

extends by continuous spread downwards in the duct epithelium to the acne and outwards in the epidermis of the nipple. He states that Paget's disease may remain limited to the epidermis and the ducts for many years but usually within a few years scirrhous cancer forms in the substance of the breast. Treatment designed to cure the surface lesion is unsatisfactory if the breast tissue is left intact, for scirrhous cancer in the substance of the breast is almost certain to follow.

This disease which was first described by Paget has always excited a good deal of controversy regarding its exact nature. It appears that Paget was unaware of its real significance. Many observers have made interesting contributions to the subject and the majority of recent authors agree that Paget cells are tumour cells but there is a divergence of opinion as to whether they are neoplastic cells which have infiltrated the surface epithelium or cells which have undergone neoplastic change *in situ*. In view of this the work of Inglis is of interest and importance.

The book is beautifully illustrated by photographs of patients and pathological specimens and by micro-photographs. The work is recommended to those who wish a complete resumé of the subject together with new observations.

IDEAL WEIGHT.

A Practical Handbook for Patients.

By W. F. CHRISTIE, M.D. William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. London. 1938. Price 5/-.

This is a very good little book for patients to use themselves when they are trying to reduce their weight. It gives in simple language the more elementary facts about metabolism and the way in which food is burned in the body. Tables are given of the average weight of men and women at all ages, and the way in which the various foods contribute to production of weight on the one hand and to the storage of fat on the other.

The book is eminently practical and deals with all the common foods and gives very good examples of how one type of food is correlated with another. In addition to this alcohol is dealt with in a sensible way and there is quite a good complete table of food values towards the end of the book.

The book ends up with a short chapter on muscular exercise and physical measures which may be used to reduce weight.

Seeing all the nonsense that is talked about obesity cures these days, this book is very timely and informative.

A POCKET MEDICAL DICTIONARY.

(Third Edition).

A NEW DICTIONARY FOR NURSES.

(Fifth Edition).

Compiled by LOIS OAKES and THOS. B. DAVIE. E. & S. Livingstone. 1938. Price 3s. each.

These two volumes, which embody the same text but published under different titles, no doubt serve a useful purpose as pocket-books of reference for nurses and students since they have passed through three and five editions respectively. The essence of a dictionary of course is correctness and while, in the main, the definitions in the present volumes are correct there are a few unfortunate and one might also add unnecessary mistakes. For example, in the spelling of albumin in urine preference is given to the old-fashioned manner (albumen); van den Bergh is given incorrectly as van der Bergh; Ehrlich is recommended to be pronounced as "airlik," Wassermann as "vas - ur - man" and Basedow as "Basedow." It might also be pointed out that pes cavus is not the Latin equivalent for flat foot, that diapedesis refers to the passage of both red and white blood corpuscles and not only of the latter through the walls of the capillaries, that priapism signifies a constant and not an intermittent state of erection of the penis, that Estlander's operation refers to the excision of portions of several ribs to allow of collapse of the chest wall and not to the excision of the portion of one rib for empyema, and that inunction means the application of an oily substance to the skin and not as described in the text. It is unfortunate, too, that intermittent temperature, a nonsensical expression, is used when referring to intermittent fever and that in the illustration of the hæmoglobinometer, Gowers' apparatus, now long out-of-date, is depicted.



A Pocket Medical Dictionary. (Third Edition)

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