BOOK REVIEWS

RECENT ADVANCES IN OTO-LARYNGOLOGY

By R. SCOTT STEVENSON, M.D., CH.B., F.R.C.S.ED.
2nd Edition. Pp. 395 with 106 illustrations and
8 plates. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd.
1949. 24s.

The second edition of this work follows the same general pattern as the first edition published in 1935 and most of the subjects discussed are the same. In every case the subject has been brought completely up to date and the only criticism which might be made is that a little too much of the first edition has been retained. Although this has the advantage that each chapter gives a comprehensive picture of the condition discussed it is felt that more of the material contained in the first edition could have been deleted and the space thus obtained used for discussing one or two other subjects or giving more detail of the truly recent advances.

The new chapters on chemotherapy and antibiotics, hearing aids and aviation oto-laryngology have been well chosen and present a valuable summary of these subjects with a comprehensive list of references. In the chapter on chemotherapy and antibiotics the author rightly stresses the fact that these methods of treatment in no way obviate the necessity for surgical intervention where it is indicated, although the indications have changed.

In the chapter on tonsils a valuable addition has been a section of four pages devoted to the question of tonsillectomy and poliomyelitis, a subject which is of considerable importance at the moment. Stress is laid on the contradictory nature of the evidence.

The chapters on deafness and hearing tests are exceptionally well written and those on cancer give valuable information on the present trends in treatment.

In the preface the author hopes that the book will be of particular value to postgraduates working for higher qualifications, and it can be thoroughly recommended to them. In addition, those already holding higher qualifications will be grateful for the amount of information available in such a compact form.

D.R.

THE PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY OF URANIUM COMPOUNDS: WITH A SECTION ON FLUORINE AND HYDROGEN FLUORIDE

Edited by CARL VOEGTLIN, Ph.D., and HAROLD C. HODGE, Ph.D. 2 vols. Pp. xviii + 1084, with many illustrations and tables. National Nuclear Energy Series No. VI/I. New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc. 1949. 60s.

To those who handle uranium, whether as ore, metal or compound, its chemical toxicity is a much

greater danger than its radioactivity. It was long known as one of the most toxic of metals, but the exact degree of the hazard to workers with it in the atom bomb plants could not be assessed on the evidence available (though it appears that a guess that permissible levels of exposure would be similar to those for lead proved in the event to be correct). The University of Rochester undertook the necessary investigations. It is very much to their credit that, despite their urgency, the investigations were not merely concerned with the obvious determinations of toxicity levels of various uranium products when administered to animals by inhalation, ingestion, inunction, injection or by instillation into the eye, but included more fundamental research into the chemistry and biological effects of the metal. The result is a monograph which presents a much more balanced and coherent account of its subject than would be expected from its origins; it may be doubted whether many of the elemental poisons have been so satisfactorily dealt with in a single work.

Of aspects which may prove of value outside this special field may be mentioned the accounts of analytical methods and of the uranium kidney, of the methods used in inhalation experiments on compounds of a variety of physical types, and of the use of catalase estimations as a very delicate test of acute tubular damage.

This is one of 60 volumes of the National Nuclear Energy Series in which the Manhattan Project hopes to publish most of the multifarious researches which went to the bomb. This is only the second of those so far published to be of any medical interest, but it can now stand beside Bloom's *Histopathology of Irradiation* as a valuable record of useful research. It has been so well edited that it suffers very little from its multiple authorship and, except for some unnecessary colour photomicrographs, is very well produced.

FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

By J. P. HOSFORD, M.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S., revised by W. D. Coltart, F.R.C.S. 2nd Edition. Pp. x + 288, with 87 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1949. 21s.

The modern treatment of fractures and dislocations usually demands attention in the orthopaedic and accident department of a hospital, and the general practitioner in these days of specialization is called upon less and less to deal with such injuries. However, it is most important that he should have a clear idea of how to make a diagnosis and when to suspect such an injury, and also it is most useful for him to have a knowledge of what type of treatment is likely to be carried out. This

book will prove invaluable in these respects. The general principles of fracture diagnosis and treatment are well and clearly outlined, and methods of treatment are described without the lengthy technical details which would be necessary in a book written for the specialist. The book is interestingly written, well illustrated and not difficult to read or understand.

