BOOK REVIEWS


Although it seems an impertinence to begin a review of this fascinating book by introducing its distinguished author, it is a shock to realize that to many junior officers he may well be better known as the President of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and a lecturer in Oxford University, than as a former D.G.A.M.S., and one of the most inspiring lecturers who ever stirred young R.A.M.C. officers to high endeavour in the professional life of our Corps. His subject, the Appin Murder, needs no introduction to most Scotsmen—it is part of our national historical heritage. When, as a boy, I stayed in Invernahyle House in Appin it would have been as unthinkable for any gillie or farmer to be without a personal opinion on this ancient mystery as for his counterpart today to be without a theory about the Loch Ness Monster.

James of the Glen does not need the advocacy of any Professor from the Home of Lost Causes. His innocence of complicity in the crime for which he was hanged has been universally accepted for generations. But it is a much more difficult matter to determine who was, or were, guilty, and Sir William MacArthur, who has for many years been an acknowledged authority on this subject, gives us the benefit of his deep and original researches in an enthralling and scholarly historical essay. He does not accept the facile theory that it was all just an affair of “political necessities and clan hatred”; and the somewhat flabby kind of pseudo-Highlander who likes to lay the guilt of every old sad tragedy on the Campbell doorstep may be disappointed to find that MacCollein Mór, though not entirely whitewashed, is not cast in the part of First Murderer, whatever Robert Louis Stevenson may have been pleased to say in order to spin a good tale. Could it have been the Camerons after all? If “the Sergeant More” fired the shot he was not the last soldier on leave to commit a crime and to escape to secure anonymity with his regiment overseas. We learn that Alan Breac (pockmarked, not freckled) was no gay Robin Hood any more than poor Glenure was an oppressive, crafty “Red Fox.” Scotsmen, whatever their heads may tell them, tend to be Jacobites with their hearts, at any rate in their youth. Deeper acquaintance with contemporary opinions of “Bonny Prince Charlie,” a music-hall title more commonly used by the English than by the Scots, and such books as The Jacobite General by Katherine Tomasson show the Prince as a rather unsatisfactory character, and compel the sad admission that thousands of his once devoted followers probably hoped for a negative answer to the cry, “Will ye no’ come back again?” It is really rather pleasing to learn from General MacArthur that he did—“There seems to be no doubt that Prince Charles was in London in the summer of 1750, when he is said to have visited the Tower and decided that it would be easy to blow in one of the gates,” So he had “guts” after all.

Those who remember the author’s glowing determination that in Tropical Medicine we should learn “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth” will not be surprised to see the same zeal to share with us the results of his detective activities and research into the Appin Murder; zeal which has caused him to insist that his book though elegantly produced should not be expensive. It is unusually good value for half a guinea.


A well-produced and well-illustrated book on human parasitology which should be of value to D.T.M. & H. students. It is particularly pleasing to find a glossary giving the Greek and Latin derivations of technical terms. All synopses suffer from compression and some facts have to be left out. However, it is considered that other causes of the clinical condition “Creeping eruption” than members of the super-family Strongyloides might have been mentioned.


Antibiotics have probably been a major factor in the reduction of hand sepsis and the emphasis in hand surgery has now correctly shifted to the preservation and restoration of hand-function. This evolution has been most ably served by the authors of this treatise. While an immense amount of care was put into the preparation of the first edition, this new edition has been significantly improved. The main strength of the book lies in its attractive layout and instructive description of the assessment and primary surgery of the injured hand including burns. Their statement that this interesting and practical book, “is meant primarily for the discriminating interest of those who see and treat hand injuries,” can be heartily endorsed. It will be of particular value to Casualty Officers and Registrars, while those with plastic and orthopaedic ambitions will find the chapters on tendon and nerve repair and other plastic procedures of great value. The chapter on hand injuries in children is greatly to be commended. The binding is tasteful and while the photographs are, on the whole, excellent, some
Book Reviews

53


This most interesting report deals with the physics of sterilization, design and testing of the sterilizer and the use of equipment and staff responsibilities, each section contributed by an expert. It is most informative and should be of the greatest interest and use to all who deal with sterilization of dressings and instruments.


The appearance of this small handbook is opportune; the latest information on all aspects of chemotherapy is available here in readily accessible form: it can be confidently recommended to all Medical Officers.

