

MEDICAL NEWS

A meeting of the Medical Society of the L.C.C. Service was held at the County Hall, S.E.1, on Wednesday, May 8th. Papers were read by Mr. R. V. Lewys-Lloyd on "Fractures of the Hand," Mr. J. C. Gillies on "Infections of the Hand," and Mr. J. Gabe on "Injuries to Tendons, etc."

The three speakers stressed the dangers of paying too little attention to the treatment of minor injuries, and gave their views of the ideals to be aimed at to achieve successful treatment.

BOOK REVIEWS

A SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

By ALECK BOURNE, F.R.C.S. Published by John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Dec. 1945. Price 21s. 9th Edition.

The ninth edition of *A Synopsis of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, by Aleck Bourne, has recently appeared.

The book pretends to be nothing more than its name implies—a synopsis—and those of us who are familiar with the author's abilities as a teacher know that he would make no other claims for it.

As Mr. Bourne points out, "there is a basal core of fact that must be learnt by the undergraduate," yet in some instances the core may be so thin as to become of doubtful value. I refer particularly to the section dealing with sex hormones which I consider too sketchy even for a book of this sort. So very much of modern Gynaecology, especially treatment, is based on a thorough knowledge of the action and inter-relation of the sex hormones that I feel the subject should have been dealt with more fully.

In contrast to this the section on Sterility is delightfully adequate. I have not often, even in much fuller works, found the investigation of a case of sterility so well presented.

The treatment of cancer of the cervix is clearly dealt with. It is a subject which lends itself well to synoptic treatment.

The Obstetric portion of the book is very good indeed, as one would expect from an obstetrician of Mr. Bourne's calibre. However I wish someone would have the courage to omit the operations of Symphysiotomy and Pubiotomy from teaching books. I've never seen either performed and I'm sure that very few modern obstetricians have seen or performed them. They belong to the pre-history of obstetrics, especially in view of the great development of the lower segment caesarian operation.

Personally, I have never been very partial to medical synopses, and I'm sure that to the student who uses them without a fuller textbook they must present a bewildering mass of disjointed detail.

THE SYMPTOMATIC DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF GYNAECOLOGICAL DISORDERS

By MARGARET MOORE WHITE, M.D. Published by H. K. Lewis, London. Dec. 1945. Price 16s.

Many authors who write for the practising doctor get so caught up in a mass of detail that their books completely fail in their purpose. Not so with Miss Margaret Moore White who has supplied us with a book, not too voluminous, which is eminently suitable for the needs of the general practitioner.

The necessary essentials are concisely dealt with and the doctor who wishes to treat a case of Pruritis, or to

interpret pelvic pain, need only refer to the appropriate sections to obtain the information he wants. Miss Moore White has mastered the technique of saying what is necessary and saying it clearly and concisely.

I was particularly struck by the chapter on Contraception. This is a more able treatise than one finds in many larger and more authoritative books. I felt that stress should be laid on the fact that the fitting of contraceptive appliances is highly specialised work and, in my opinion, should be carried out at Clinics. Appliances fitted by comparatively inexpert people so often result in tragic pregnancies. This contraceptive section is written by Miss Mary Redding.

The discussion on pre-operative and post-operative treatment of cases will be a boon to many readers.

THE PROBLEM OF LUPUS VULGARIS

By ROBERT AITKEN, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.E. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1946. Pp. 66. Price 15s.

Dr. Aitken has written a most interesting and readable little book about Lupus, well illustrated with many plates in colour and black and white.

He explains in simple terms the evolution and method of spread of the disease, and shows how the face is most commonly affected, and how rarely the condition is associated with phthisis, although more commonly with bone and gland tuberculosis. He demonstrates that the disease often begins in childhood or early adolescence—indeed more than half the cases began during the child's school life.

The chapter on aetiology establishes the tuberculous nature of the disease and records cases of direct inoculation with the tubercle bacillus, while that on treatment stresses the importance of general treatment and explains amply the classical destructive therapies. Dr. Aitken rightly condemns the use of X-rays, but the reviewer's personal experience with the hydnicarbate esters has been satisfactory.

There is a detailed chapter on the use of ultra-violet irradiation, explaining the reason for the author's strong preference for the carbon-arc lamp, and a very interesting chapter on the history and use of tuberculin in Lupus Vulgaris with a warning against the use of general ultra-violet light and tuberculin in the presence of pulmonary tuberculosis. Dr. Aitken is much concerned with the public health and social aspects of the disease and suggests the formation of regional Lupus centres.

It is to be hoped that the recent remarkable work with Calciferol will render Lupus a much more curable and less dreaded disease than it has been, and it is a pity that the book was published just too soon to mention the new treatment.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL SURGERY

By CHARLES F. M. SAINT, Professor of Surgery, University of Cape Town. Published for the Post-Graduate Press by The African Bookman, Cape Town, 1945.

This book contains the substance of the tutorials given each year by Professor Saint to his Surgical Dressers. It is based on his small book, *Surgical Note-taking*.

Its 289 pages of close type contain an enormous amount of material, obviously resulting from a wide experience, and cover very many points of practical importance. Its scheme is to consider the commonly encountered surgical conditions in turn, discussing for each the importance of the history and development of the condition, the family history, physical signs and laboratory tests. From the data so acquired the student is shown how to arrive at a diagnosis either by the positive method of direct induction or more rarely, when necessary, by the negative method of ruling out the more unlikely.

