

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Irish Regiments in the First World War.** HENRY HARRIS. Cork. The Mercer Press, 1968. Illustrated. 40s.

This is the story of the estimated half million Irishmen who fought with the Irish Regiments and other Regiments and Corps of the British Army during the Great War.

It starts with a Summary of the Army in Ireland up to 1914 and gradually unfolds to take in the major battles of the Great War. It establishes that Irishmen played a prominent part in the British Expeditionary Force to France in 1914, Gallipoli 1915, Serbia and Macedonia, and at The Somme, Messina, Ypres, Passchendal, Cambrai and Palestine.

The Dedication is to the memory of all Irishmen who fought for freedom in 1914-1918 with special reference to those who served in the disbanded Irish Regiments.

Graphic descriptions of heroism abound and it brings to mind clear pictures of the dreadful and almost impossible conditions under which soldiers were required to fight. The author makes constant reference to the official history of the War, and the accuracy of the events described cannot be doubted. This is a book to be enjoyed by the historian and the now sadly depleted remnants of that fine body of Irishmen who to this day retain that spirit of comradeship which carried them through in those dark days.  
W. A. WINTER.

**Surgery in the Acute Abdomen.** Second Edition. J. A. SHEPHERD. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. xi + 741. Illustrated 110s.

This book is a valuable addition to any surgeon's library. It is well produced and the mere handling of it generates a feeling of confidence and authenticity. The print is large and easy to read, and the paper pleasant both to the touch and to the sight. These are very important prerequisites for the reader to absorb the considerable amount of knowledge and obvious experience contained in the text.

There are however to my mind too few illustrations, no doubt with good reason—but the absence of alternatives from the text tends to make it a little laborious.

The content is excellent, it is well written, and deals interestingly and eruditely with the many different problems one encounters in this difficult and generally sparsely documented subject.

The references at the end of the book are very helpful particularly to the junior who is interested in writing papers, and the index efficient.

It is the outcome of much obvious thought and what is more, the result of logical application of that thought on the numerous problems that beset the surgeon in this field of surgery. S. H. JANIKOUN.

**A Practical Guide to the Care of the Injured.** P. S. LONDON. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1967. P. 790. 1194 illustrations. 150s.

This book on accident surgery is the result of much experience and original thought which has come from The Birmingham Accident Hospital. Mr. Peter London has always been a great friend to the Army Medical Services and now his book fills a need.

It is a book which should be read by surgeons with experience as well as those taking their examinations. It then should be kept handy for reference: our copy is used so much that we keep it in the Casualty Department.

The field of accident surgery is covered in detail and one is stimulated by Mr. London's particular style of writing. I find it refreshing to read a book which is down to earth.

There is a tendency in medicine to follow slavishly on old methods because we have become so used to them. Treating carpal scaphoid fractures in plaster for months is one of them. Mr. London now shows us the sensible approach: "To treat the wrist and not its X-ray shadows". His section on the abdomen is excellent and the need and indications to perform laparotomy is stated clearly—it should be done more often than in the past.

If this book is used as a guide our treatment will be based on sound foundations. R. H. FREEMAN

**Nelson and His Surgeons.** P. D. GORDON PUGH. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. P. 68. Illustrated. Paperback 15s. Cloth 30s.

Surgeon Captain Pugh produced an exhibition of Nelson relics at a recent British Orthopaedic Association meeting at Haslar and has now written this delightful volume on the hero's medical history.

Nelson had many fevers and wounds during his service life and was often depressed about his general health and yet at autopsy his organs "rather resembled those of a youth than a man in his forty-eighth year". The amputation of his right arm is described, the cause of the loss of sight in the right eye is discussed and the details of his mortal wound at Trafalgar are recorded.

The presentation is excellent and the multitude of illustrations make this a fascinating book to read. It is highly recommended.  
P. R. WHEATLEY

**Drugs and Pharmacology for Nurses.** Fourth Edition. S. J. HOPKINS. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. viii + 349. 28s.

