

ALLERGY IN RELATION TO LYMPHADENOMA.

By G. P. CHANDLER, M.D., M.R.C.P.

London: John Bale Sons & Daniellson, Ltd. 1934. Pp. 104. 10/6.

Though some of the ablest investigators have been attracted to the study of lymphadenoma, knowledge of the pathogenic agent is still lacking. With great labour and ingenuity a number of hypotheses have been disproved. The disease is not due to a diphtheroid bacillus, nor to a spirochæte, nor to the tubercle bacillus, mammalian or avian, nor to a yeast. Dr. G. P. Chandler gives us another negative result.

He sets out to decide, if he can, whether lymphadenoma is an infective process, or is to be classified as a new growth.

His thesis is that during the course of a large number of acute infections the tissues become hypersensitive to the infecting organism. This can be demonstrated by injecting suspensions or extracts of the organism into the patient's skin. In Hodgkin's disease this allergic state is not found; intradermal injections of extracts of the affected glands give uniformly negative results. Therefore Hodgkin's disease is not an infective process.

The particular major premise spoils the argument. We cannot say that an allergic state can be demonstrated by skin tests in *all* infective diseases. It has not for instance, as the author himself points out, been shown to occur in diseases due to filtrable viruses. Again, no conclusion could have been drawn if the results had been positive, for we do not know that an allergic state never occurs in neoplastic conditions. It seems a pity to carry out such careful and painstaking work, when the preliminary knowledge which would enable conclusions to be drawn from the results is lacking.

The monograph is divided into four chapters. In the first the evidence relating to the ætiology of lymphadenoma is reviewed in an able and interesting way. The second and third chapters are devoted to an account of hypersensitivity and bacterial allergy, in which numerous examples are given of infective diseases where hypersensitivity to the infecting organism is

demonstrable by skin tests. The fourth chapter contains a full account of the author's own work; his technique in preparing glandular extracts is minutely described and an account is given of the twelve cases of Hodgkin's disease which were investigated.

The historical survey of work done on the nature and ætiology of lymphadenoma, and the chapters on hypersensitivity, will be valuable to anyone working at these problems.

THE TREATMENT OF COMMON FEMALE AILMENTS.

By F. J. McCANN. 3rd Edition. Edward Arnold & Co. 1934. 379 pages. Price 12/6.

This is not a text-book of gynecology for students or specialists, but as the title implies a guide to the diagnosis and care of women's diseases as met with in general practice.

The present edition has been completely revised and enlarged by the addition of new matter, while some useful chapters at the end of the book deal with the important subject of prevention, stress being laid on the importance of securing proper involution of the uterus after child-birth.

The doctor in general practice will find this book of real help. Based as it is on the personal experience of a long and busy professional life, much sound sense is to be found in its pages, particularly in the care of some of those minor but distressing ailments like pruritus vulvæ.

It is true that at times the reader is reminded of an earlier medical era as in the description of dilating a single young woman for dysmenorrhœa, or the advice to avoid baths during menstruation, while in the chapter on diagnosis of cancer of the womb, which is excellent as regards diagnosis, although a good deal is said about surgical treatment, radium is not even mentioned.

These, however, are minor matters and the book will fill a useful place on the book-shelf in the Surgery.