

general readers will be familiar with the nature of babeiasis, black head of turkeys, or even coccidiosis in poultry, while the veterinarian might equally well be interested to know how trichomonas and giardia affect human beings. This work is of a monumental character and Dr. Findlay must be congratulated on the industry of his compilation. With the continuous rapid development of this vast branch of medicine it is difficult to see how the work could have been compressed into smaller compass.

### THE COMMON DISEASES OF THE SKIN

By R. CRANSTON LOW, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E., and G. A. GRANT PETERKIN, M.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.P.E.D. 4th edition. Pp. x + 282, with 139 illustrations. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, Ltd. 1950. 21s.

Cranston Low's textbook has gained a secure place in the affections of Scottish students. This edition, prepared with the help of Dr. Peterkin before the author's death, retains the general structure of its predecessors. It has been brought up to date to include the considerable advances of the last ten years, and new illustrations have been added.

It is never easy to review a handbook of dermatology; if it is to be primarily for students and general practitioners some limitation of scope and a dogmatic approach may be excused. It is only fair to say that the authors recognize this and acknowledge it. But the reviewer feels that such an approach, to be justified, should not be employed in highly controversial issues. The septic focus and toxic absorption from the bowel, as causes of various skin affections, are given a prominence outweighing the evidence in their favour. On the other hand, out of 92 lines given to the treatment of lupus vulgaris, only six are given to calciferol—which is generally considered to be the method of choice.

In practical matter the book is often admirable, stressing the importance of detail in everyday techniques; many would differ from the authors, however, in their acceptance of soap and water in eczematous states.

The format and choice of type is excellent and the plain photographs useful and clear. There are also six colour-plates. The formulary given at the end contains all the most useful applications used in practice.

### THE SCOURGE OF RHEUMATISM

Report of a Conference held by the British Rheumatic Association. Pp. 85. London: William Heinemann. 1950. 5s.

This little book presents some of the views expressed at a meeting of the British Rheumatic Association, which is a body primarily organized by a group of rheumatic patients for the welfare of rheumatic sufferers. The views expressed are from laymen, rheumatism and physical medicine specialists and social workers of various kinds.

The booklet is of interest to the rheumatic patient, but is not sufficiently scientific to be of great value to medical men. The medical aspect is dealt with only in general principle and superficially.

To those concerned in the welfare of rheumatic patients, however, it should be of much interest, showing the facilities available medically, socially and industrially for the rheumatic patient.

### PENICILLIN: ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATION

By PROF. SIR ALEXANDER FLEMING, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.S. 2nd Edition. Pp. xiii + 491, with 63 figures. London: Butterworth and Co., Ltd. 1949. 30s.

The scope and methods of penicillin treatment are changing constantly so that the appearance of a second edition of this book is very welcome. The chapters on the history, chemistry, bacteriology and practical applications are written by experts in each field, under the editorship of Prof. Fleming. Though this involves some repetition, it also shows clearly that modes of treatment are not yet stereotyped. Most contributors agree, however, that procaine penicillin is superseding other preparations. New chapters have been added on drug sensitivity and on the newer antibiotics. The book is an invaluable guide, is well produced and freely illustrated.

G.M.

### MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY

By JOHN GLAISTER, J.P., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.S.E. 9th Edition. Pp. xi + 755, with 234 illustrations, 88 in colour. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1950. 35s.

The ninth edition of Glaister's well-known textbook again increases its compass. It continues to attract the student by its authority, its diversity of fresh illustrations (234 plates are now included in the 755 page text) and its high standard of production, whilst causing some misgiving by its increasing size. It undoubtedly succeeds in providing the expert, the postgraduate and the barrister with a feast of gargantuan proportions with which only the expert might seek an occasional quibble—and this is no mean feat in a field where observed facts and inferences have to withstand penetrating cross examination.

New inclusions of statutory law—the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, on the legal responsibility of hospitals and nursing homes, on the implications of artificial insemination, on poisons and other subjects, have supplanted older statutes, and Glaister has also revised a large number of scientific sections—on fingerprints in identity, on Rh sub-groups, on some of the newer poisons, D.D.T., beryllium and the like. The chemical tests have been relegated, properly we

think, to a small-type appendix ; after all, there must be some limit to a subject which, like forensic medicine, reaches for support into so many other departments of both science and medical practice.

