

The orthodox method of exposition has been adopted; a short definition of each disease is followed by a concise account of the etiology, pathological anatomy, symptoms, and so forth. Details concerning pathological anatomy have, however, been considerably curtailed, only such facts being included as are indispensable to the proper understanding of the disease. Selection has also been exercised in dealing with the symptomatology. The aim has been to render descriptions as concise as possible, but sufficiently complete to include all cardinal symptoms, while those of minor importance, of inconstant occurrence, or presenting difficulties in clinical demonstration, have been omitted. Technical laboratory methods have been briefly referred to where they constitute important adjuvants in clinical diagnosis.

The arrangement of the book is partly on an anatomical, partly on an etiological basis. The majority of the diseases are described under the several anatomical systems, while the first five chapters are devoted to infectious diseases, parasitic diseases, intoxications, affections due to the action of physical agents, and nutritional diseases. The value of a book of this kind depends, not only on the completeness of the information within the assigned limits, but also upon the information being up to date. The author refers to the difficulty of keeping a textbook abreast of the continuous and rapid advance of medical science. After the lapse of a few years a medical work is antiquated. On the other hand, the multiplicity of medical doctrines with which an author is confronted is disconcerting and suggests reflections as to the possible vanity of certain pathological explanations. In this matter there is room for the exercise of discretion, and the author has endeavoured to include current doctrines which would be regarded as essential in an accurate sketch of the existing features of the science.

#### NOTES ON BOOKS.

PROFESSOR JEAN PIAGET of Neuchâtel has written a most interesting book with the title in its English translation of *The Language and Thought of the Child*,<sup>6</sup> giving the result of a long investigation into the mind processes of the child. How does a child think, and what is the basis of his reasoning? Why does he think and say what he does? Why is his curiosity so easily satisfied (a habit Binet considered one of the features of imbecile mentality)? Why does he affirm and believe things manifestly contrary to fact, and how and by what steps is his incoherence gradually superseded by the logic of adult thought? According to Professor Piaget the problem of the child mentality has been thought of as one of quantity, whereas he states it as a problem of quality. If the child mind appears opaque to adult observation it is because it belongs to a different kind of thought—autistic or symbolic thought—which the adult has long since left behind him or suppressed. Piaget's method has been to let the child talk and to observe the manner in which his thoughts unfold, allowing him to take the lead, and to talk freely with a minimum of questioning. It would seem that up to a certain age the child thinks and acts more egocentrically than adults; children share each other's intellectual life less than we do. When they are together they seem to talk to each other a great deal more than we do about what they are doing, but for the most part they are only talking to themselves. The adult keeps silent far longer about his action, and his talk is almost always socialized. The book is most suggestive and informative, and worthy of close study by teachers and psychologists.

Dr. GANS has sent us the first volume of his monumental work on the histology of diseases of the skin.<sup>7</sup> Although it contains over six hundred pages and is copiously illustrated, it deals only with atrophies, dystrophies, and inflammatory changes due to bacterial infection. The effects of mycotic infections, animal parasites, congenital abnormalities, and tumours are left for future volumes. In contrast with Unna's work on the same subject published in 1894, which was founded principally on that author's personal researches, the present treatise, owing to the great increase of knowledge of the subject, consists

very largely of a critical summary of the results obtained by numerous workers. When necessary, however, the author, who is a highly skilled pathologist himself, indicates his own position when debatable points come under discussion. The illustrations, the majority of which are coloured, are exceedingly clear and helpful, and many of them are drawn from the author's own preparations. The bibliography is full, and well arranged for easy reference. In fact, Dr. Gans has produced a book which deserves the attention of every dermatologist and clinical pathologist, and we hope that the volumes promised for the future will not be unduly delayed.

The first volume of the second edition of Professor TANDLER's textbook of anatomy<sup>8</sup> comprises the sections of osteology, arthrology, and myology—sections which, if they present little scope for originality in the text, are not so unpromising in regard to illustrations; these, reproduced on heavy paper, form in fact the main feature of the volume. As is usual in German textbooks, the mechanics of the various joints are considered at greater length than in English textbooks, while—another generic difference—the paragraphs introductory to the sections are written from a broader general biological standpoint. As an indication of the size of the work it may be stated that the space allotted to each section is slightly less than that given to the corresponding section in *Gray's Anatomy*.