W. R. M. D.


In this full and easily read account of the treponematoses, Hudson's unitarian conception of these conditions is sympathetically reviewed. Sporadic (venereal) syphilis is contrasted with endemic (non-venereal) syphilis. Poverty is a pre-requisite for endemic treponematoses, which once extended to Scotland as sibbens, and Ireland as button-scurvy. There is a full and very clear chapter concerning the serology of these diseases, which is of particular value as so many practising physicians tend to be ignorant of this subject. Classification of the yaws lesions into primary, secondary and tertiary stages is preferred to the W.H.O. classification into early and late lesions, on the grounds that it is the pathological and clinical features rather than the time of occurrence which should be the determining factors. There is a comprehensive treatment of plantar yaws which is of great military significance; in particular, the hyperkeratosis which may arise in the soles of the unshod in the tropics without treponemal infection is well described and illustrated. The importance in backward areas of single-dose treatment by injection is stressed, and the long-acting penicillins lend themselves to this. The writing is clear and the diagrams, unlike so many in current journals, are of real assistance. There is an excellent set of photographs to illustrate each yaws lesion. The author has seen an enormous amount of yaws in the field; the approach is practical and clinical. It is perhaps too long for the average student, but would be an invaluable addition to the library of every military hospital in the tropics.

W. O'B.


This is a monumental work and contains practically everything of consequence that has been written about cholera. It should have the stamp of authority. Opinions of other writers are given too much prominence and one wishes the references and quotations were more eclectic. The voice of the author is sometimes lost in the monotonous drone from the past and one feels that in a work of this sort the opinions of the author on controversial matters should be incisively expressed. There is, too, a certain lack of balance and the practical physician will no doubt feel aggrieved that, in a work of over 1,000 pages, the symptomatology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of cholera is dismissed in a mere 123 pages. Moreover he will search in vain for any reference to steroid therapy—surely cholera offers a field for its employment? Dr. Pollitzer's industry has been truly amazing. He has had much experience of cholera and plague. Indeed his monograph on the latter disease published by W.H.O. in 1954 is already a classic. One feels sure that this companion work is worthy of similar distinction.

R. J. G. M.


This most interesting book has been written by 21 medical men. It draws attention to several matters which need to be repeatedly stressed in the piping days of peace lest forgetfulness and ignorance lead to yet more casualties of carelessness. Much of what is written has a familiar ring to all who have studied the hygiene lessons learned at so great a cost in past wars. The fact that, even in World War II, disease ranked first among the causes of military manpower wastage; the fact that proper indoctrination of Commanders and troops is so vitally important; comparable books and papers are published after every war. This book deals in detail with communicable diseases, spread through the respiratory and alimentary tracts. One is again impressed by the military importance of bacillary dysentery and upper respiratory infections. Bacillary dysentery still wins wars or loses them; memories of Agincourt were echoed at El Alamein, although with different results. The Internationally Quarantinable Diseases did not seriously embarrass the U.S. Army Commanders. 402 cases with 32 deaths was not very much compared with the total of 3,167,326 cases with 3,742 deaths from all infections and parasitic diseases. All who need to study the medical history of World War II

suffer from being too small; for example, Fig 24 shows instruments for hand surgery but they are too small to be clearly identified. The book is far too heavy to carry and hold; on this account it is in danger of being relegated to the Reference Library, a fate it ill deserves, for it should be in the possession of all who seek guidance and instruction in the art of reparative hand surgery. J. M. M.
will find this a valuable book. One section is headed "Achievements and Challenges," it omits the greatest challenge of all, and that is to persuade all military Commanders and leaders to translate the hygiene lessons of World War II into executive action, which can be implemented without fail in future wars.

