

and particularly in neurasthenic conditions of exhaustion or irritable weakness. At times these cases also show suspicious paranoid, mildly hostile trends, and it is difficult to make adequate rapport with the patient. It is remarkable how the sense of well being acquired under two weeks insulin can swing this attitude towards one of co-operation and subsequent progress with purely psychological methods. (2) To aid convulsion therapy in the treatment of depression and in combination with prolonged sleep for acute anxiety neurosis. The treatment is only of value where the foregoing clinical states are associated with metabolic change producing weight loss. Seven to ten pounds loss is the least change worth considering as significant.

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BOOK REVIEWS

INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY

By L. ERWIN WEXBERG, M.D. William Heine-
mann. 1948. Pp. 171. Price 17s. 6d.

The problem of teaching psychology to medical students has come to the fore of recent years. The interim report of the Royal College of Physicians (1943) stressed the need for instruction in normal psychology in the pre-clinical years, indeed 'the object of training at this stage should be to produce a good general practitioner and not a specialist in psychological medicine.' It was recommended that this course should be followed by an introductory course on the psychiatric aspects of clinical work at the beginning of the student's first clinical year.

Ebaugh and Rymer in their comprehensive treatise on Psychiatry in Medical Education (1942) are fully alive to the difficulties in teaching: 'It is too little recognized that educators often do not know what to teach, how to teach, or even why it is necessary to teach such a course.'

The recent report by the B.M.A. on 'The Training of a Doctor' advocates the need for instruction in normal psychology for the pre-clinical student, but deplores the absence of suitable textbooks in psychology for medical students. Wexberg's little book 'Introduction to Medical Psychology' certainly aims at meeting such a demand. The book is the result of the author's trial and error in methods of teaching psychology to medical students over a period of eight years.

While admittedly the book is 'an introduction,' it is a matter for regret that there is not more of it. The subject matter is conveniently divided into six chapters, at the end of which there is a useful list of references, to enable the student to undertake wider reading. The book is thoroughly readable and fills a useful gap not only for the medical student, but for general practitioners, many of whom never had the opportunities provided today in the medical curriculum.

W.D.N.

ELEMENTS OF SURGICAL DIAGNOSIS

By SIR ALFRED PEARCE GOULD, revised by SIR
 CECIL P. G. WAKELEY, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S.
 9th Edition. Cassell. 1948. Pp. xv + 718
 Price 15s.

This excellent little book appears once again having now reached its ninth edition. Practically everything which the surgeon need know in diagnosis is to be found within the covers of this pocket volume and though there are few illustrations, the text is so clear that even these could be omitted. This manual of signs and symptoms has always remained quite distinctive, its appeal to the student being its completeness and accuracy. It is, in fact, the ideal reference book for ward and outpatient department and should be carried in the student's pocket at all times. If it could be printed on India paper it would indeed be perfect.



Introduction to Medical Psychology

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