For the last seven years each annual issue of *Burdett's Hospitals and Charities*<sup>9</sup> has been subjected to careful revision and condensation. To a great extent the aim, which is to provide a more convenient though still comprehensive register, has been attained for the time being, and in the thirty-seventh issue, which has just appeared, there is no radical alteration, though it is larger by some sixty pages than last year. A newcomer in its contents is a short statement about the central bureau of hospital information, which is now conducted by the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers, at 28, Bedford Square, W.C.1. This bureau, which was established in 1925, works in co-operation with the Information and Service Branch of the Charities Board of Victoria, the Hospital Board Association of New Zealand, and the Lord Mayor's Hospital Fund of Melbourne. The hope is expressed that further institutions of this kind will appear in other Dominions and outside the Empire. The review of the conditions of voluntary hospital finance indicates that there is steady progress towards a co-ordinated system of hospital services, which will enable the individual units to function more effectually. The directory of institutions includes universities, colleges, and schools; hospitals in the Empire and in foreign lands; educational and charitable funds and institutions; nursing associations throughout the world; and periodicals in the United Kingdom dealing with medicine and allied subjects. As a reference book in these respects this year-book retains its unsurpassed value.

The *Minutes of the General Medical Council and of its Various Committees*<sup>10</sup> for the year 1926 have now been published with fifteen appendixes in a volume which includes the customary detailed reports of the two sessions of the General Medical Council and those of the English, Scottish, and Irish Branch Councils. Sir Donald MacAlister's two presidential addresses, which were published in our columns when delivered (SUPPLEMENT, June 5th, 1926, p. 205, and November 27th, p. 225), are also printed here. The longest of the appendixes comprises the interim report of the Education Committee on the progress made throughout the country towards the readjustment of the medical curriculum in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Council on May 26th, 1922, which came into force on January 1st of the following year. The *General Index* to the Minutes of the General Medical Council and of its Executive and Dental Committees, and of its three Branch Councils, from 1903 to 1926, has also been published. It relates to volumes xl to xliii of the *Minutes*. The plan of previous editions has been followed, and each subject is fully indexed, the references being arranged chronologically, in many cases special subheadings being inserted. Since 1909 this useful work of reference has been kept standing in type and brought up to date from year to year, but in the interests of economy a number of entries are annually curtailed where experience shows that this can be done without impairing the usefulness of the index.

<sup>8</sup> *Lehrbuch der Systematischen Anatomie*. Von Prof. Julius Tandler. I Band, Zweite Auflage. Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel. 1926. (Imp. 8vo, pp. viii + 467; 352 figures. M.36.)

<sup>9</sup> *Burdett's Hospitals and Charities, 1927*. Founded by Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B., K.C.V.O. Thirty-seventh year. London: Faber and Gwyer, Ltd., the Scientific Press. 1927. (Demy 8vo, pp. xiii + 1058. 17s. 6d. net.)

<sup>10</sup> *Minutes, 12s.; Index to Minutes, 7s. 6d.* London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 1927.

<sup>6</sup> *The Language and Thought of the Child*. By Jean Piaget, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel. Preface by Prof. E. Claparède. Translated by Marjorie Warden. International Library of Psychology, Philosophy, and Scientific Method. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 1926. (Demy 8vo, pp. xvii + 246; 2 figures. 10s. 6d. net.)

<sup>7</sup> *Histologie der Hautkrankheiten*. Von Dr. med. O. Gans. Band I. Berlin: Julius Springer. 1925. (Pp. 653; 254 figures. G.M.135.)

*The Dance of Civa: Life's Unity and Rhythm*,<sup>11</sup> by COLLUM, belongs to the "To-day and To-morrow" Series, which are described as written by some of the most distinguished English thinkers to provide a stimulating survey of the most modern thought in many departments of life. The Eastern dance of Civa, a representation of which forms the frontispiece, symbolizes life and death in a rapidly turning wheel, on the top of which a rather weird and scantily clothed female figure is represented as dancing. Written in what some may consider a clever style, with hints of underlying learning, it appears to argue that Western knowledge and culture are inferior to the Oriental. The medical profession comes in for reproaches which, if it reads them, it may accept with chastened resignation.