M. M. L.


This quinquennial publication has been extensively revised and numerous new monographs have been added. Its place as a source of concise information on drugs in common use throughout the British Commonwealth, and in the provision of standards for drugs not included in the British Pharmacopoeia, is amply maintained. The combination of a very full index with the alphabetical arrangement of the subject matter within each of the six parts is particularly satisfactory in a work in which ease of reference is of prime importance. Part I, which deals with general monographs on drugs in common use, occupies two thirds of the total text, and it is suggested that an alphabetical thumb index to this part would further facilitate rapid reference. On the whole, the individual monographs are excellent and up-to-date summaries of agreed modern practice. In certain instances their laudable conciseness has, possibly inevitably led to a certain dogmatism. For example, the account of the action and uses of Bemegride on p. 76 hardly reflects the duiretic effect of mersalyl does not suggest that many practitioners do not consider that this effect is worth the nausea which this salt produces. Few drugs of proved usefulness are omitted. It is surprising that tri-iodothyronine, probably the drug of choice in the treatment of myxoedema, has not been included. These are, however, minor points in an excellent publication which fully maintains the high standard of its predecessors.

R. A. M.


One of the features of the Army Medical Service of the last war was the development of specialist units. Since the war, studies on the value of such units and their integration into the general plan have continued. They pose particular problems of administration and training. In this volume from the medical department of the U.S. Army the history of neurosurgery in World War II is considered. It covers head injuries and a companion volume on injuries of the spinal cord and of the peripheral nerves is promised. Readers of the _Journal_ should find this volume of particular interest, for rarely have the administrative problems in war been so fully set out and discussed. The articles were written just after the end of the War by surgeons who had served in the various overseas theatres and there is much here to interest the administrator and the teacher as well as the neurosurgeon. In the initial period the Americans arranged neurosurgical facilities at their evacuation hospitals and the development of main neurosurgical centres came later. The advantages of concentrating specialized neurosurgical personnel to special areas, as the battle dictated, by a mobile system became apparent with increasing experience. The difficulties of organization are well illustrated, particularly in the chapter on the Mediterranean theatre and for example, the experience at Bizerta. The shortage of staff, the difficulties of communication and the unexpected postings are all here and strike familiar notes. But also in this book is described the solid achievement of an almost incredible expansion of a specialist service which by the end of the war could demand over 21,000 beds in the United States alone and a ratio of one neurosurgeon to every 237 patients. The authors are generous in their appreciation of the R.A.M.C. contribution. Its concept of the mobile neurosurgical unit, the exchange system between base and forward surgeons, the development of the portable neurosurgical operating table, and other points, are all mentioned. To those interested in the clinical aspects of head trauma there are excellent chapters on the routine management of missile wounds, special injuries such as blast concussion, and sequelae such as epilepsy, cranial defects and infection, all well illustrated and produced. The lessons of war are soon forgotten, but here at last is a record and a guide for the future. Those who have responsibility for future planning will be heavily indebted to the sponsors of this volume who had the foresight to see that such a book was needed and succeeded in carrying their project forward.

W. S. L.


This is an excellent little book by a well-known authority. It is engagingly and simply written. The author has a feeling for the history of the subject. The frontispiece is a photograph of Assistant Surgeon Major W. L. Hughes, the Medical Officer who first described Mediterranean fever as a separate disease in 1859. The original is in the Royal Army Medical College Library. There are also photographs of Surgeon Major M. L. Hughes, Sir William Horrocks and Sir David and Lady Bruce. In this book the part played by Lady Bruce in her husband's work, so often unrecognized, is acknowledged. The criteria for the diagnosis of undulant fever are often hotly debated. The rational outlook
and the balanced view of the author are brought to bear on this subject in Chapter 8—and there is a most useful summary at the end. The subject of chronic brucellosis is another bone of contention and the book provides a helpful discussion in an unprejudiced manner. With respect to treatment Sir Weldon supports the findings of the Joint F.A.O./W.H.O. Expert Committee on brucellosis (1958). The tetracyclines are more advantageous than the combination of sulphonamides and streptomycin. For the more severe infections, and for all infections due to Br. suis, a combination of tetracyclines and streptomycin for a period of 21 days is recommended. This book has been a pleasure to read. There are 385 references, an index of authors and an index of subjects.

