

alcohol in a similar set of tests. At a time when so much false information is foisted on the public in the form of highly-coloured advertisements a few clear cold figures would be very illuminating.

The whole book forms a very useful source of information for students of physical training though it unfortunately suffers from the inherent defect of so many text books in not being very readable.

ORTHOPÆDIC SURGERY.

By WALTER MERCER, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Edward Arnold & Co. 1936. Price 40/-.

The second edition of this well known book contains some 200 more pages and 37 additional illustrations. A great deal of new matter has been introduced and several sections have been entirely re-written.

Written by a general surgeon this book on Orthopædic Surgery gives the view-point of one who has had a general training and this is a distinct advantage. It has become generally recognised that one must first become a good general surgeon before becoming a good specialist. In an age of steadily increasing specialism it is hoped that this dictum will never be lost sight of.

The general plan of the book is excellent, based as it is on lectures and demonstrations given to undergraduates and graduates in surgery reading for a Fellowship in Surgery. The illustrations are clear and a very useful bibliography is given at the end of the book.

Amongst the new subject matter introduced into this edition is a chapter on circulatory disturbances of the extremities. The attention of the orthopædic surgeon is frequently attracted to lesions of the peripheral vessels on account of pain and fatigue in upper and lower extremities. In many cases the real ætiological factor in the causation of this pain is overlooked until a complication such as gangrene supervenes. A reasoned discussion of these affections is therefore welcomed. A clear account is given of sympathectomy in vascular lesions of the extremities together with tests for sympathetic spasm.

A new chapter has been added on manipulative surgery a subject which has been neglected by the medical profession. It is unfortunate that such a valuable therapeutic measure should have fallen so much

into the hands of unqualified practitioners. The author discusses the choice of cases for manipulation and the conditions in which it is of value. It is of great importance to choose the right type of case and the author calls attention to the difficulty in deciding upon the indications for manipulative surgery.

This book is highly recommended to students and post-graduates who desire a comprehensive and sound knowledge of orthopædic surgery and the author is to be congratulated on the production of a valuable text-book on the subject.

WHEELER & JACK'S "HANDBOOK OF MEDICINE."

10th Edition.

Revised by JOHN HENDERSON, M.D. E. & S. Livingstone. Edinburgh. 1937. Price 12/6.

That this "Handbook of Medicine" has earned for itself an assured position is amply revealed by the fact that it has passed through nine editions, as well as having been reprinted on six occasions, since 1903. We have also no doubt that concise accounts of medicine, such as this proclaims to be, serve a useful purpose, but to be really effective they must be truly concise and specially systematized. To our minds the 10th Edition of "Wheeler and Jack" could be improved in these directions. For one thing the book has now become so large that it cannot conveniently be carried in the pocket, which at one time was one of its greatest assets in the eyes of the student. Any book which runs to 700 pages, unless printed on very special paper, has certainly lost this advantage. We personally feel that with more concise phraseology and a truer perspective (for example chlorosis has two pages devoted to it as against four pages in the case of pernicious anæmia) and with a better classification (the reviser treating laryngismus stridulus and tetany separately and under different systems and divorcing Sydenham's chorea from the other manifestations of the rheumatic infection) much valuable space could have been saved and at the same time a more comprehensive review supplied. We also feel that much concerning physical examination of the various systems could have been omitted for the same reason.