Glaister remains a fine textbook, a sound piece of writing, well documented from the current literature, extensively illustrated by case reference, balanced and authoritative. It is a book for the advanced student, the forensic pathologist and the criminal bar.

C.K.S.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO PATHOLOGY

By G. PAYLING WRIGHT, D.M., F.R.C.P. Pp. x + 569, illustrated. London: Longmans Green and Co. 1950. 30s.

In this age of increasing specialization the bewildered teachers of medical students are incessantly bidden to integrate the curriculum, to bridge gaps and to prune the ever-growing body of knowledge with which the student is presented. At no stage is this more difficult or important than in the transition from pre-clinical to clinical studies; the abnormal must be appreciated in terms of perverted normal function. General pathology is the best medium whereby this can be accomplished. Professor Payling Wright's new book, which bears all too modest a title, succeeds admirably in its project of orientating the student in his study of the fundamental aspects of disease. Stress is laid upon the causative factors, and the mechanisms whereby structural changes are brought about are clearly explained in the light of experimental research. The text is a model of clear exposition and is excellently illustrated by photographs and diagrams. Abundant references to original papers are supplied, both recent and old, reflecting the author's appreciation of the history of the subject. About two-fifths of the book is devoted to neoplastic disease and the remainder deals with the principal groups in general pathology. There is a useful chapter on tissue reactions in virus infections, and the modifying action of the antibiotics in inflammation is discussed.

The student who digests this book will be well equipped for his professional work since he will approach his patients with the essential intellectual background necessary for the interpretation of disease. There are many teachers, too, who will welcome and be helped by this modern presentation of general pathology.

D.S.R.

### MODERN PRACTICE IN DERMATOLOGY

Edited by G. B. MITCHELL-HEGGS, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xxv + 836, with 319 illustrations and 7 coloured plates. London: Butterworth & Co. 1950. £3 3s.

This impressive volume is beautifully produced with a wealth of excellent photographic illustrations.

The 50 separate chapters are the work of no less than 40 different authors, so it would be impossible to expect a uniform quality throughout. Some of the chapters are up to date and authoritative, whilst others would be suitable only for undergraduate teaching. In such a work some overlapping is also inevitable; for instance, two consecutive chapters describe impetigo and its treatment. In both, the local use of penicillin is advocated, which will doubtless come in for some criticism. Histology is dealt with, for the most part, sketchily but throughout a practical outlook has been maintained.

This book will not replace the present text books, being too full for the use of the average undergraduate. It will, however, be valuable to practitioners interested in the subject, particularly to those who are isolated from teaching centres or libraries.

### THE ANATOMY OF THE FEMALE PELVIS

By F. A. MAGUIRE, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., F.A.C.S. 4th Edition. Pp. xv + 176, with 554 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1949. 42s.

The author, having been for some years professor of anatomy, combines both clinical and anatomical knowledge. The result is excellent. This fourth edition has been thoroughly revised, with the addition of many new illustrations, and presents a detailed study of the entire pelvic anatomy. That of the vaginal and uterine supports is particularly clearly described, whilst a contribution by Dr Barrington on the examination of the gynaecologist's case is thoroughly sound. The production is attractive.

This book is well worthy of study; for the student as a book of reference, for the budding gynaecologist as a constant companion.

### PRACTICAL PROCEDURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

By R. I. S. BAYLIS, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. Pp. viii + 445, with 62 illustrations. London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. 1950. 25s.

A generous welcome should be given to this excellent book, which fills a very real need in hospital and general practice today.

It has been well said that dull tasks are amongst the most difficult to perform efficiently. In the field of medical writing, one can imagine few more difficult undertakings than completing a volume on practical clinical procedures, which is both informative and easy to read, and which bears the stamp of originality of form and presentation. Dr. Baylis has been uncommonly successful in achieving all these goals which have been realized almost single-handed, and he is to be congratulated on the result of his efforts.

The reader will be surprised at the extensive