R. J. G. M.


This monograph is a mainly historical account of the establishment of the Medical Statistics Division of the Surgeon General’s Office of the United States Army. The senior author is well known for his massive volume on Army Anthropology in the First World War, with C. B. Davenport, and for later studies on somatological norms in disease, some in collaboration with L. J. Reed who contributes a preface to the present work. The book begins with an account of the different Surgeons General in the century before the First World War, and traces the growth of a reporting system from the first health reports in 1818 to a system of returns and individual records rather like that used by the Army in this country. Then follows the central section of the book, which is concerned with the First World War and data collected at that time and since analysed. It describes the successful introduction of Hollerith punched card equipment and the medical records which were processed. A point of interest was the adoption in a modified form of the British Field medical card, which had the force of three years’ experience to recommend it. The senior author’s personal recollections go back to this period and before. He was to continue with the statistics organization for much of the time until 1932. A brief account is given of the results of the anthropometrical and other analyses, which have been published elsewhere, based on the physical examination of Selective Service registrants. Other material went back a very long time indeed even before the War, and enabled a long term follow up to be achieved which must surely be unique. The published results in “Human Biology” have become justly famous. The last section of the book covers the period from 1932-57 and discusses the mechanics of collecting and servicing morbidity data very thoroughly. The necessity is stressed for a good basis of registrars and clerks at the hospitals.

S. R.


The reappearance of an up-to-date edition of this valuable reference work is welcome. All medical officers will find this text, which is based on a pharmacological classification, indispensable to their daily work. The glossary and list of equivalent preparations are among the features which add to its usefulness.

W. R. M. D.


This survey of the blindness in West Africa would well repay study by any medical officer expecting to serve in this area. The problems dealt with are enormous and far reaching and cannot fail to interest anyone concerned in the health of the population, whether as a whole or in the sphere of military medical practice. The book is written in clear and concise language, and the absence of unnecessary technical terms makes it a pleasure to read. Part I deals with the geographical and sociological aspects of the areas surveyed, and is illustrated by excellent photographs of the country and its inhabitants. There follows a detailed survey of blindness in West Africa. Part II is devoted mainly to onchocerciasis and gives a clear clinical picture of this disease, which is a cause of so much ocular disability among Africans. The book is profusely illustrated with excellent photographs and with numerous maps and diagrams. In the geographical section there appears to be some confusion between east and west, and between longitude and latitude, and on p. 130 hemeralopia is used to designate night-blindness. However these defects in no way detract from the value of the report which goes far to clarify our knowledge of ocular disease in West Africa.

J. B. G.


The author has stated in his Preface that he has tried to provide an accurate summary of the ways in which various conditions affect many biochemical tests. This he has accomplished in a book which fits snugly into the coat pocket. Tests are arranged in alphabetical order and under each heading are given the normal range followed by physiological and pathological variations. A major reference is given for the majority of the tests mentioned. A few minor misprints are present such as the equivalent weight of calcium being given as 2.0 G., and one cannot agree with the author when he states that, “There does not seem to be any special indication for serum pseudocholinesterase estimations which are technically difficult.” Several tests have been included which the author himself considers of
Book Reviews

debatable value. These have presumably been included to make the book as complete as possible, but might well have been omitted. In spite of these minor criticisms, I consider that this small book will fulfill a need and will be extremely useful to Students, Physicians and Clinical Pathologists. The price, however, appears rather high for a small paper-backed book, likely to be subjected to considerable wear and tear.

T. E. F.


This clinical handbook deals with the causes of common presenting symptoms. Associated physical signs and accessory methods of diagnosis are clearly outlined and the book has won well-deserved popularity. The latest edition has been thoroughly revised and brought well up to date. There are valuable new sections on the use of radio-active isotopes and on drugs as causes of symptoms.

W. H. H.


This publication is styled "A Symposium for Surgeons" and presents in concise form a well selected survey of the current knowledge and practice in the management of peptic ulceration. In his foreword, Dr. Lester-Dragsstedt reaffirms his conviction that hypersecretion of gastric juice is sufficient cause for most chronic progressive ulcers, and that it is of nervous origin in duodenal ulcers and of humoral origin in gastric ulcers. In his preface Professor Wells modestly refers to the exclusion of detail in technical and routine diagnosis: this has allowed the contributors (all of whom have an association with the Liverpool School) full scope in emphasizing many recent advances. Among the chapters of a high standard are those by Sircus on etiology, by Winston Evans on pathology, and by Professor Wells, who offers sound advice on the choice of operative procedure and in the management of the technical difficulties that can arise. Professor Welbourn's chapters on alimentary function and the post-gastrectomy syndromes repay close study. A novel feature is the Appendix with translations of early German papers on gastric surgery. This well-produced book is a significant contribution to surgical literature and will give post-graduate students and general surgeons an excellent perspective in this absorbing field of surgery.

