

BOOK REVIEWS

THE ESSENTIALS OF MODERN SURGERY

By R. M. HANDFIELD-JONES, M.C., M.S., F.R.C.S.,
and A. E. PORRITT, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S.
3rd Edition. Pp. 1246. E. & S. Livingstone
Ltd. 1948. 50s.

Peace has brought with it few pleasures of a positive nature, but one of its advantages is that Mr. Porritt has rejoined Mr. Handfield-Jones in the editorship of their 'Essentials of Modern Surgery' which now appears in its third edition. This fully maintains the standard of its predecessors and new chapters on chemotherapy and amputations have substantially broadened its scope. The authors are 14 in number, and the chapter revised by the late A. Tudor Edwards just before his death must have been one of his last literary works; its very excellence makes rather melancholy reading.

Where all is of a high standard it is difficult to single out any chapters for special mention. Mr. Julian Taylor's section on the appendix is a model combination of originality in teaching and classicalism of style. Most of the dangers and drawbacks of multiple authorship have been avoided by a careful choice of authors and by able editorship.

This is essentially a manual for undergraduates and presents for its readers a balanced view of surgery based on the realities of anatomy and pathology, and offering instruction more in the detection of clinical features, which are fully and beautifully illustrated, than in elaborate and recondite laboratory methods. The general practitioner, too, will have profitable recourse to this volume in renewing his knowledge of many surgical conditions, and he will be assured of up-to-date material and commonsense advice.

The excellence of the paper, of the illustrations, of the printing, and of the binding is characteristic of Messrs. Livingstone, and the book is attractive and easy to handle and to read. It shares one defect with most of our other textbooks; there are no references to original papers. This is not a serious drawback for the undergraduate reader, though even he should learn the habit of consulting the literature and should learn the technique of access to it; a short list of representative references at the end of each chapter would be an advantage. The lack of references will detract also from the value of the book to the general practitioner, and will be a more serious impediment to the post graduate student of surgery.

As an undergraduate textbook of surgery this volume will maintain its place as a popular and standard work.

I.A.

STANDARD METHODS OF THE DIVISION OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

By AUGUSTUS B. WADSWORTH, M.D. 3rd Edition.
Ballière, Tindall and Cox, London. 1947.
Price 55s.

This book gives a composite picture of the work undertaken at the Division of Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health. It covers all aspects of the work, from cleaning of glassware and administrative procedure to the estimation of potency by biological assay, standardization of antitoxins and the mounting of museum specimens.

The whole book comprises less than 1,000 pages, so not unnaturally, some subjects have received very brief treatment. For routine use in this country, this volume has great limitations, as most of the reagents used are American. However, even the very short chapters on certain subjects have excellent references.

Among sections which can be recommended are those dealing with the care of laboratory animals, the maintenance of type cultures and the preparation of media.

S.D.N.

BROMPTON HOSPITAL REPORTS, VOLUME XV

A Collection of Papers recently published from the Hospital. Gale & Polden, Ltd. 1946. Pp. 192. Price 10s.

This well-known volume always contains excellent fare and the 1946 issue is no exception. During the year, the Brompton Hospital lost one of her most distinguished surgeons, the late Tudor Edwards and a paper from his pen very fittingly forms the first article. His contribution is entitled 'Carcinoma of the Bronchus,' and was the introductory paper published in the new British journal *Thorax* which first appeared in 1946. Tudor Edwards did more than any other single person in this country to advance thoracic surgery and a brief but eloquent tribute to him from the pen of Price Thomas prefaces this volume.

Two delightful papers by N. R. Barrett will please the student of medical history and a typical, scholarly dissertation on 'Judgment in Medicine' by Maurice Davidson provides material for much reflection. A welcome inclusion is Hoyle and Foster-Carter's account of the 'Segments of the Lungs.' This annual symposium should find a

G