

a delight to the eye and amongst the best the reviewer has seen. An extensive bibliography and usually a summary conclude each chapter.

The authors are to be congratulated on their work which should come to be recognized as amongst the most authoritative on the subject.

D.S.L.

#### HUMAN HISTOLOGY: A GUIDE FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

By E. R. A. COOPER, M.D. 2nd Edition. Pp. xii + 431. 4 plates and 253 text figures. London: H. K. Lewis. 1948. £1 7s. 6d.

Dr. Cooper's textbook is based upon the course in histology at the University of Manchester, where the subject is taught in the Department of Anatomy, and as might be expected it is written from an anatomical rather than a physiological viewpoint; in the opinion of the reviewer this is an advantage.

The text is lucid and illustrated by excellent and well-chosen photomicrographs, nearly all of human material. Each of the 21 chapters is followed by a 'practical' enumerating the sections to be examined and emphasizing the points to be looked for. No attempt is made to discuss histological technique.

Used in conjunction with a practical course such as is implied in the text, the book should provide a sound basis of normal microscopic anatomy, and might usefully be referred to by the post graduate who is revising his morbid histology.

R.D.C.

#### MODERN TREATMENT YEARBOOK, 1948

Edited by SIR CECIL WAKELEY, K.B.E., C.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. (Hon.). Pp. viii + 344. 26 illustrations. London: The Medical Press. 1948. 15s.

This is an interesting collection of articles on modern therapeutics in all fields, and the standard generally is high. The articles are all written by different authors from various parts of the United Kingdom and there is even an article on the treatment of compound fractures of the femur by Dr. Oblatz of Buffalo.

There is nothing particularly startling to comment on in the articles but they serve a useful purpose in keeping the practitioner up to date in modern therapeutics.

#### TEXTBOOK OF THE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

Edited by W. S. C. COPEMAN, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 612. 351 illustrations, some in colour. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1948. 50s.

This textbook presents a useful summary of the generally accepted views on rheumatic diseases today. There is not anything particularly original in it, but in this type of book one would not expect to find original work.

The editor has 24 contributors who have written

on various angles of the rheumatic diseases. Some of these contributors such as Watson-Jones and Osmond Clarke who have contributed the chapter on orthopaedics, Bernard Schlesinger who has written on Still's Disease, and Kellgren on 'The Anatomy and Physiology of Pain' and 'The Clinical Approach to Pain,' have produced contributions of the very first order, but some of the other contributors whose style is very different have not reached the same level.

The amount of space employed on various aspects of the rheumatic diseases could be better balanced as in the chapter on 'Climatic and Environmental Factors in Rheumatic Diseases' there is a rather verbose account of meteorology which could well be abbreviated, whilst some of the clinical descriptions such as the clinical picture of rheumatic fever could well be enlarged profitably. There is also a danger of some reduplication of the same work in different chapters from different contributors.

On the whole, the book is a useful reference book for the general practitioner with an interest in the rheumatic diseases.

#### EDINBURGH POST GRADUATE LECTURES IN MEDICINE, 1944-47

Vol. IV. Pp. 600. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1948. 18s.

This is the fourth volume of a series of collected lectures delivered to a post graduate audience in Edinburgh. Something of the wide range of subjects covered is apparent as we turn the pages from a dissertation on tuberculosis in the far north of Scotland to a report from the Libyan battlefield, and from the care of the premature infant to the risks of prostatic surgery in the aged. The present volume covers the period 1944 to 1947. It must be admitted that a few of the lectures, have, with the passage of the years, inevitably lost some of their initial exciting news quality.

All have originally appeared in the Edinburgh Medical Journal, but collected together in this single volume they will prove, for those who were lucky to be there, an invaluable record of what was undoubtedly a refreshing experience and for the less fortunate a striking indication of the range and variety of post graduate education in the Edinburgh Medical School.

M.R.E.

#### POST MORTEM APPEARANCES

By JOAN M. ROSS, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 5th Edition. Pp. 308. Oxford: Geoffrey Cumberlege, University Press. 1948. 8s. 6d.

The fifth edition of this book, which has been going strong for 23 years, will continue to be of help to students and doctors embarking on post mortems. It is handy, clearly written and contains a great deal of co-ordinated useful information not easily available in the larger textbooks.

I.D.