J. M. M.


This book deserves nothing but praise not only for the careful selection of its contents but also for its clear and concise description of disease. That in eight years it has now reached five editions and four large reprints is a reflection of its popularity among students and doctors.

W. R. M. D.


First published in 1898, Rose and Carless has since been translated into Hungarian, Chinese and Arabic and there have been special Chinese and numerous American Editions. Eight years have elapsed since the last edition. The editors have therefore had to rewrite completely and add new sections to maintain the world-wide reputation of this work. New chapters on the Surgery of Malignant Disease, Endocrine Surgery and Pediatric Surgery have been added, and as sections on Orthopaedic Surgery, Otorhinolaryngology, Ophthalmology and Tropical Surgery are already included, Rose and Carless is indeed a complete and comprehensive text book of surgery for the undergraduate student. Great care has been taken by the printers: the paper is semi-gloss and only two printing errors stand out (Pp. 65 and 424). The quality of the numerous illustrations is generally good and they clearly show what is intended. Generally the contents are right up-to-date, well laid out and very easy to read. Bold type headings and liberal use of italics obviate the necessity of underlining for subsequent revision work, but it is unfortunate that the style of the orthopaedic section is in places somewhat ponderous and in parts even misleading; for example, in discussing deformities of the hand, phalanges instead of joints are described as being flexed or extended. The Editors may rest assured that the 19th Edition is well worthy of its famous predecessors. Indeed such is the quality of many of the sections that, although primarily written for the undergraduate, to whom this work is strongly recommended, the Manual will also be of value to post-graduates who wish to keep up to date with the basic principles of Modern Surgery in all its aspects.

W. J. P.


This reference work contains a wealth of information on chemistry and pharmacy applied to medical and veterinary practice. It is especially useful in providing details concerning the new drugs which continue to be introduced year by year. Though written primarily for the pharmacist, its perusal can be recommended strongly to medical officers.

W. R. M. D.

The lay-out and illustration of this book is excellent. There are good sections on Anatomy and Function of the Foot. It is pleasing to see so much space given to a clear description of that important and much-neglected structure—the skin. The chapters on corns and calllosities should be of interest, not only to chiropodists, but also to orthopaedic surgeons. I feel that a little more space could be given to the place offered by surgery in the treatment of the foot. Such manœuvres as flexor to extensor tendon transplant, hydrocortisone injection for plantar fasciitis and Keller's operation among many others deserve prominence. Chiropodists should be in a position to know at what point the orthopaedic surgeon can help. The chapter on Surgical Conditions is disappointing. Are all the dislocations left in plaster for only two weeks? Do we still believe in Sever's Disease? Surely the X-ray in Fig. 129 is now considered to be normal? The general surgeons, I believe, still teach that ganglia arise from synovial sheaths—surely they always come from capsule or ligament? Too little attention usually is paid to shoes and footwear and the views on these are welcome. This new edition will be welcomed by students and practitioners of chiropody; it should be read by R.M.O.'s and used in the training of their foot orderlies. R. H. F.


There is general agreement to-day that the use of nitrous oxide for patients in the dental chair often leaves much to be desired and is not commensurate with the safe and tranquil anaesthesia provided by modern techniques in the operating theatre. Dr. Bourne has been actively interested in this problem since 1947, and in this short monograph sets out the reasons for the failure of nitrous oxide with great lucidity. He stresses the dangers inherent in the inhalation of nitrous oxide, as a sole anaesthetic agent, in the sitting position, with special reference to the serious hazard of fainting. From this wide practical experience and extensive clinical trials and laboratory studies, Dr. Bourne concludes that cyclopropane has many advantages over nitrous oxide for this purpose, and describes in detail examples of simple compact apparatus designed for its safe administration in a non-explosive mixture with nitrogen and oxygen. This book will be read with interest by dental surgeons and anaesthetists alike, and although all may not agree with the author's conclusions, they will find it difficult to refute his arguments. Dental surgeons in particular will surely welcome this "fresh approach to the whole problem of general anaesthesia in ambulatory patients, with special reference to dentistry" by such eminent authority. This is a notable contribution to the literature on the subject, and is of particular interest to Army anaesthetists in providing the background to the development of highly portable apparatus of considerable potential value for the short anaesthetics of mass casualties, and for dental and minor anaesthesia in the field or under other conditions in which elaborate apparatus and medical gas cylinders are not available.

