conservative approach to the problem, but it does illustrate that in young healthy subjects the conventional physical signs of abdominal catastrophe are often minimal.

My thanks are due to the Consulting Surgeon, NORTHAG, for his consistent support and assistance.

REFERENCES


Book Reviews


This book is well known to all surgeons in the Corps. The surgery of the abdomen is again excellently presented and there is a masterly chapter on amputation by Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor. The chapters on orthopaedic surgery are not wide enough in scope or details and the chapter on operations on blood vessels does not include the modern trends in arterial grafting or agree with our ideas on varicose veins. But we look forward to Volume II of this new Edition. Like Volume I, it is sure to reflect the surgical wisdom of Grey Turner. This is a standard book which must be in the surgeon’s library.

C. M. M.


This edition surveys all the increase of knowledge gained during the past four years, but the basic essentials of neurology—the anatomy and physiology in relation to signs and symptoms of diseases of the nervous system—are still one of the principal features. Up-to-date knowledge on subarachnoid haemorrhage, injuries of the brain, meningitis and the nervous complications of miscellaneous infections such as infective hepatitis, glandular fever and typhus fever, are of special interest to medical officers in the Services.

The chapter on virus infections of the nervous system is perhaps the most important one for medical officers in the tropics. This section includes poliomyelitis which takes on a severe form in warmer climates, rabies and the nervous complications of anti-rabic treatment (a question occurred on this in the last
D.T.M. & H. paper) and Japanese B. encephalitis: The latter disease is now known to be more widespread over the Far East than was originally thought. There is extensive literature in American journals and text-books relating to it; one wishes more of this had been included in this edition.

Nutritional neuropathies of obscure origin, especially in the tropics, interests those medical officers looking after African and Asiatic patients. Only one page is devoted to this subject, however.

Neuropathy and myopathy associated with carcinoma is an interesting and necessary addition included in this volume. Of common and particular interest to Service doctors is the section on migraine, epilepsy, syncope and vasovagal attacks. This edition is a mine of up-to-date information.

W. D. H.


This book is a translation of a series of Cajal’s neuro-anatomical papers, which have hitherto only been available in Spanish or in part in German translation. The book is extremely well produced and illustrated and deserves a place on the shelves of any medical reference library, though it is hardly likely to command a wide circulation. The translation is excellent and most readable.

J. L. W.


This book is a very complete and detailed one of its kind. It contains a good deal more than it is necessary that a medical supervisor or administrator should know. It is in fact, what it purports to be, a "text-book" of occupational therapy. The author gives a balanced and reasoned view of the subject-matter, chiefly with reference to psychological medicine, though much can be found of value and interest to occupational therapists concerned with general, special, orthopaedic and surgical hospitals. He is rightly insistent that occupational therapy is primarily a form of treatment modified for each individual patient.

R. G. D.


Despite its title, when the companion volume on toxicology is added, this book will be little shorter than existing text-books on forensic medicine.

The author tries to make a virtue of the absence of pictorial aids which, he implies, distract the reader's attention from the text. Few will agree with this premise. However, their absence keeps the cost of publication down to a reasonable figure. In their place he uses case reports and these increase the readability of the text and create an additional market, for lawyers and journalists should find this a useful book.
An innovation in this type of text-book is the comparatively large space (about a hundred pages) devoted to subjects wherein the medical practitioner may find himself concerned with the law. Too often in the past it has been left to the Medical Defence Societies to inform practitioners on these matters.

The reader will conclude that forensic medicine is very much a specialized field for the expert, and if he previously wondered why medical evidence is so often conflicting he will appreciate the reasons better.

Finally, the printing and the index deserve a word of commendation, the latter particularly making this a suitable work of reference.

H. R. M.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
MEDICAL SERVICES. Commands. Edited by S. C. Rexford-Welch. Vol. II.

The second volume of the Royal Air Force Medical History deals with the nine Home Commands and three closely allied formations—the Second Tactical Air Force, the R.A.F. Regiment and No. 60 Group. The Commands in the title are not geographical as the Army reader might expect.

Each narrative begins with an introduction giving an outline history of the Command and an account of the operational background. This is invaluable in co-ordinating the medical picture.

