

Reviews.

MOTHERHOOD: A GUIDE FOR MOTHERS. Guildford: Cow and Gate, Ltd. 1934. Pp. 246. Price 1s.

This book, now in its fourth edition, is excellently printed and illustrated, and contains much information in simple language which should be of the utmost use to mothers and expectant mothers. It deals with such diversified subjects as vitamins, the premature baby, baby's advice to mother, mixed feeding, preparing for baby's arrival, recipes, etc., and contains much other sound advice to mothers.

The splendid photographs of the numerous prize-winning children at various competitions, fed on the products of Cow and Gate, indicate the quality of the infants' foods issued by this enterprising firm.

It is excellent value for one shilling.

RHEUMATISM IN GENERAL PRACTICE. By Matthew B. Ray, D.S.O., M.D.(Edin.). London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1934. Pp. viii + 404. Price 16s. net.

Dr. Ray brings a wide experience of all manifestations of rheumatism to his aid in writing what is in many respects a pioneer work.

The book is an important contribution to medicine because we here have this difficult group of affections systematically analysed and dealt with under their several distinct headings.

When such an authority as Lord Horder writes a favourable foreword, a detailed review becomes unnecessary, but we would especially draw attention to the chapter on Rheumatism in Children which should be read by every doctor.

Among other excellent features of this book one may mention the clear analyses of such conditions as rheumatoid and osteo-arthritis with the excellent X-ray reproductions of the essential changes in these diseases.

This book is likely to be a standard reference work on the subject of "rheumatism" for a long time. J. H.-S.

STUDENTS' POCKET PRESCRIBER AND GUIDE TO PRESCRIPTION WRITING. By David Mitchell Macdonald, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1934. Pp. 263. Price 3s. net.

The tenth edition of Macdonald's Pocket Prescriber is to hand. It follows the usual lines of pocket prescribers containing posological tables, directions for dieting disease, hints on prescribing, etc. A large part of the book is devoted to prescriptions recommended for different affections. Many of these are good, but some appear to owe their continued presence to the mere fact that they have come down to us from the dim past. Some are definitely bad, as for instance the exhibition of astringents and opium in cholera where success so much depends upon avoiding such drugs. We frankly do not like *hypodermic* injections of quinine in malaria, nor are we impressed by a combination of turpentine and opium in acute dysentery.

These may be some exceptions in an otherwise good little book, but the modern student deserves better guidance than he is likely to obtain from some of the contents of this pocket prescriber in its present form.

J. H.-S.

HANDBOOK OF THERAPEUTICS. By David Campbell, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1934. Pp. xx + 444. Price 12s. net.

The second edition of Dr. Campbell's book appears four years after the first publication and will be welcomed.

In spite of its modest size, this is a very comprehensive work and covers the whole ground of modern therapeutics.

The first chapters deal with drugs, prescriptions and modes of administering remedies. There are sections devoted to vaccines and sera, and to massage and electrical treatments.

The main part of the book deals with the appropriate individual treatment of different diseases and will be found useful as a reference volume.

We do not, however, agree with the wisdom of waiting for bacterial diagnosis in acute bacillary dysentery before employing serum—at least not in the tropics, and the author makes no mention of the safer preparations of antimony now used in leishmaniasis. No book of this size can, however, contain everything, and it is in no carping spirit that we mention some minor omissions.

The volume will be of considerable value to students and practitioners who require a handy reference work. The type is excellent, and the illustrations are good.

J. H.-S.

A SYNOPSIS OF HYGIENE. By W. Wilson Jameson, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., and G. S. Parkinson, D.S.O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Fourth Edition. London: J. A. Campbell. Pp. vi + 619. Price 21s.

The value of this book to public health students is apparent from the fact that a fourth edition has now become necessary.

In this edition the subject matter has been completely re-arranged; meteorology has been relegated to an appendix, while certain statistical matter and the appendix on public health chemistry appearing in the previous edition have been omitted.

In spite of the saving of space resulting from these omissions the book has increased in bulk by some seventy-four pages of close print, the section on Sanitary Law accounting for a considerable proportion of this increase.

The increasing tendency in public health work to deal by legislation with important matters affecting the health of the people of this country is well shown by the greater space required to deal with the legal knowledge which has become such an essential part of the equipment of a successful Medical Officer of Health. In 1920 this required sixty pages, and, with successive increases in the intervening editions, no fewer than one hundred and four pages are now found to be necessary.