<sup>11</sup> *The Dance of Civa: Life's Unity and Rhythm*. By Collum. To-day and To-morrow Series. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 1927. (Fcap. 8vo, pp. 94; frontispiece. 2s. 6d. net.)

PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES.

*Ephedrine.*

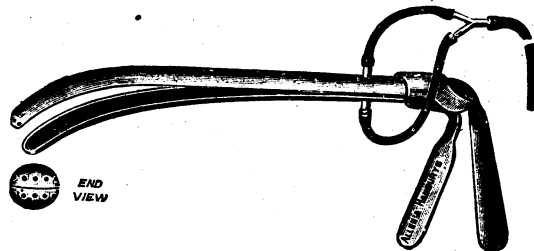
EPHEDRINE is obtained from the Chinese drug Ma Huang, which has, it is said, been used in China since 3200 B.C. The active principle, ephedrine, has recently been introduced into clinical medicine; its full chemical name is  $\beta$ -phenyl- $\beta$ -hydroxy- $\alpha$ -methyl ethyl methylamine. The drug has been introduced to Western medicine by the researches of Read, Chen, and Schmidt of the Peking Union Medical College. Ephedrine is a sympathetico-mimetic amine, and therefore its pharmacological action is very similar to that of adrenaline, but ephedrine has the great practical advantage over adrenaline of being a stable compound that produces an effect lasting for an hour or more when given by the mouth. It produces powerful mydriasis when instilled into the conjunctiva, and when given by mouth is followed by a rise of blood pressure, which commences in about half an hour and lasts for several hours. Ephedrine has been used with success in place of adrenaline in the treatment of hay fever and asthma. The value of adrenaline in therapeutics has been limited by the fact that it cannot be given by mouth and has a very transient action. Neither of these objections appears to apply to ephedrine, and the drug ought to prove of therapeutic value in a number of different ways. The dose of ephedrine is from 1/2 to 2 grains. The drug has been prepared for clinical use by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co. and also by the British Drug Houses.

*Concentrated Scarlet Fever Antitoxin.*

The Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories have produced an interesting new product—a concentrated scarlet fever antitoxin. It has been known for a few years that injection of the *Streptococcus scarlatinae* into horses resulted in the formation of an antitoxin, but progress was hampered by the fact that no animal test was known by which the activity of the product could be measured, and all tests had to be made on human volunteers. A test on rabbits has been discovered that is believed to be satisfactory, and this has rendered possible the production of concentrated serum. The dose recommended is from 20 c.cm. in a severe case up to 50 c.cm. in a very severe case. The antitoxin has proved valuable in a number of trials, but it cannot be expected to produce any direct action on the septic complications of scarlet fever. It is, of course, obvious that a considerable time must elapse before it is possible to make any certain estimate of the clinical value of a remedy of this character. The antitoxin is supplied by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co.

*Uterine Douche Dilator.*

Dr. J. E. HEPPER (Brenchley, Kent) has devised an instrument for rendering uterine lavage more effective. The uterine douche dilator shown in the illustration is made in two halves, which, when closed, resemble an ordinary uterine douche. Each half is hollow and is perforated at the distal extremity, so that fluid will pass through it and be sprayed out at the end. The douche



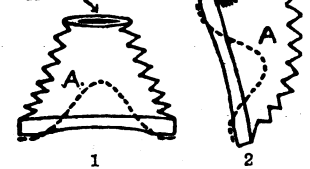
is passed into the uterus in the usual manner, and then by slight pressure on the handle the halves are made to separate. In this way the cervix is held open during the process of douching, thereby facilitating the passage out of the uterus of any foreign matter. The dilator is made by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Wigmore Street, W.1.

*A Modified Ether Inhaler.*

Mr. R. SHAFER, M.B., Ch.B. (Manchester), has devised an ether inhaler with an adjustable outer chamber for use in conjunction with an open ether mask. "By the open ether method," he writes, "a vapour strength of 12 to 14 per cent. is attainable, and whilst

this safeguards against overdose, it has certain disadvantages. Chief amongst these is difficulty in inducing anaesthesia and securing adequate muscular relaxation in powerful subjects. There is thus a tendency to resort to chloroform at a stage when its use is to be particularly deprecated. The necessary result can be obtained by ether alone if provision be made for concentration of the ether vapour. By the use of the apparatus here described the induction period is shortened and adequate muscular relaxation is easily obtained and the amount of ether used greatly reduced. The carbon dioxide in the patient's expired air is conserved and acts as a stimulus to breathing and prevents shock from

Upper Plate with Inlet.