The fourth edition of this classic text book is as good as its predecessors.

It is very comprehensive and the author deals with a difficult subject in a clear and readable manner.

Not only is it a valuable text-book for student and pupil nurses, but would be invaluable as a reference book to the medical and nursing staff working in wards of military hospitals. J. M. ORFORD.

**Companion to Surgery in Africa.** W. W. DAVEY. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Pp. xviii + 356. Illustrated. 90s.

The Author wrote this wonderful book for surgeons working in Africa, but he could as well have written a companion to the Field Surgical Pocket Book. Two groups of diseases are described. Firstly tropical surgical conditions seen in Africa. Some of these are unique to Africa, but others such as Tropical Ulcer, Chronic Lymphoedema, Leprosy, Snake Bite, Amoebiasis and Typhoid Fever are found in many areas in which we serve, and are conditions we are called upon to treat. Secondly there are surgical conditions well known to us at home, but presenting particular problems in Africa. Almost identical problems occur in locally enlisted personnel overseas.

Each condition is dealt with in detail and depth, but with a clarity, brevity, and style that makes this the most readable text book I have read. The production is magnificent.

I am sure that this most helpful book will be welcomed by all surgeons practicing overseas. It should certainly be in every hospital library. I. M. CRAN.

**Fractures of the Facial Skeleton.** Second Edition. N. L. ROWE and H. C. KILLEY. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. xviii + 896. Illustrated. 220s.

This book towers above all others in this field. It is beautifully written and excellently illustrated. The authors, who have vast experience of maxillo-facial injuries, have co-opted eminent specialists in related fields and the result is a book which is the classic on the management of facial injuries. It will be used all over the world and no hospital dealing with trauma can be without this book.

I do not agree with many of the observations on Acrylic Resin Cap Splints in the chapter of Maxillo-Facial Technology but this is a minor criticism. J. H. ROBERTSON

**Surgery of Repair as applied to Hand Injuries.** Third Edition. B. K. RANK, A. R. WAKEFIELD and J. T. HUESTON. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1968. Pp. xv + 350. Illustrated. 75s.

Although this book may appear to have interest for the specialist only, it can be recommended to all who may be called upon to treat any injuries of the hand. It explains the magnitude of the problem and emphasises the importance of the initial treatment, giving excellent guidance for management at this stage.

From this one is led naturally to the management of residual deformities and reconstructive surgery, which are explained in detail.

Throughout one senses that the knowledge is imparted from experience, and for this reason is of greater value. It would be beneficial for all, from R.M.O. to Consultant to read this book. G. SMALL.

**Hamilton Bailey's Emergency Surgery.** Eighth Edition. Edited by T. J. MCNAIR. Bristol. John Wright & Sons. 1967. Pp. xv + 1026. Illustrated. 168s.

The object of this book is to help the isolated surgeon to manage any surgical emergency. Most service surgeons are isolated and all of us are in need of help in the broadening and fast moving field of surgery. This book covering every conceivable emergency situation, at home and abroad, might well have been written for us. This new edition made enjoyable reading, especially the very valuable chapters on vascular surgery by Mr. Allan Clain.

Advice on evacuation of patients from peripheral hospitals to specialised centres would be a help to many besides service surgeons. To quote a few examples, the descriptions of the management of atresia of the oesophagus, diaphragmatic hernia, paraplegia, and severe head injuries could well have included paragraphs on the advisability and method of moving such patients.

The chapter on wound management is excellent. However, although written for the civilian surgeon, it would be wise to mention the specific wound made by a high velocity missile.

In the chapter on laparotomy a mid-line incision is advised in the upper abdomen, and the comment made that the incidence of incisional hernia is not greater than with other incisions. One sees so many hernias through mid-line scars that it is difficult to accept that, world wide, the incidence of hernia is not greater from this incision.