The book is, as such a synopsis ought to be, a mine of useful information of the most up-to-date character concerning all aspects of modern preventive medicine, while the practice of giving references in the text to documents and papers from which fuller information may be obtained has much to recommend it.

The information given is extremely accurate, but in a book of this standard it is surely desirable to describe the mesh of mosquito netting in a more scientific manner than by the old method of the number of holes per linear inch.

In the chapter on Disinfection when discussing the fumigation of ships a considerable amount of space is given up to the consideration of the different methods of applying hydrogen cyanide while the use of sulphur is dismissed in a few lines, the Clayton apparatus not even being mentioned. While it is admitted that there is an increasing tendency to use hydrogen cyanide recent investigations would appear to point to the conclusion that, if attention to detail is given, the use of sulphur dioxide is attended by equally satisfactory results.

The compilation of such a work entails a vast amount of labour, and the authors, including Dr. G. P. Crowden, who is responsible for an excellent chapter on Personal Hygiene, are to be congratulated on the production of a most valuable book which should be in the possession of every candidate for a Diploma in Public Health.

THE LIVERPOOL MEDICAL SCHOOL, 1834-1934. By Arthur A. Gemmell (Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynæcology in the University of Liverpool). University Press of Liverpool. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1934. Pp. 23. Price 1s.

This small book is based on a lecture given to the Medical Students' Debating Society at Liverpool, and it gives a brief history of the teaching of medicine in Liverpool. The School may be considered to have originated in 1789, when the Medical Board of Liverpool Infirmary was made an examining board for the selection of surgeons for slave ships; each of these ships was required by law to carry one surgeon. These duties were carried out till 1802, by which time 634 candidates had been examined and 500 passed.

Interesting glimpses are given of the medical conditions in the early days, tales of the anatomy department and of the state of nursing.

A hint on the selection of candidates for the Army Medical Service in the days when the supply had become greater than the demand may be found in the history of this School. In 1852 the lecturers instituted the awarding of a gold medal to the best student of the year, and the Committee of the Royal Infirmary granted him free residence and a clerkship and dressership for six months.

The author says that the status of the School at this time was so good that two years after the Gold Medal was founded the Director-General of

the Army Medical Service offered to recommend the successful candidate for appointment in the Service.

The pamphlet is illustrated with photographs of old and new buildings of the Hospital and School.

BLOOD DISEASES IN GENERAL PRACTICE. By A. Piney, M.D., M.R.C.P. Pocket Monographs on Practical Medicine. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 1934. Pp. 92. Price 2s. 6d.

Dr. Piney's works on the blood and its diseases are well known, and he has performed a valuable service in giving this short survey of the subject in the latest volume of Bales' Pocket Monographs. He states in the preface that he feels that the book is very incomplete, but he has been remarkably successful in compressing into ninety small pages a vast amount of information presented in a pleasantly readable form.

In the introductory chapter there is a summary of the theories of the development of the blood, so far as they are useful in helping in the study of the various diseases. The following chapters deal with the anæmias of infancy and childhood, the anæmias, hæmorrhagic disease, the leukæmias, polycythæmia, Hodgkin's disease, some diseases of the spleen, glandular fever and agranulocytosis.

The volume can be recommended as giving a very clear and by no means scrappy survey of a subject which is of great importance to every variety of medical practitioner.

MEMOIRS OF A CAMP FOLLOWER. By Philip Gosse. London: Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd. 1934. Pp. xvi + 300. Price 10s. 6d. net.

"Memoirs of a Camp Follower" is a most unusual war book; every chapter is interesting and most contain many amusing episodes. The author, a temporary medical officer and a keen naturalist, served in France and India, visited West Africa, South Africa and Salonika, and travelled through France and Italy on the long troop train journey from Taranto to Havre. He says in the preface that he has forgotten most of the "horrors" of the War and remembers the beasts and birds, about which he makes many fascinating observations which are so delightfully recorded that they will be read with interest even by those whose knowledge of birds is slight. He has also remembered many amusing episodes and is a skilled story-teller. He thinks the fact that the medical branch of the Army was almost the only one which never broke down was probably because the vast majority of the R.A.M.C. officers were civilian doctors.

The author was transferred to India in the autumn of 1917 and was stationed in Poona but managed to see a good deal of South India on troop-train duty and on sick leave. He at once began collecting small mammals and making observations on birds and his seeing eye will probably be envied by many who have served there.

The memoirs form a fascinating volume which is amusing and instructive, and which will bear several readings.