Diagrammatic illustration of the apparatus. 1, Position at beginning of induction. 2, Position during the operation. The Schimmelbusch shown by dotted line. A, A, Outer chamber of ether surrounding the Schimmelbusch in both positions.

apnoea. The chamber can be used in conjunction with the vapour method, or, if desired, can be converted into a closed inhaler by the adjustable cover. Being adjustable, it is equally efficient whether the head be in the medial or lateral position. The apparatus consists of (1) an upper metal plate with a central aperture through which the ether is dripped; (2) a lower base plate fitting over the Schimmelbusch; (3) tubular bellows attached above and below to the plates, enabling the upper plate to be kept horizontal irrespective of the angle of the mask and base plate. Anaesthesia is conducted by the ordinary drop or vapour methods, and the appliance provides an efficient secondary chamber for the concentration of the ether vapour and conservation of the carbon dioxide. The aperture being always at the top of the chamber, irrespective of the position of the patient's head, the vapour is retained by its own weight, and complete conservation is obtained by closing the cover. Since almost all the ether is actually inhaled by the patient, instead of being disseminated into the atmosphere, a great saving of ether is effected. In Manchester the apparatus has been used with success in powerful, muscular, and alcoholic subjects in whom the open method and semi-open methods have failed to produce adequate muscular relaxation. The model used was made by Messrs. James Woolley, Ltd., Manchester.

INTERNATIONAL OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONFERENCES.

At the meeting of the convention of English-speaking Ophthalmological Societies held in London in July, 1925, the President, Mr. E. Treacher Collins, was invited to appoint a committee of five to obtain the co-operation of ophthalmologists of all countries for the promotion of international ophthalmological congresses. Early in October this committee sent out a general notice to ophthalmological societies and ophthalmologists in all parts of the world, asking them to nominate two delegates from each country to confer on the question of the re-establishment of international congresses, and on other matters of international ophthalmological interest. The response to that notice has been widespread; already all the principal countries of the world have indicated their approval of the project, and, in the great majority of cases, have named their delegates. The provisional arrangement is that the committee shall, in response to an invitation from the Netherlands Ophthalmological Society, meet at the Hague on Tuesday, July 12th. Mr. E. Treacher Collins will attend as convener of the conference. The delegates nominated are:

- Argentine:* Professors Enrique B. Demaria and Raúl Argañaraz.
- Austria:* Dr. Adalbert Fuchs and Professor Dr. Josef Meller.
- Belgium:* Drs. Henri Coppez and Léon Weekers.
- Bulgaria:* Professor C. Pascheff and Dr. Slavoff.
- China:* Dr. T. P. Lee.
- Czecho-Slovakia:* Dr. A. Elschmig and Professor Leser.
- Denmark:* Drs. K. K. K. Lundsgaard and Chr. F. Bentzen.
- Finland:* Professor V. Grönholm and Dr. Y. G. Lindberg.
- France:* Drs. Morax and Terrien.
- Germany:* Professors Axenfeld and Westely.
- Great Britain:* Sir J. Herbert Parsons and Mr. Leslie Paton.
- Holland:* Professors G. F. Rochat and J. van der Hoeve.
- Hungary:* Professors Emile de Gröz and L. de Blaskovich.
- Japan:* Professors S. Ishihara and Oguchi.
- Norway:* Professor Hagen and Dr. Malling. Substitutes, if necessary, Drs. Gjessing and I. Schiötz.
- Rumania:* Drs. C. Pandelescu and N. Răsvan.
- Spain:* Drs. M. Marquez and F. Poyales.
- Sweden:* Professors Fritz Ask and Albin Dalén.
- Switzerland:* Professor J. Gonin and Dr. Ernst Pflüger.
- United States:* Drs. G. E. de Schweinitz and Arnold Knapp. Substitute, if necessary, Dr. Walter R. Parker.

The following countries have intimated their intention of taking part, but have not yet nominated their delegates: Cuba, Italy, Poland, and Jugo-Slavia. No reply has, so far, been received from Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Greece, Peru, Portugal, Russia, and Venezuela.