In a book of this size and scope there must be statements with which one disagrees. For instance the immobilisation of a compound oblique fracture of the tibia by a single screw and to choose this method because of the inexperience of the operator must be dangerous advice. And, on a more academic level, it is surely incorrect to ascribe gangrene of the fingers to Raynaud's Disease. However, such points as these in no way detract from the immense value of this book.

It should be in every library and, perhaps more appropriately, in every theatre. I. M. CRAN

**A.B.C. of First Aid.** Reprint. Foreword by F. C. HILTON-SERGEANT. London. Educational Productions Ltd. 1968. P. 44. Illustrated. 3/6d.

A handy reference booklet. The system of arranging the contents in alphabetical order is of great help when compared to a normal index method, and the cross-references to associated conditions is considered good.

There are however some First Aid procedures which are at variance with the current Joint Manual of First Aid of BRCS, St. John Ambulance and St. Andrews Ambulance Association.

To point at one instance, the subject of Resuscitation combined with External Heart Compression (page 28). It is stated that if a rescuer is alone and has to carry out both procedures the drill is 3 inflations followed by 20 compressions. This is contrary to the generally accepted drill of one inflation to 5 or 6 compressions whether alone or assisted.

Although this booklet is stated to be a manual of introduction it is more suited for the housewife or small workshop without trained First Aiders. J. S. R. REYNOLDS.

**A Short Text Book of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.** J. N. ASTON. London. The English Universities Press Ltd. 1967. Pp. vii + 307. Illustrated. 27/6d.

Here is another volume of the University Medical Texts paper back series.

Mr. Aston has covered the field of orthopaedics and traumatology in 295 pages.

There is a useful summary at the beginning of each chapter and the book serves to tell students what the common conditions are and the principles underlying each.

For undergraduates with so much to learn these days a book such as this is ideal. The more detailed and complicated books baffle the student particularly in the minor specialities, and this is probably why we find that they have never heard of common conditions such as de Quervain's, mallet finger, and tennis elbow. This book is sufficient to get a thorough grounding in what is common and a general picture of the whole field of the speciality.

R. H. FREEMAN.

**Medical Tales from 'Blackwood'.** Various Authors. London and Edinburgh. William Blackwood & Sons Ltd. 1968. Pp. v + 306. 21s.

In the past Messrs Blackwood have issued collections of tales from their magazine and a second series are now on issue including "Medical Tales". This is a well produced and printed volume containing sixteen stories of which those written before 1940 are of a high standard. It is a book which will appeal to Service readers as many of the stories deal with war. In particular I found "A Napoleonic Surgeon" of interest. This deals in a lively and informative manner with the career of Baron Larrey and is in marked contrast to the Baron's Memoirs which were first issued in an English edition in the 1840's and which I found as dull as ditch water when I read them many years ago.

I was interested to learn from an account of an Irish Ambulance Unit in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) that the German Armies thanks to a 100% vaccination state escaped from a smallpox epidemic which ravaged the French Armies and the civilian population. Many of the other tales are equally of interest but it would be unfair to quote from them and spoil the reader's anticipation. One grave defect of this book is the complete absence of an introduction or foreword—the few notes inside the dust-wrapper being quite inadequate.

One can thoroughly recommend this book to any reader who can borrow it as I imagine that most readers like me will consider 21/- an excessive price to pay for a small volume of reprints.

A. MACLENNAN.

**Practical Standards in World War II.** Prepared and Published under the direction of Lieutenant-General L. D. Heaton. Various authors. Washington, D.C. Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army. 1967. Pp. xxi + 356. Illustrated. \$3.00.

The concept of the right man in the right job in the right place at the right time is one which must be the concern of all employers (in the broadest sense).

When the organization concerned has, in this context, a responsibility of the magnitude shouldered by the U.S. Army in World War II, the fulfilment of such a concept is a formidable task.

In the opening chapter of this book, it is stated "The Army Medical Service has a three-fold concern with physical standards (1) Writing the standards to meet the needs of the country, (2) applying the standards during entrance or separation physical examinations, and (3) keeping personnel physically qualified to meet such standards between acceptance and separation through the application of modern principles of preventive and curative medicine."

