in the height of summer in the arid interior of Arabia, if properly prepared and deployed with unlimited water and comprehensive medical support.

I am, etc.,

Regimental Medical Officer,
1st Battalion Scots Guards,
British Forces Post Office 64.
September 1970.

BOOK REVIEWS

With Pegasus in India. The Story of 153 Gurkha Parachute Battalion. Colonel F. G. NEILD, L/R.A.M.C.,
Army School of Health, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants. £1.

It is unusual to come across a Bn's history written by the R.M.O. but when one has come to the end of Eric Neild's book one can only regret that other units were not so fortunate as 153 Gurkha Para. Bn. This is a splendid account which I found impossible to put down and I read it from cover to cover straight off.

The author has produced a clear, authoritative and interesting history of his unit and writes so well that the personalities come to life and the events occur before one's eyes. I would think that the book was written fairly soon after the end of the war and this adds greatly to the reader's pleasure as he feels the events are only just round the corner and not almost 30 years ago.

This is a book with something for all of us and shows what singleness of purpose and determination can achieve in the face of difficulties and lack of equipment. It also brings out how vital good leadership and example are in action at any level of rank.

The author writes clearly and well on the military actions in which his unit took part and his narrative is reinforced by maps and diagrams of a very high quality.

Although written entirely as a military history the author brings out plenty of medical points and the importance of good health discipline and man-management.

The writer's narrative is pleasantly free from bitterness or adverse comments on others and I found his sense of fun refreshing and especially enjoyed his story of a Q.A. Officer asking a parachutist not to land on the point of a lightning conductor!

The book is splendidly printed and produced and astonishing value for only £1. It is noted that any profits will go to the Gurkha Welfare Appeal.

If a second edition is called for I hope that, in accordance with current practice, a brief biography of the author will be printed inside the cover as I am certain that the Author's readers will wish to know something of him.

I am confident that this book will enjoy the success it merits and can unhesitatingly recommend it to our readers.

A. MACLENNAN


Walter Henry (1791-1860) the author of these memoirs served as an Army Surgeon from 1811 until 1855 in many parts of the world and gave a most vivid and amusing account of his experiences in his "Trifles from my Portfolio" first published in Canada in 1839 and re-published in England in 1843 as "Events of a Military Life". Both have been over a century out of print and are quite unknown to most readers apart from Henry's description of his first aid post at the Battle of Vittoria and his description of the post-mortem of Napoleon which are occasionally quoted.

I read "Events of a Military Life" many years ago and enjoyed it so much that I always hoped it would be reprinted. Thanks to Chatto & Windus this hope has now been fulfilled.

Henry reveals himself as a happy and kindly individual who is always prepared to make the best of any situation and who is never averse to telling a story against himself. He at once captures his reader's affection and in his company one samples the joys and sorrows and the adventures and misadventures of an Army doctor's life in the first half of the Nineteenth Century. Henry has a good eye for detail and a gift for racy narrative so that one galleys along in famous style from adventure to adventure quite in the manner of Charles Lever's heroes! How refreshing to find a doctor who joined the Army to have fun and adventures and found both. Would that we saw more of the same breed!

Brigadier Hayward, who is himself the son of an R.A.M.C. Officer, has proved to be the ideal Editor. He has wisely based this edition on Henry's first and more spontaneous text and has provided an admirable introduction as well as excellent notes and clear maps. The book is very well printed and produced and at 45/- represents excellent value. This volume is a must for all our readers and is worthy of every success.

A. MACLENNAN


This volume is in a sense the partner to "Teaching First Aid" though of course it can be readily used on its own.
Surgeon Rear Admiral S. Miles has made as good a job of editing this volume as he did of "Teaching First Aid" and in consequence the reader is presented with a clear and concise account of First Aid which is a pleasure to use. Both this volume and the "Teaching First Aid" are well produced, and printed and really are handbooks in size. Clear illustrations and a good index add to its value. It can be recommended most strongly and I am sure will have the success it so justly merits. A. MacLENNAN


This small book is, as its name indicates, a guide for those teaching first aid. Both Medical Practitioners and First Aid Instructors will find it of value. The book is admirably clear and concise and is divided into two parts viz.:—What to Teach and How to Teach. I found the second part on How to Teach particularly helpful and I am sure that my views will be shared by others. Not a word is wasted in this book and it is packed with valuable information. A particularly good feature being the admirable glossary. This is a "must" for all First Aid Instructors in our Service and I would recommend it most strongly. Might it not be made an official issue? A. MACLENNAN


This book presents pharmacology in an attractive and readable way. The style is direct and devoid of unnecessary words and stilted terminology. There are four parts covering General Pharmacology, Humoral Substances and Mechanism, Systemic Pharmacology, and Chemistry. The book should have much general interest and value for clinicians as well as for those whose work involves the study of pharmacology in its various aspects. Metronidazole (Flagyl) is not included in the list of amoebicides, nor are Sulphonamides or Sulphones in the chemotherapy of Malaria. These omissions are of small import in a book of so wide a scope but they are mentioned in the hope that they may be corrected in the next edition. The book contains many chemical formulae. Proprietary names are also included; this should be welcome to clinicians whose day to day language involves the use of these names. As is conceded in the Preface the bibliography has shortcomings and it is hoped will be more comprehensive in subsequent editions.

R. G. MACFARLANE


This small book is no more than its title implies. It is not intended to be a comprehensive text book. There are ten chapters, including two on Disturbances of Immunity, dealing with most of the common disorders of the chest.

The style is direct and clear, the diagrams uncluttered and the radiographic plates are well produced. This book offers a readable discourse on some aspects of chest medicine which will have much general interest and value for clinicians as well as for those whose work involves the study of these matters. As the author suggests the time for greater sophistication in the methods of investigation and treatment of recurrent anterior dislocation of the shoulder may be coming. This monograph could well be the precursor. G. I. SMALL


This small book is directed at a limited public of university tutors and students. Under these circumstances the emphasis on Freudian concepts seems rather unbalanced, and the description of schizophrenic illness under the heading of "Ego Disintegration" confusing. Similarly the emphasis of oral fixation in the pathogenesis of alcoholism is misleading and most authorities would not agree that symptomatic drinking is the commonest source of alcoholism.

The chapters dealing with problems more directly related to the university student such as current student protest and study difficulties contain more interesting material. R. G. MACFARLANE


This is an interesting monograph in which the author details his investigations into the stability of the normal shoulder joint and the three types of variations found in recurrent anterior dislocation. Radiology and electromyography in the living, and cadaveric specimens were used in this project.

As a result of these investigations he has rationalised the methods of treatment which seem best suited to the underlying deficiency in stability. These include muscle transfer, osteotomy of scapula or humerus, bute or vitallium block and the Pugh's capsular block and the Pugh's radiotherapeutic. Results in seventy one cases are given according to the method of treatment. A list of three hundred and forty six references is included.

As the author suggests the time for greater sophistication in the methods of investigation and treatment of recurrent anterior dislocation of the shoulder may be coming. This monograph could well be the precursor. G. I. SMALL


The format of this book is good. It is of a convenient size for the learner to carry at all times. The inclusion of blank pages enabling the learner to make notes is ideal, but a blank sheet should follow each procedure. The contents of the book are concise but some of the procedures are outdated and it does not meet the needs of those who are accustomed to using items issued by a Central Sterile Supply Department.

MARJORIE E. SMART