Throughout the book Professor Saint lays the greatest emphasis on careful history-taking together with a thorough examination of the patient, and his detailed discussion of the exact significance of the physical signs is most stimulating. Each section shows the results of the author's careful observation and of his care in making the student think things out for himself, as for instance in making full use of the physical signs before looking for the results of laboratory tests, though these are given their due importance. His chapter on Peripheral Vascular Disease is particularly noteworthy.

Professor Saint's teaching is dogmatic, as teaching undoubtedly should be, but it is bound therefore to invite criticism. That, in the breast, carcinoma follows chronic irritation, that Paget's disease of the nipple is likely to go onto a superficial epithelioma, and that a blood-stained discharge expressed from all parts of the breast requires, in a large proportion of cases, no interference, are all subjects on which other views are held.

For the average student in the ward as he emerges, often painfully, from the cocoon of his childhood, this book is heavy going. Its style is somewhat involved and it is relieved by only two diagrams. For his more assiduous, book-worm fellow, whose cocoon is already shed, Professor Saint is to be congratulated on providing a generous, stimulating and excellently reasoned diet.

REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA

By H. W. L. MOLESWORTH, F.R.C.S. 2nd edition, pp. viii, 92. Illustrations 42. Published by H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.

This book, first published in 1944, owes its second edition to the fact that many copies were destroyed by enemy action and the author has taken the opportunity to make some alterations which experience and constructive criticism rendered desirable.

This book does not aim at being a text-book, but is presented as a record of the author's personal experience.

The subject matter is well set out and the diagrams illustrating the anatomical approach are well done. The photographs on the other hand are poor, and it would have been better if they had been omitted.

The author sets out very clearly the general principles involved in regional anaesthesia and indicates the instruments and drugs required. The methods are described most clearly and aptly illustrated by diagrams. The last chapter is devoted to a short discourse on spinal anaesthesia.

The book is to be recommended to those interested in this field of anaesthesia and is clearly printed and well bound.

CLINICAL DEMONSTRATIONS TO NURSES

By HAMILTON BAILEY, F.R.C.S. 2nd edition. Published by E. & S. Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1946. Price 10s. 6d.

Like all the books written by this author, this little handbook for nurses is excellently produced, both with regard to the descriptive matter and the accompanying illustrations. It should prove a very useful book for any nurse who is at the period of attending the Out-Patients' Departments and needs some guidance on the cases that she may have to deal with. It would appear to me to be a suitable little gift book.

A COMPLETE OUTLINE OF FRACTURES

By J. GRANT BONNIN, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S. 2nd edition. Published by Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books) Limited, London, 1946. Price 30s.

This textbook on fractures is already well known, but several chapters in the New Edition have been brought up to date and the reader will find most useful the chapter dealing with wounds and compound fractures, in which the author has dealt at length with the newer antiseptics, including penicillin. This book should certainly be in the hands of all resident doctors handling fractures, though its use by the senior members of the profession may be somewhat restricted by a certain incompleteness on difficult points of treatment; the reviewer had a need recently for guidance as to a particular line of treatment for a difficult fracture, but on referring to the book found the advice given was merely to operate. The diction also is rather involved at times and needs careful following. The X-rays, which are numerous, would perhaps have been reproduced better if done on a shiny surface, but these defects are remedied by the excellent line drawings which amply illustrate the book.

NEW AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS, 1946

By H. K. LEWIS & Co. LTD.

Just Published. **HOMO SAPIENS: AND THE PEACE PROBLEM.** By G. H. MONRAD-KROHN, M.D.(Oslo), F.R.C.P.(Lond.) Crown 4to. 2s. 6d. net.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN GENERAL PRACTICE. By TERENCE EAST, M.D., D.M.(Oxon.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.) Second Edition. With Illustrations. Demy 8vo. 12s. 6d. net.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL SURGERY. Surgical Wherefores and Therefores. A Reasoned Explanation of Surgical Note-Taking. By CHARLES F. M. SAINT, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S. 25s. net. Med. 8vo.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR THE LIMBLESS. By PHYLLIS LYTTLETON, C.S.P., A.O.T. Crown 8vo. Profusely illustrated. 3s. net.

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF NURSING. By M. A. GULLAN. Fifth Edition. With illustrations. Demy 8vo. 12s. 6d. net.

SANITARY SCIENCE NOTES. By HARRY HILL, F.R.San.I., and ERNEST DODSWORTH, M.R.San.I. Fcap. 8vo. 7s. 6d. net.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S HANDBOOK. By H. H. CLAY, F.R.San.I., F.I.S.E. Fifth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. 97 Illustrations. Demy 8vo. 18s. net. Second Reprint, 1946.

Ready June. **SQUINT AND CONVERGENCE.** By N. A. STUTTERHEIM, M.D.(Rand). Crown 4to. With Illustrations. 15s. net.

HANDBOOK FOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH ON CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL WORK. By F. J. G. LISHMAN, M.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.L.O. Second Edition. Demy 8vo. Paper Boards.

ANALECTA PSYCHIATRICA. By J. R. WHITWELL, M.B. Crown 8vo. 16s. net.

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6. References to papers or other publications in the text must be shown by giving the name of the author and the year of publication (with or without brackets). At the end of the paper these references should be arranged alphabetically according to the R.S.M. system. Thus: (If to a Journal)

Author's name (year), journal, volume, page, e.g.
ATKINSON, J. (1921), *J. Biol. Chem.*, **47**, 134.

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BROWN, C. D. (1935), "Diseases of the Skin," London.

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