

This results in a confusion of ideas, so that a reader not well acquainted with various conditions might well assume that the commonest cause of pain, angina of effort, is often fatal in the attack. Such terms as "the peril of a paroxysm," used on page 12, which are common in the book, give the impression that attacks are frequently fatal, when statistically the exact opposite is the case, death hardly every occurring in such an attack.

A final minor point is the statement on page 23 that "apnoea" is usual in "classical" angina pectoris. The opposite is surely true, for the associated coronary disease as often as not produces some dyspnoea with the pain. The book, however, is very complete, and the reference tables are full. It is bound to be of great use to all those interested in the subject.

SAVILL'S SYSTEM OF CLINICAL MEDICINE.

Edited by AGNES SAVILL, M.D. and E. C. WARNER, M.D., F.R.C.P. 11th Edition. Edward Arnold, Ltd. London. 1939. Price 28s. 0d.

We are very pleased to see another edition of this book which is an old friend to many of us.

The method of approach, as mentioned in the Preface, is rather different to that found in most textbooks of medicine for the clinical aspect is emphasised and certainly for the most students, as also for a great many practitioners, this method simplifies study and makes references more accessible. It is a great testimony to the advances made in medicine that so much of the book has had to be rewritten, although the last edition was revised in 1936.

It is somewhat doubtful whether the first chapter entitled "Clinical Methods" is really essential, as it deals more or less with elementary principles of clinical examination. The chapter on Electrocardiograms is short but good; and particularly to be commended is the chapter dealing with aneurysm of the aorta and other intrathoracic tumours.

Possibly some of the book really needs reconsideration in the light of modern views and particularly perhaps the very hard and fast differences which are laid down between such conditions as lobar-pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia. It is more usual nowadays to regard infection of the lungs as a whole and not to make these distinctions so emphatic.

It has been possible to shorten the book a little by referring readers, where necessary, to special textbooks and this is a very good plan as it tends to simplify the reading. For instance, surgery of pulmonary tuberculosis only occupies one small paragraph and it is quite evident that this will suffice for the ordinary reader. The chapter on the spleen is very short and only occupies eight pages and of these over two deal with the physical examination. Diseases with which enlargement of the spleen is associated are naturally dealt with in full elsewhere. Chronic joint diseases, which are always such a trouble in textbooks, are dealt with simply but adequately.

It must be admitted that any book which tries to cover such an enormous amount of ground must fall down in detail and one is inclined to doubt whether the place which these books have occupied in the past will be available for them in the future. Nevertheless, as things are now, books of this type with a long history behind them are needed; and of these books "Savill's System of Clinical Medicine" is at least as good as and in many respects superior to the great run of them.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.

By D. M. DUNLOP, L. S. P. DAVIDSON and J. W. MCNEE. E. & S. Livingstone. 1939. Price 25s. 0d.

This is a new book on Treatment emanating from the principal Schools of Medicine in Scotland. As would be expected from the downright Scot, some attempt is made in this book to be absolutely definite on the value of various methods of treatment. It is a very large book and runs into nearly 1,100 pages, so that all varieties of treatment are mentioned, including a final chapter on technical procedures and oxygen therapy.

In spite of its length the subject matter is not easy to read in some sections and to practitioners who are not familiar with certain modern contentions, it tends to be rather confusing. For instance, the chapter on diseases of the ductless glands might more simply have been started with an introduction dealing with the general co-ordination of these glands and the effect which one has on another; and so given a sort of general survey of the endocrine problem in simple language. This would have given the practitioner an idea as to how it was thought the endocrine system worked and would have simplified the discussion of such things as the gonadotropic hormones and given point to such small paragraphs as that on the basophile adenoma with which it is said that Cushing's Syndrome is associated. As the subject was being discussed not only from the treatment point of view, it might also have made it simpler if Cushing's Syndrome had had a small paragraph to itself and mention had been made that it is not always associated with basophile adenoma and that, in fact, it has been described with entirely different pathology.

It may seem that these criticisms, mild though they be, are not sufficiently important to be introduced, but it is felt that, good as the book is, a little more simplification and a little more practical re-arrangement would make it much better.

The question of treatment of cardiac conditions should nowadays give some indication of the electrocardiographic control which is necessary in certain states and suitable curves should be shown, especially of such definite conditions as coronary thrombosis. Although mention is made of all the essential factors, this is not brought out very well.

On the whole the book is a good one, well reproduced, and well set out.