In the chapters which follow, is a description of how these responsibilities were discharged. Inter alia, emphasis is laid on the need for flexibility in order to make the most effective use of available manpower. The first five appendices set out in detail the standards required by and instructions on the medical examination of various categories of personnel, while the sixth is a tabular summary of conditions acceptable for general or limited service, or which are regarded as rendering a candidate unacceptable.

While it is evident that this publication is of the utmost interest and value to all military men, medical and non-medical, who are concerned with the placement and employment of the soldier, it can also be recommended to those who have comparable duties in the fields of commerce and industry. H. G. SKINNER

**The Healers. The Doctor, then and now.** K. POLLAK and E. A. UNDERWOOD. London. Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd. 1968. Pp. x + 246. Illustrated. 50s.

To anyone who is interested in the history of medicine and its development *pari passu* with the changing social scene, this book can be thoroughly recommended.

In a series of well-illustrated chapters, the reader is transported from the era of 'doctor of the cave' to the practice of medicine as one knows it today. The coverage is global, and the scope of the material is correspondingly wide, ranging from the training of the medical man to the distinctive clothes which he has worn, from legal and ethical considerations to a dissertation on the occupational hazards of doctors.

By the manner of its layout, with its clear subdivisions of chapters, it is a book equally suited to the "bed-time dipper" and to the "complete reader".

H. G. SKINNER.

**Erratum**

*Volume 114, No. 4, 1968, pages 202 and 203*

**Textbook of Medical Parasitology.** For 58s. now read 67/6d.

**Textbook for Midwives.** Before illustrated insert 50s.

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**JOURNALS RECEIVED**

The following Journals/Publications have been received and are available in the Royal Army Medical College Library.

Archives of Surgery; Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery, The; Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology; Annales Medicinæ Internæ Fenniciæ; Annales Chirurgiæ Et Gynæcologiæ Fenniciæ;

British Medical Journal; British Journal of Surgery; British Medical Bulletin of The World Health Organization; Broadway;

Candian Journal of Public Health; Central African Journal of Medicine, The; East African Medical Journal; Giornale Di Medicina Militare; Health and Safety; Hellenic Armed Forces Medical Review; India News; Indian Journal of Medical Research, The.

Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service; Journal of the Irish Medical Association; Journal of the Remount and Veterinary Corps, The; Journal of the British Fire Services, The; Journal of the Egyptian Medical Association, The.

The Lancet; Leprosy Review; London Hospital Gazette, The; Leech.

Medical News; Medical Bulletin, Medical Digest; Medical Journal of Australia, The; Medicine Today; Medicine Science and the Law; Medical Bulletin of the U.S. Army; Medical Legal Journey, The; Medicine Tropicale; Military Medicine; Military Review; Midland Medical Review; Militarmedizin.

Newcastle Medical Journal; New England Journal of Medicine; New Zealand Medical Journal, The; North Wing; National Defence Medical Journal, Tokyo.

Practitioner, The; Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine; Quarterly Journal of Medicine, The; The Royal Engineers Journal, The; Royal Society of Health Journal; Revue Des Corps Des Armées; Revue Internationale Des Services De Sante; Revista De La Association Medica Argentina; Revista Portuguesa de Medicina Militar.

St. Bartholomews Hospital Journal; Starlight; Soldier; Scottish Medical Journal; South African Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; South African Journal of Medical Sciences, The; South African Medical Journal, The;

Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Tropical Diseases Bulletin; Ulster Medical Journal, The.

Who Chronicle; Wish Stream, The; Wehrmedizinische Monatsschrift; Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine, The.

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**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

British Drug Houses, Complete list of Lovibond Analytical Tests; Illinois Biological Monographs; Institute for Medical Research Report, Kuala Lumpur; Polish Medical Science and History Bulletin; Star & Garter Magazine, The; Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; W.H.O. Technical Report Series.

**JRAMC**

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