PRACTICAL ANATOMY

Teachers of anatomy have long felt that far too much of the medical student's time is taken up in learning the minutiae of human anatomy, facts which are no sooner learnt for examination purposes than they are forgotten, the remembrance of which can at best be considered an exercise in mental gymnastics.

As Professor Le Gros Clark says, probably less than 5 per cent. of medical students undertake major surgery after they are qualified and those who will take up surgery as a career ought, as he suggests, to complete a further course of dissection. The time has come, there is no doubt, when the whole curriculum for the medical student should be rigorously revised. This book represents a bold attempt to carry out this policy and gives a good working knowledge of human anatomy within the compass of 450 pages. If the student learns all that is in this book he can face the examiners for his second M.B. with equanimity. The syllabus for the Primary F.R.C.S. examination is not covered and this is as it should be.

The book is well produced, the illustrations are clear, though it might be possible in a future edition to have more of them. The addition of a few X-rays, and diagrams laying more stress on surface anatomy would be helpful.

The book offers for the student all that he requires in a dissecting and reference manual on anatomy and its introduction into the dissecting room should go far to raise the standard of anatomical knowledge in the average student.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Editorial Board acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following volumes. A selection from these will be made for review.


'Brompton Hospital Reports.' Vol. XIV. Gale and Polden. 1947: 10s.


ILLUSTRATIONS OF ANATOMY FOR NURSES

In the preface to the first edition, which was published in 1938, the author states that this book is made up of a number of illustrations suitable for the teaching of nurses and taken from his other book Illustrations of Regional Anatomy, which was published earlier for medical students. The reviewer would consider that the illustrations are far too technical for the average nurse, either to comprehend or to learn. The detail that they set forth is of an anatomical standard more suitable for one who was studying for the primary Fellowship Examination in Anatomy. The illustrations are beautifully done—nearly all of them in colour with fine detail and the reproduction and the colouring exquisitely carried out by this well-known firm of publishers. The names of the various anatomical structures are well set out with direction lines, though learning from the charts would have been made easier for a nurse who has not had the detailed tuition in anatomy if the author had had the name plates of the important structures underlined or set in heavier type. The heading of Plate 8 is rather misleading, as it can hardly be called the schema of a typical nerve—surely it is the schema of a thoracic nerve. The lay-out of the small vessels in Plate 60 would have been easier to remember if they had been isolated and set out by themselves, as is often done in the classical text-books. The book presents excellent workmanship and style and, subject to the above minor criticism, would make an excellent gift to any nurse especially interested in anatomy.


'Penicillin in General Practice.' By J. L. Hamilton-Paterson, M.D. (Pp. 110, 5s.) Staples Press. 1947.