D. V. T. & K. F. S.


An official publication of the Pharmaceutical Society, which gives detailed information on the development and functions of the Society, including administration, activities, education and legal information. The Statutes and Regulations, which comprise about half the book, include complete details of the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts, The Poisons List, The Poisons Rules, the 17 Schedules to the Rules, The Dangerous Drugs Acts, The Therapeutic Substances Act and various regulations dealing with the control, sale and supply of Therapeutic Substances. The book is a comprehensive and authoritative reference for those concerned with Pharmacy.

C. K.


This is a realistic and necessarily brutal appreciation of the problems of Mass Casualty Management. The authors state that the aim should be to save as many lives and limbs as possible with the facilities available, doing nothing more than the bare minimum to accomplish this. This is logical and acceptable to those with experience of war-time surgery or major civilian disasters, but so far removed from peace-time hospital concepts that it is well worth stating. The capabilities and limitations of the layman are discussed, and it is pointed out that he should not be expected to perform functions requiring medical judgment, such as tracheotomy. The tourniquet, it is suggested, should be used only as a physiological amputation to be completed later. This may seem-drastic, but how often are tourniquets ineffective and dangerous even when applied by the medically qualified. The authors advocate the use of local and regional block anaesthesia by paramedical personnel such as nurses and dentists since the service of the skilled anaesthetist may not be available for inhalation anaesthesia. Many might argue that the technique of regional anaesthesia is the more difficult to master. The chapters on civilian disasters and casualty exercises demonstrate only too clearly the difference between the real thing and simulation. A relatively small number of seriously injured patients will completely disrupt the average hospital organization unless there is prior planning and practice. This is a workmanlike and stimulating book with sufficient fact for those of us who are tired of so much theory. D. J. C.

This small and inexpensive booklet, based on the British National Formulary, is an excellent guide to therapeutics in dental practice, particularly to those prescribing under the National Health Service Regulations. This latest edition has been considerably re-phrased and brought up to date as regards the addition of new drugs and the deletion of remedies now discarded, and includes the recent amendments to the lists of Prescribed Drugs under the National Health Service (General Dental Services) Amendment Regulations 1960. In particular, the much criticized paragraph under Control of Infection in the Notes for Prescribers has been completely re-written to good effect. Generally speaking this is an improved version of the 1957 edition, and merits a place in every dental surgery.

D. V. T.


In the preface to his book the author describes how he kept a Medical Scrap Book for 25 years, and has now compiled this work; he describes it as a series of essays on situations and subjects as they occur in clinical practice. He says this method predisposes to repetition, but hopes that it has the advantage of making for easy and leisurely reading. Unfortunately, his rather Jingle-like style of stringing together numbers of short and disconnected sentences does not make for easy reading, and the length of the book is rather daunting. In an endeavour to be comprehensive, the author—in addition to giving his own work—constantly quotes other authorities with the proviso that he has no personal experience of their methods, and also indulges in some rather speculative thinking which leads him to a number of bizarre hypotheses. One learns with interest that the laryngeal spasm of hydrophobia is associated with a low calcium level which gives this spasm; that starch is an excellent haemostatic; that hydrocortizone is a very stimulant drug in peritonitis; that left-sided salpingitis is due to varicocoele of the ovary; that paralytic ileus is due to excess of cholinesterase in the gut which can be counteracted by administering dimethoxyflufurophosphonate; that venereal diseases are not necessarily associated with sexual relations; that rectal saline is superior to intravenous saline in the treatment of dehydration with the advantage that it can be supplemented by milk or thin soup. Although there are some valuable tips on the management of surgical conditions in the tropics scattered throughout the book, much that is written in it is misleading and out of date and it is felt that the author would have done better to concentrate on those particular aspects of surgery relevant to the tropics, rather than attempt to cover the whole field of surgery. To those who may have wondered why books on tropical diseases are so often written by London teachers rather than by workers in the tropics, this book provides a ready explanation.