Mr. Coltart in revising the second edition has included most of the modern methods in use, and particularly those which were widely employed during the recent war. He has not mentioned the Kuntscher nail as one of the more modern methods of internal fixation, but then this is by no means a type of treatment to be carried out in general practice.

In dealing with the dislocations of the shoulder a full description of the 'Kocher's' method of reduction is given. There might have been a place for the description of the modified 'Hippocratic' method which many surgeons prefer nowadays. The avoidance of too early movements in the programme of after treatment might have been stressed more, so as to prevent the complication of recurrent dislocation. In the treatment of the latter condition the Nicola method is mentioned together with that of Bankart, whereas present-day experience in this country favours that of the Bankart or Putti-Platt procedures, rather than the Nicola.

This book should be of great value not only to general practitioners but also to students and recently-qualified men to whom the general principles and aims of treatment of these common injuries are of very real importance. It is a book that can easily be used in conjunction with one of the larger technical manuals for the more specialized worker.

W. Alexander Law

KAYNE, PAGEL AND O'SHAUGHNESSY'S PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

By WALTER PAGEL, M.D., F. A. H. SIMMONDS, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., N. McDONALD, M.B., M.R.C.P., and L. FATTI, F.R.C.S. 2nd Edition. Pp. xviii + 720 with many illustrations. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. 1949. 63s.

This book, already well known to British readers, has been revised and thoroughly brought up to date after an interval of ten years. Since the first edition appeared two of the original authors, Dr. Gregory Kayne and Mr. L. O'Shaughnessy, have died. Dr. Pagel has now gathered around him a fresh team of experts who have produced a second edition which bears favourable comparison with the former volume.

In stating that Dr. Pagel's personal contribution on the pathology of the disease dominates the book we do not wish to cast any slur upon those of the other authors. Dr. Pagel's extensive researches upon the subject entitles him to all the space he needs, and he has used it to present a lucid and complete account of the natural evolution of the tuberculous process in man, which ranks high.

Pathology is only one of the five sections into which this book has been divided; the others being Diagnosis, Prognosis, Management and Epidemiology and Prevention. In all these sections current tendencies and recent developments have been given their rightful place and the whole book can be recommended as an excellent account of the best British phthisiological practice. It is freely illustrated and each chapter is equipped with a good bibliography.

N. Lloyd Rusby

NEUROLOGICAL ANATOMY IN RELATION TO CLINICAL MEDICINE

By DR. A. BRODAL. Pp. xv + 496, with 94 illustrations. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. 1948. 42s.

Clinical neurologists will welcome this excellent book which has been specially prepared to meet a definite need. A textbook of neurological anatomy written to assist clinicians has long been required, and Dr. Brodal is to be congratulated on the success with which he has accomplished this difficult task. The library of every medical school should have this book as those teaching medicine and neurology are constantly being asked complicated questions by students and postgraduates who have been unable to find the information they require in the usual standard works.

Structure and function have to be grasped at the same time and Dr. Brodal has stressed this throughout. A full index and extensive bibliography complete this scholarly work.

M.G.A.

TEXTBOOK OF SURGERY

By PATRICK KIELY, B.Sc., M.D., M.Ch.(N.U.I.) F.R.C.S.(Eng.). Pp. vii + 1,184, with 61 illustrations and 4 colour plates. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1949. 45s.

This book is a new general textbook of surgery intended for the student. The author has avoided long descriptions of operative procedures but has managed to include a huge amount of surgical information. 330 pages are given to orthopaedic surgery and fractures, and chapters on E.N.T. surgery, ophthalmic surgery and gynaecology are also included. As a result of this, space is cramped and there is little differentiation between the important and the less important principles; presumably for the same reason the illustrations are small and not always distinct. There is no bibliography.

The text generally is accurate and informed, and pathology and diagnosis are well described. Treatment, on the other hand, is conservative and hardly up-to-date. For example, no mention is made of hormonal treatment of advanced breast cancer nor of anastomosis of stomach or jejunum to oesophagus for malignant disease of that organ, while the advised treatment for severe or recurrent haematemesis from peptic ulcer is posterior gastrojejunostomy with infolding of the ulcer.