As the scene is mainly set in the United Kingdom where the environment was already well under control Preventive Medicine does not play the decisive part which is normally to be found in any medical war history. Nevertheless it still accounts for a substantial portion of the technical material. There is a full account of the steps taken to deal with operational casualties and the volume throws some interesting light on problems peculiar to Aviation Medicine; indeed much of this material is hitherto unpublished.

In the chapter on Maintenance Command there is an admirable synopsis on the problems of Industrial Hygiene. The variety of these problems is greater than one might have expected.

There are some interesting details on “Flying Stress,” a term synonymous with the Army’s “Battle Exhaustion.” The extent of the problem is not clearly indicated, but a heavy incidence in Bomber Command, where the individual faced a hazardous and uncertain future, is only to be expected. Although much was done in the way of leave, recreational amenities and the best possible living standards for aircrew, heavy casualties in the Command must inevitably have lowered morale. Nor did the airman have the traditions and corporate strength of the Regiment, by which the soldier was able to sustain himself to such a large extent when he was exposed to combat stress.

Those of us who have had experience in assessing volunteers for parachute duties will be interested in the pages on Parachute Training. In particular the graphs correlating injury rates with age, height and weight are of great interest and fully justify the existing physical restrictions on the acceptance of candidates.
The volume contains a great deal of useful information and the illustrations are an improvement on the previous one. In addition there are numerous maps and figures which help to illustrate and clarify the text. A feature which still leaves further room for improvement is the index. It should be full enough to enable an administrator or historian to turn up a point of reference readily.

Nevertheless the general editing and writing of the book is deserving of the highest praise.

H. R. M.


"Bentley and Driver" has been for many years a very useful text-book on the chemistry of drugs listed in the British Pharmacopoeia, suitable for those studying for examinations in pharmaceutical chemistry and others concerned with the chemistry of drugs. A new edition of the B.P. has called for a revision of the book, and this has been ably carried out by Dr. Driver.

The general lay-out of the book follows previous editions, but the contents of the various sections have been altered. For example, chromium salts are omitted but helium is added; simple heterocyclic compounds have a section to themselves instead of being mixed with the section on alkaloids. Elementary analysis of inorganic compounds ("group tables") has been replaced by a description of some of the organic reagents used in testing for metals. Sections such as that on the vitamins and synthetic medicinal chemicals, together with other sections have been rewritten or brought up-to-date.

The book is well written with good clear printing, free from any obvious errors and very easy to read.

S. E.


Dr. Alan Mozley has published a fifth handbook on the subject of disease-bearing snails, entitled *Sites of Infection: Unstable Areas as Sources of Parasitic Diseases, Schistosomiasis and Fascioliasis.*

The author reminds us that the parasitic diseases of man and domestic animals are limited in their distribution, and that, if the whereabouts of the parasites are not accurately known beforehand, man-made changes in their environment may lead to their sudden multiplication and the causation of epidemic disease.

The series of handbooks does not concentrate so much on formulae for the destruction of harmful species, as on methods for the study of the organisms in all their aspects.

To assist investigators, Dr. Mozley gives some fourteen principles of ecology, to be applied when local parasites are being studied. This method, he feels may lead to the prevention of epidemics of the kind that have occurred in the past when parasites have obtained the upper hand, following suitable changes in their environment.

J. H. G.

A text-book of small dimensions cannot pretend nowadays to cover adequately the whole field of Ophthalmology, and the author has wisely stated his aims at the start. That he has covered the ground he may fairly claim, there being sections devoted to anatomy, physiology, optics and to diseases of the outer and inner eye, and the book has many attractive features, being well laid out and containing numerous excellent illustrations and clear diagrams.

The style, however, makes reading by no means easy, and simplification would add vastly to the value of the text; further, the somewhat facetious remarks to be found here and there seem out of place and would be better omitted.

A number of mistakes occur in the illustrations or their description, and it is presumed that magnification, and not dioptres, is intended in the specification of the loupe recommended on page 252. Moreover 6D of accommodative power seems rather little in adolescence.

The numbering of the illustrations seems unnecessarily complicated without facilitating ease of reference, and the index could be amplified with advantage. While there is much to criticize, including the high price, the book has much to offer and defects will no doubt be remedied in future editions.

J. B. G.
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