPELLER, LL.B., Barrister at Law. 2nd Edition. Pp. xliii + 588. London: H. K. Lewis. 1948. 42s.

This second edition includes chapters on changes in the law affecting hospitals and those who serve in them brought about by the National Health Service Act. The author has also wisely included some of the more important statutory instruments and the superannuation regulations. It has been necessary to retain references to voluntary hospitals, nostalgic to some readers, but voluntary hospitals can still exist and some do. Doctors now under contract in the service at hospitals or institutions will find a clear description of the master-servant relationship, though it is still not certain what the position of the hospital is in the event of negligence on the part of the physician or surgeon under contract with it. The author rightly describes this as a complex subject. One addition to the previous work, which occupies 60 pages, deals with the law affecting hospitals and institutions for mental patients and mental defectives.

The book should be in the hands of all those actively engaged in hospital or institutional practice, medical, administrative or technical, not only for information on the legal consequences of their acts, but because in setting out the law affecting such questions the author has woven in much material that will assist in comprehending the National Health Service as a whole. An excellent index enables the enquirer to find his way to the point in question.

P.H.C.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL SURGERY

By CHARLES F. M. SAINT, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Hon. F.R.A.C.S., formerly

Professor of Surgery, University of Cape Town. 2nd Edition. Pp. viii + 384, with 373 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd.; Cape Town: The Postgraduate Press, by Jutor & Co., Ltd. 1949. 45s.

'In the first edition,' said the South African regretfully, 'there were no illustrations.' Professor Saint has done his utmost in this second edition to repair the omission. The outstanding quality of his illustrations, their appositeness, clarity and variety lend great force to the wealth of the informative text.

The purpose and exact scope of the book are explained in his foreword. It is an 'introduction,' it is 'essentially clinical,' and it represents knowledge based on, and the result of, reasoned thinking about the subject. He deplores, and has not catered for the 'parrot' fashion of acquiring knowledge, and the reader will not find here facile lists of 'causes' or 'appearances,' but rather will be required to apply himself to a very full, though carefully paragraphed and headed consideration of the different aspects of clinical surgery.

The list of subjects is comprehensive and includes, apart from a regional survey of 'lumps and bumps,' chapters on the acute abdomen, peripheral vascular disease, calculi, jaundice, fractures and diseases of bones and joints.

The excellent illustrations may well beguile the student, but a careful study of the text reveals vast riches of material and opens up many fields of thought not easily to be had elsewhere, certainly not in the confines of so compact a book.

Professor Saint pays graceful tribute to his old teacher, Rutherford Morison, in whose footsteps he is a worthy follower.

The book is unreservedly recommended to students of surgery of all degree.

C.R.M.R.