

Reviews.

SURGERY OF MODERN WARFARE. Second Edition. Vols. I and II. Edited by Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1942. Pp. xxviii + 1,000. Price 40s. each volume.

The second edition of this work has now been brought out in two volumes. This is far more convenient for the reader and is a great improvement.

There is a great deal of very practical information in these volumes. Such sections as those on the application and use of plaster of Paris, the use of Cramèr's wire, the details of wound excision, exposures of the main blood-vessels and the management of the bladder in spinal injuries are all most useful. The chapter on wounds of the thorax is excellent.

The Editor, contributors and publishers are to be highly congratulated on the production of a practical and up-to-date textbook on the surgery of modern war.

J. M. W.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF REGIONAL ANATOMY.—In Seven Sections. By E. B. Jamieson, M.D. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1942. Bound Volume 60s.

This is the fourth edition of this series of Anatomical Illustrations and the chief advance is in colour. 163 new colour blocks have been introduced in the fourth edition of Sections I—V, and 79 in the third edition of Sections VI and VII. This has resulted in a marked improvement.

These illustrations are now as nearly perfect as can be imagined. They should be of the greatest value to students of anatomy and to surgeons for a quick revision of any anatomical details.

The author and publishers are to be heartily congratulated on the production of a most useful and practical series of anatomical diagrams.

J. M. W.

A POCKET MEDICINE. By G. E. Beaumont, M.A., D.M.Oxon, F.R.C.P., D.P.H.Lond. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1942. Pp. vi + 202. Price 10s. 6d.

Dr. G. E. Beaumont, already well known to physicians and students as a medical author, has produced a new condensed textbook entitled "A Pocket Medicine." In a light linen cover it is excellently produced, easily readable and wonderfully compact, consisting of only 200 pages. It has what the reviewer considers the advantage of being written in literary rather than in tabular style.

It suffers from the defects common to all attempts to abbreviate a vast subject to bare essentials. Thus there is not sufficient scope for adequate description of the patient's general condition and appearance, and the finer points in history taking, which play so important a part in diagnosis. Though in such a book one would not look for a description of the rarer

diseases or of the less common types and complications of better-known ailments, it is nevertheless true that to most students and practitioners it is the typical case which remains in the memory and the difficult or obscure problem in which we look for textbook assistance. An abbreviated volume, in other words, tends to contain all that we already know and omit that for which we seek guidance. It is, moreover, difficult to point out the importance of one symptom or disease and the relative insignificance of another when explanation must be sacrificed to brevity.

On the whole, Dr. Beaumont has succeeded fairly well, and his remarks on treatment are especially commendable and always up to date.

The section on the nervous system gives a good account of the classical signs of the diseases described, many of which are difficult to remember, but we were surprised to find that meningeal signs in subarachnoid hæmorrhage had been overlooked.

The periodicity of gastric and duodenal ulcer, so often a determining factor in differential diagnosis, is scarcely mentioned, and more stress might have been laid on the dangers of agranulocytosis which is not described as being a serious and often fatal syndrome.

The author in his preface expresses the hope that amongst other uses the book will prove of value to medical officers in the Services proceeding overseas. In this connexion the sections on tropical diseases and on poison gases will especially appeal.

To sum up, then, such a book, though it can never replace a bigger textbook, has a distinct value, and this miniature volume is certainly one of the best of its kind.

R. P.

WAR INJURIES OF THE CHEST. By H. Morrision Davies, M.Ch., F.R.C.S., and Robert Coope, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1942. Pp. viii + 131. Price 6s.

A well produced small book of 131 pages with clear instructive illustrations; the general surgeon who is unaccustomed to thoracic surgery will find the chapter on the anatomical and physiological background and the careful details of the management of hæmothorax of special value. The authors prefer evipan anæsthesia to local anæsthesia for the minor operation of hæmothorax aspiration but the reviewer doubts if the majority of thoracic surgeons and physicians would agree with this recommendation. The advice given about the methods for establishing closed drainage in infected hæmothorax cases is most valuable and should help to disperse the unreasonable objection of some general surgeons to this method which can be employed earlier and more safely than the unphysiological operation of open drainage.

A very full chapter on Anæsthesia by Dr. John Halton discusses the large range of anæsthetics available. A word of caution about the use of intravenous barbiturates (which as the writer says have many uses) is given but the reviewer is sorry to read "Anæsthesia may be induced with ethyl chloride"—surely not a drug for use in thoracic surgery.

A final chapter on "After Care" is most helpful and practical.

The general impression is that major intrathoracic surgery is not the most important thing in the management of war injuries of the chest, though it has its own valuable and dramatic role especially for large foreign bodies.

A. L. D'A.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MASSAGE AND MEDICAL GYMNASTICS. By Beatrice Goodall-Copestake. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1942. Pp. xx + 370. Price 16s. net.

It is a pity that in these days when physical medicine is at last becoming established on a solid scientific footing, that this sixth edition should appear twenty-five years after the first with so little critical examination of underlying physiological principles. The value of massage of the præcordium in heart disease, of abdominal manipulations to increase gastric secretions and of frictions for regenerating nerves is discussed with no less assurance than its proven value in fibrositis. Moreover the ambition of the author is a weak point. One has the impression that the book is intended for the students of massage, the qualified masseuse and the medical practitioner. Valuable space is used in discussing the derivation of words and dates and passages are unnecessarily devoted to such topics as gastric ulcer, diabetes mellitus and insipidus, and chlorosis, this requiring a shortening of the discussion on posture, nerve injuries and sciatica where more instruction would have been helpful. In the chapter on passive movements one is disappointed to find no mention of lateralization of joints as this is considered by Mennell and many others of prime importance. On the other hand there is a good section on the treatment of amputation stumps in the new chapter on war injuries and the book, for which there is an obvious need, is well produced and has excellent plates. It is a pity, therefore, that an attempt to cover too great a field and some lack of critical judgment has reduced its usefulness.

G. D. K.

Notice.

SYNTHETIC VITAMIN K.

Menaphthone-Boots and Acetomenaphthone-Boots are synthetic Vitamin K analogues which have the same physiological properties and are more potent than natural Vitamin K. Menaphthone-Boots is the approved name for 2-methyl-1:4-naphthaquinone and Acetomenaphthone is 1:4-diacetoxy-2-methylnaphthalene. Menophthone and Acetomenaphthone are indicated in the treatment of neo-natal hæmorrhage and in conditions where digestion of fats is disturbed or inhibited, or absorption deranged, e.g. obstructive jaundice, biliary fistula, idiopathic steatorrhœa and cœliac disease.

Literature may be obtained on request to the Medical Department, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Station Street, Nottingham.