with prevention are of great practical value. There are special chapters on bovine tuberculosis in man, mass miniature radiography and immunization against tuberculosis.

Looking into the book in more detail one finds that the author has spared no pains to support his argument by a full survey of the literature on the aspects of the subject dealt with in the respective chapters. This extensive bibliography at the end of each chapter makes the book very valuable for reference. The author has also been able, from his own wide experience, to make authoritative statements on debatable subjects. On the influence of race and heredity he favours the existence of familial susceptibility or resistance, but thinks it present in only a small proportion of persons of European stock.

He stresses the need for diagnoses in the pre-clinical stage of the disease before the development of cavitation or apical infiltration which are signs of late advanced tuberculosis.

An open mind is kept on the vexed question of endogenous and exogenous infection. The subject is fully discussed under the four headings—tuberculosis in contacts, in specially exposed persons, in persons specially subjected to overcrowding and in the study of the results of measures taken to control infection.

The general conclusion is that super infection is a factor of considerable importance in determining the clinical history subsequent to the primary infection.

The chapter on food and tuberculosis is well worth careful study, and although no final conclusions are reached a high protein diet is favoured and research is suggested on the value of such a diet in the presence of a positive N balance and on its influence on the blood protein pattern in cases of active tuberculosis.

It is interesting to note that when discussing the influence of environment on the development of active disease it is stated that 'Provision of an adequate food supply is far the most important of living conditions in relation to tuberculosis, because the almost universal latent infection will manifest itself as disease in proportion to the severity of malnutrition. Other living conditions are important either as contributory causes of malnutrition or as factors which predispose to infection.' These are probably two of the most important sentences in the book.

Mass radiography is dealt with by Dr. J. Ritchie in a short chapter that contains much information of practical value. It is good to be reminded that accuracy rather than speed should be the paramount consideration, and it is comforting to read that in mass radiography the emphasis 'has again been placed—where it rightly rests—on the prevention of tuberculosis.' The linking up of tuberculin testing, B.C.G. vaccination and mass radiography is also favoured.

Immunization against tuberculosis is given a chapter to itself, which is rather sketchy and incomplete.

More could have been said on the administrative side of B.C.G. vaccination as a preventive measure and the need or otherwise of segregation of persons suitable for vaccination.

In a book of this type it would be unusual if there were no omissions. One would have liked to have seen more reference to education as a means of prevention, to the control of tuberculosis among food handlers and to the risks that healthy children run of contracting the disease in schools and other institutions, but a work that covers every aspect of the cause and prevention of tuberculosis would comprise many volumes, and it is remarkable how much information Dr. Clarke has included in this volume of 288 pages, which has been well indexed and excellently produced.

The book should be read by all chest physicians and medical officers of health as well as postgraduate students of phthisiology.

F.H.

ENDOSCOPY

By EDWARD B. BENEDICT, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S., with foreword by EDWARD D. CHURCHILL. Pp. xiv + 373, with 142 illustrations, 12 in colour. London: Ballière Tindall & Cox. 1951. 76s. 6d.

There is no doubt that Dr. Benedict has carefully compiled and illustrated his book and has rendered an unusual service to medical men interested in thoracic and abdominal diseases. As Dr. Churchill remarks in the foreword, he has considered his findings from the clinical standpoint in spite of the temptation merely to exercise a skill in technique. He has thus achieved a correlated account of bronchoscopy, oesophagoscopy, gastroscopy and peritoneoscopy which will be helpful both to the established specialist and to the student whose future will accept endoscopy as a matter of course. The historical account of the subject indicates how fast it is leaving the hands of the laryngologists to be adopted by thoracic or abdominal specialists.

Dr. Benedict is rightly unique in his work and his services as a teacher. There can be room for but few pure endoscopists. In England, it would be rare to find a surgeon willing to design his operation upon the findings of another man without also seeing for himself. Yet it is difficult for him to learn skillful technique—such for instance as is required in a difficult oesophagoscopy, and it is almost impossible for any one man to see personally during his training a sufficient variety of lesions to be able to diagnose them with certainty.

The advocacy of local anaesthesia for bronchoscopy is generally accepted, but with the advent of the relaxant drugs it is probable that the consequent ease of passage of the oesophagoscope provides a valuable safety factor in the hands of the less experienced, especially in difficult cases. It will perhaps surprise British doctors that the rather narrow parallel-sided Jackson bronchoscope and oesophagoscope should still be preferred to the graded more capacious Negus instruments in common use in England. Moreover, no mention is made of the high-power oesophageal telescope

designed by the reviewer. Visual diagnosis without such a telescope is difficult and uncertain.