J. C. W.


This little book gives an up-to-date survey of the pharmacology and therapeutics of the antibiotics and sulphamides as used in ophthalmology. It is divided into three parts, Part I being a brief but useful survey of inflammation, infection, and the basic principles of treatment. The protective, defensive and reparative nature of inflammation is stressed, and where infection is the cause, the importance of establishing the nature of the infecting agent on both clinical and bacteriological grounds is made clear. Part II deals with the pharmacology and therapeutics of the sulphonamides and antibiotics, while Part III deals with specific therapy and covers the infective and inflammatory conditions commonly met with in ophthalmic practice. The book questions the use of these agents in minor infections of the outer eye and caution is advised in the use of steroids in the presence of infection, when suppression of the inflammatory reaction may be unwise. This is a most useful book which gives a great deal of sound advice in a small space, and is well worth the moderate price.

J. B. G.


Once again this collection of valuable data has been brought up to date and is available for ready reference in pocket form. The inclusion of proprietary drugs in the section on Modern Remedies makes the book especially useful to the busy practitioner.

W. R. M. D.


In the young countries of the tropics, there are still many pitfalls of endemic disease awaiting those who would develop these lands. Scrub typhus, conveyed by the parasitic larvae of chigger mites (Trombicula) in the Far East, is an example of such a pitfall, which suddenly yawned during the last war. Today the "Arbor" viruses, transmitted by mosquitoes, mites and ticks are showing themselves to be ever more important and widespread as our knowledge of them grows. Unfortunately, all attempts to study endemic arthropod-borne diseases in these countries, have exposed a serious ignorance of the disease vectors and their natural hosts, so that, if preparation against the unknown difficulties of the future is to be made, it is essential to gather in advance, as much information as
Book Reviews

possible about native arthropods and their associations. It is therefore most pleasing to receive another volume of *Malaysian Parasites, XXXV-XXIX* from the Institute for Medical Research, Federation of Malaya, which is carrying out just such a long-term survey, and, what is very important, publishing individual papers in relevant volumes to aid easy reference. The material in these studies is extremely valuable, but often for the specialist only. For instance, the "means" and "symbols" used in the identification of chigger mite species can only be appreciated by a dyed-in-the-wool acarologist with his "micrometer eye-piece." It is, however, the patient compilation of knowledge such as these keys with their detailed diagrams that will enable the endemic diseases of the future to be controlled.

Some studies, though, are very readable to the non-specialist. The notes on rearing Malayan ixodid ticks are full of interesting data which are easy to understand. For those who have suffered the attachment of blood-sucking ticks, it may give satisfaction to read that an *Amblyomma gessemyde* adult was kept alive without a blood meal for 315 days (though this does not compare with Nuttall's *Ixodes ricinus* which he kept alive without a meal for 315 days (though this does not compare with Nuttall's *Ixodes ricinus* which he kept alive without a meal for 315 days). Another interesting chapter is on the "Host distribution of Malayan ticks," where such curiosities are recorded as hard ticks (e.g., *Amblyomma nitidum*) infesting sea snakes (*Laticauda colubrina*, an amphibious sea-snake). In conclusion, it should be recorded that this rich fund of information on horse flies (Tabanidae), mosquitoes including *Armigeres* (Culicidae), harvest or chigger mites (Trombiculidae), mongoose mites (Cheyletidae), porcupine mites (Dermaerysidae), house rat internal parasites (Mammatoda), and Ticks (Ixodidae), is the result of collaboration by Malayan, British, American and Australian workers, who are unostentatiously helping to lay a sound foundation for health for future generations in Malaysia.

J. H. G.


This is a most useful book for all those called upon to treat patients suffering from "pain" in the back. The 156 pages are full of useful information, well and clearly illustrated. It is easy to read. The author has a sound knowledge of his subject and has put his vast experience at the reader's disposal in a clear, simple and straightforward manner. The book is well worth 15s.

R. A. S.

*Medicine, Science and the Law.* First number of a new quarterly journal. Published: 21.11.60. £3 3s. p.a., post free; 17s. per part, postage 10d.

