

REVIEWS.

DIAGNOSIS AND NON-OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE COLON AND RECTUM.

By GOTTWALD SCHWARZ, M.D., JACQUES GOLDBERGER, M.D., and CHARLES CROCKER, M.D. H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. 1937. Price 40/-.

This book which is written by three different authors, a German, an Austrian and an American, deals mainly with the diagnosis of diseases of the colon and rectum, and any treatment described is confined entirely to non-operative methods.

The different sections of the book are very well treated, and the diagnosis most carefully considered.

The book starts with chapters on anatomy and physiology and the various means of diagnosis. The authors describe the different types of sigmoidoscope, but favour a new German instrument which works like a cystoscope with indirect vision through prisms. It is unfortunate that types of specula and sigmoidoscopes most commonly used are not illustrated. The reviewer has no practical experience of this instrument beyond having seen it, but doubts very much whether it is anything like as practical an instrument as the ordinary sigmoidoscope. It certainly has the disadvantage of being far more complicated and a great deal more expensive.

The various methods of diagnosis are very carefully described and there is an admirable chapter on the laboratory examination of fæces with illustrations of all the different foreign substances which may be seen under the microscope, and an excellent description of the various parasites commonly met with in the stools.

The best chapters in the book are those on X-ray diagnosis. These are all admirable and many of the illustrations are beautiful examples of the way in which diseases of the colon can be diagnosed by means of X-rays. Indeed the book is worth buying just for the sake of the chapters on X-ray diagnosis.

The subjects of diverticulosis and diverticulitis are well treated and there are some very good descriptions of the diagnosis of carcinoma of the colon.

Such subjects as colitis are very thoroughly treated and there are some very admirable illustrations, several of them in the form of coloured plates, illustrating the different kinds of acute and chronic colitis.

Curiously enough the authors describe Megacolon and Hirschsprung's disease as different entities in the chapter on X-ray diagnosis, though, of course, they are only different names for the same condition.

The surgical treatment of diseases of the rectum and colon are not dealt with, although all the common conditions are described together with the diagnosis.

The book is extremely well got up; it is well written and has full tables of reference and a good index. This book should form an extremely valuable addition to any surgeon's or physician's library, and can be most thoroughly recommended as a book of reference.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

By DAVID LEES. (3rd Edition.) E. & S. Livingstone. 1937. Price 15/-.

David Lees' "Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease" made for itself a reputation some seven years ago when the first edition was published. Nowhere in the British Isles was venereal disease more thoroughly treated than in the Clinics of Edinburgh under the control of David Lees. It was therefore not surprising that the Edinburgh textbook on the subject was well received. The third edition which has been edited and revised by his nephew, Robert Lees, has recently appeared. In the work of bringing this book up to date, the editor has been assisted by Drs. R. Cranston Low, dermatologist, W. R. Logan, bacteriologist, and R. C. L. Batchelor, Director of the Venereal Department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Many additions and alterations will be found in the chapter on syphilis of the nervous and cardio-vascular

systems. Chancroid phagedena and inguinal bubo have also received more attention, and the chapter on vulvo-vaginitis of children has been almost entirely re-written. In spite of these additions, the volume has wisely been restricted to its original size. We can recommend this and Harrison's "Manual of Venereal Diseases" as the most important works on the subject that have appeared in this country. Both are excellent works but we prefer the method in which the Edinburgh manual presents its subject. Any student or practitioner who wishes to keep abreast with the progress in venereal disease cannot afford to be without the present volume.

THE LUNG.

By WILLIAM SNOW MILLER, D.Sc., M.D., Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, University of Wisconsin. 1937. London. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Pp. xv+210, with 152 illustrations. Price 34s.

This beautifully printed and illustrated volume represents the result of the author's researches over a period of nearly fifty years into the structure of the lung in animals and man. As a detailed account of the histological anatomy of the human lung it is, probably, unequalled, and if from the clinician's standpoint it contains a considerable amount of detail that is, perhaps, not directly applicable to those practical problems which immediately concern him, it is, nevertheless, a monument of accurate observation and description which cannot fail to be of scientific value and upon which Professor Miller should receive universal congratulation.

The main portion of the book is concerned with the detailed anatomy of the lungs and air-passages, their blood, lymphatic, and nervous supply, and that of the pleural membrane. In chapter X, which is entitled "Key-Points," there is an interesting and useful summary regarding various definite points where certain structures are constantly found which are of special importance in so far as they assist in the formation of a clear conception of the architecture of the normal lung.

The addition of a historical sketch, comprised in the last few chapters, enables the

reader to compare the author's own conceptions with those of various well known anatomists from Malpighi onwards, and adds to the completeness and to the interest of the work as a whole. The illustrations are particularly good, and are beautifully reproduced on good paper. The whole appearance and format of the book are attractive; there is a full bibliography, and a good index.

In reviewing a work so thorough of its kind and upon which so much patient and accurate labour has been expended by a master hand, we hesitate to raise objections. Nevertheless, we cannot but regret that space has not been reserved in a book so important as this for consideration of the gross anatomy of the lung and bronchial tree in its special relation to the problems of modern thoracic surgery. Such criticism is, perhaps, inevitable from the clinical side, and until quite recently it has been applicable to most if not all teaching of the fundamental sciences upon which the study of practical medicine and surgery is based. It does not, however, detract from the admiration which we feel for this work as a study in pure anatomy. As a reference book on the architecture of the human lung it is as complete and as thorough as any with which we are acquainted, and it should take a very high place as a standard in the literature of this subject.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION.

By T. BAILEY CARTER, M.D., Pp. 326. 250 Illustrations. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1937. Price 20/-.

This book will be a welcome addition to the library of the medical man, being as it is the best introduction to the science of electro-cardiography which we have come across. It is a veritable atlas of electro-cardiograms and thus should be specially valuable as a work of reference and for teaching purposes.

After a few short introductory chapters on the basis of electro-cardiography, the origin and course of the heart currents, the technique of the process of electro-cardiography.