With reference to the chapter on achalasia, too much stress has been laid on the Hurst bougie. There is an increasing belief that the days of 'blind' procedures is past. In general, too, oesophago-gastrostomy is not likely to hold lasting favour, because such openings are incontinent and oesophagitis may follow. The modified Heller procedure has much to recommend it, especially in difficult cases.

The cost of the book will detract from its availability to younger men.

DONALD BARLOW

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

By STEPHEN POWER, M.S., F.R.C.S. Pp. x + 380.
London: William Heinemann. 1951. 30s.

As its author points out in his preface, this book contains information about the bricks and mortar which go to make the structure of surgery. It is not essentially a book of minor surgical handicraft, nor a book on the operations of surgery, but is an account of the tactical manoeuvres of everyday surgical practice, with many thoughtful comments on why and wherefore.

There is a certain amount of overlap in the contributions of those co-opted to deal with the special subjects of orthopaedic and children's surgery, but, generally speaking, the author is to be congratulated on the way he has been able to present so much useful information in so compact and yet so readable a form. This is an excellent little book that could be read with advantage by most surgeons, and with interest by all.

BRITISH DENTAL ANNUAL, 1952

Edited by EVELYN SPRAWSON, M.C., D.Sc.,
F.D.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Pp. viii + 283.
London: Butterworth & Co. 1952. 35s.

It is very easy to be critical of a book of this nature, as everyone has his own opinion of what is required in an annual and if only one small item is omitted then a bias is created. It is of more importance to those who purchase books on the recommendation of a review to state what the work has to offer and, in the case of the majority of the readers of this journal, just what it has to offer to members of the medical profession in particular.

Of greatest interest will be the excellent article by G. J. Parfitt on the preventative measures against dental decay, which states the position as it obtains today. The critical survey by B. W. Fickling on the state of oral surgery and pathology covers a wide field and no one could wish for greater condensation than has been achieved.

To those interested in and working on radioactive isotopes there is an informative article from the University of Montreal by Lussier and D'Iorio which surveys the literature on the subject with some thoroughness.

For the rest of the book the contents are mainly those which will appeal to dental practitioners who

are enabled, for a fairly reasonable price, to keep their knowledge up to date.

S.R.

MEDICAL DISORDERS DURING PREGNANCY

Edited by STANLEY CLAYTON, M.D., M.S.,
F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., and SAMUEL ORAM, M.D.,
F.R.C.P. Pp. ix + 341, with 28 illustrations.
London: J. & A. Churchill. 1951. 25s.

Here is an excellent new book of reasonable size edited by an obstetrician and a physician, dealing with recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of the medical disorders that complicate pregnancy. There is no doubt that it will be read by the obstetrician for a clear review of modern medical practice. May we also exhort the physician to do the same to understand better the special problems of pregnancy and delivery in the diseases which he knows so well?

The subjects are up to date, concise and well written with adequate references. The first chapter is an excellent account of maternal physiology during pregnancy and is quite the best in the book. There is a straightforward sound account of heart disease in pregnancy with a courageous attempt to give practical advice on the management of such a case. It is surprising that the work of Hamilton on cardiac output is not mentioned in this chapter. The difficult chapter on albuminuria and hypertension requires special mention with fine accounts of essential hypertension and pre-eclamptic toxæmia. Neurological disorders include maternal birth palsies and polyneuritis and are followed by a most interesting chapter on the psychiatric aspects of pregnancy.

This book is well produced and what we now expect of the publishers. With the obstetrician becoming more medically-minded this essentially practical book will be invaluable and, needless to say, must be read by all postgraduate students concerned.

CLEFT LIP AND PALATE

By W. G. HOLDSWORTH, F.R.C.S. Pp. xii + 126,
with 75 illustrations. London: Wm. Heinemann.
1951. 35s.

This monograph gives a comprehensive review in miniature of the present position concerning our knowledge of this condition. It shows the author has read widely and has presented his knowledge without frills. The technical detail is adequately covered. The greater part of the subject matter is in keeping with the British school of thought on the subject.

It is to be recommended to the young surgeon who finds himself embarking on the treatment of cleft lip and palate. The Final Fellowship candidate might well browse through its pages. The book is nicely presented and the illustrations explanatory.

On page 15 one notes an error in the second and third lines. Figure 18, one imagines, is purely schematic; one is unaware of any authoritative