This official journal of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences is the first number of a new quarterly which is likely to prove a useful addition to any central medical or hospital library. Edited by Dr. Francis E. Camps, it is well produced, very readable and most informative. It is of interest to a wide range which has been started for, particularly, medical examiners, pathologists and psychiatrists. Nearly half the contents of this issue is devoted to abstracts relating to a wide range of professional men, particularly medical-legal implications of a plea of diminished responsibility merits careful attention and study by any doctor concerned with the examination of criminal offenders.

H. P.


This little book succeeds in giving a remarkably up-to-date summary of the treatment of Tropical Diseases. There is little to criticize adversely. There is surprisingly no mention of the value of folic acid in the treatment of tropical sprue. No doubt this omission will be remedied in subsequent editions. The book is most reassuring to the general reader. In this is a pity because it is a disease whose importance is expanding. The author's special experience in the treatment of leprosy has enabled him to give an admirably clear, concise and authoritative account of the treatment. The section on the treatment of the systemic mycoses, which is so poorly tackled in other text books, is well done. Dr. Jopling has provided full references at the end of each chapter. The appendices form a very useful and engaging feature of the book. The appendix on active immunization against typhoid fever, cholera, plague, typhus and yellow fever is especially helpful. The book is a handy size and can be slipped into the pocket. It is just what is required for harrassed students having a final brush up on treatment before the D.T.M. & H. examination.

R. A. S.


This book emphasizes the secondary changes in chronic schistosomiasis of the urinary tract. Besides chronic cystitis, urethral stricture and involvement of the seminal vesicles and prostate, the ureter and kidneys may be affected; secondary contraction of the bladder, ureteric stricture and dilatation may all lead to severe hydronephrosis, and this in turn to uraemia, pyelonephritis, hyper-tension and death. The investigation and treatment of these complications is fully described together with the natural history, symptomatology and signs of urinary bilharziasis. The point is made that so many drugs will rid the urine temporarily of ova without curing the disease. Cystoscopy in this disease is particularly well described. The varying manifestations of the disease in different parts of the African Continent account no doubt for some of the disagreements with other authorities, such
as in the rarity with which they found secondary acute cystitis. The book is written in a clear and
pleasing style, excellently illustrated, and is a valuable addition to any tropical medicine library.

W. O'B.

British National Formulary. Published jointly by the Pharmaceutical Press and the British Medical
Association. Pp. 272. 7s. 6d.

This revised edition has been brought up to date without any change in the familiar layout of the
booklet. Apart from some new additions and omissions the mixture is very much as before. The
juxta-position of the new antibiotics and steroids with Mist Gent Alk and Mist Strych et Ferr
faithfully represents the state of modern medical practice. It remains a most useful reference book.

W. O'B.

Demonstration of Physical Signs in Clinical Surgery. 13th Edition. HAMILTON BAILEY, F.R.C.S.,

The new edition of this well-known and highly successful book has doubled its size since it last
appeared in 1954. The increase is due to a fuller text and to an additional 400 figures. That its success
is assured I have no doubt, and also that it will fulfil the author's claim that it will be of use as a
refresher to the qualified doctor and to candidates working for the final fellowship; but it is still
to the clinical student that this book performs the greatest service. The text has been revised through­
out, being expanded in most instances, and supplemented by the welcome addition of new chapters
on the pharynx, nose and oesophagus. Fortunately in expanding the book there has been no loss of
that direct style of presentation by which Mr. Hamilton Bailey is renowned and which most students
find so helpful. In such a well-illustrated book I feel it is a pity that a number of illustrations leave a
lot to the reader's imagination and some, usually the colour ones, are very poor, e.g., Figs. 38, 55,
62, 66, 76, 376, 402, etc. In a book which depends so much on good illustrations for its teaching
value it is desirable that such a weakness should be overcome. Apart from this criticism I cannot
praise this book too highly; it is a mine of information.

H. S. B.

Handbook of Bacteriology. 10th Edition. A guide to the Laboratory Diagnosis and Control of Infection.

Professor Cruickshank and his collaborators are to be congratulated on producing such a worthy
successor to the previous editions. The book is considerably enlarged and more space is given to the
consideration of viruses and practical methods used in diagnostic virology. The technical methods
are succinctly and clearly described. This new edition will, like its predecessors, be almost essential
as a bench book in laboratories, as well as being valuable to students. The volume is stoutly bound,
a wise precaution since it will, undoubtedly, be referred to frequently.

D. W. B.