

curative treatment is mostly applicable to diseases which are due to the patient being the host of living parasites, but much may be done for the patient by measures which enhance the reactions that are favourable and diminish those that are inimical to recovery. There is room, too, for merely palliative treatment directed to the relief of distressing symptoms, and in other instances the patient's fears must be allayed and his courage strengthened not only by the physician's encouraging words but by an additional placebo.

After a short note on the value of rest and exercise, the author proceeds to group the drugs available according to their therapeutic action as antiseptics and disinfectants, stimulants and depressants, tonics, sleeping draughts, purgatives, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. The discussion of these groups is followed by an interesting summary of the relation of chemical constitution and therapeutic action of drugs. Much may be attained for the patient by various forms of physiotherapy, especially by medical electricity, various forms of radiations, baths, and douches. Psychotherapy and organotherapy are methods of treatment directed towards readjusting disorders of the natural arrangements for the co-ordinated function of the diverse elements making up an individual human being. All these headings are considered shortly but brightly, and in an interesting way, in a compass of 130 pages. In a further twenty-five pages the author attempts to cover the main principles of immunology, an attempt which can only be sketchy, and the last fifty pages devoted to dietetics leave much to be desired even in an introduction.

Dr. Fry, in his modest preface, realizes the temerity of essaying to do justice to subject-matter of this scope in a small work. Nevertheless, he has produced a book which will be helpful to many students as an aid to the understanding of their systematic lectures and an introduction to larger works.

Notes on Books

Of all the members of Churchill's popular series, *Recent Advances in Medicine*,⁷ by Dr. G. E. BEAUMONT and Professor E. C. DODDS, has had undoubtedly the most deserved and greatest success. In the eighth edition, appearing only twelve years since the first, there has been a thorough revision, more especially of sections on the sex hormones, on gastric analysis, and on anaemia. The thirty-page chapter on basal metabolism still remains one of the best sections of this book, and is a good example of the critical selective manner in which this useful volume has been compiled.

Dr. VAN ANDEL, who edits the *Opuscula Selecta Neerlandicorum de Arte Medica*, is to be congratulated on the thirteenth volume of the series.⁸ He has not only made a careful selection of the papers but he has enriched the book with a number of excellently reproduced portraits of the writers, has translated the Latin and Dutch originals into English, French, or German, has added short biographies, and has written a reasoned preface. The volume contains fourteen consultations to or from doctors practising in the Netherlands between 1550 and 1870. Vesalius, having abandoned anatomy, advises on the treatment of a young man weakened by a severe nose-bleeding. Weir, "the one sane man preaching to a world of lunatics" that witchcraft was a disease of the mind, shows by his contribution that he was not in advance of his time in regard to the treatment of disease generally. Guy Patin and Cornelius van Someren interchange letters on the movement of the heart and on stone in the

⁷ *Recent Advances in Medicine. Clinical, Laboratory, Therapeutic.* By G. E. Beaumont, D.M., F.R.C.P., and E. C. Dodds, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Eighth edition. London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1936. (Pp. 450; 45 figures. 12s. 6d.)

⁸ *Opuscula Selecta Neerlandicorum de Arte Medica.* Vol. xiii. Edited by M. A. Van Ansel. Amstelodami Sumptibus Societatis. 1935. (Pp. 307; illustrated.)

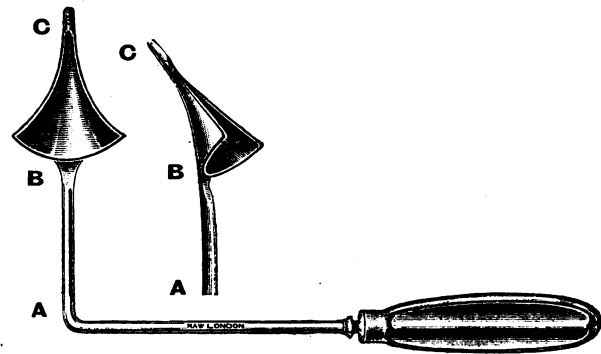
bladder and kidney. Peter Camper, whose name is indissolubly connected with William and John Hunter, advises on the case of the Countess of Randwyck. Boerhaave treats of the causes of an outbreak of dysentery in Hungary. Tilanus describes an unsuccessful attempt to remove foreign bodies from the stomach of a lunatic, with a record of the post-mortem findings. Mathijsen tells Baron Larrey's son of the way to use plaster bandages. All are interesting, and well repay the perusal which Dr. Van Ansel has made easy.

The *Introduction to Sex Education*, by WINIFRED V. RICHMOND, Ph.D. (London, Jonathan Cape, 10s. 6d.), is founded on lectures on sex hygiene given by her during the last ten years to nurses in the training schools of St. Elizabeth Hospital, Washington. The subjects discussed include the biological, historical, psychological, and educational aspects of sex and such problems as homosexuality, prostitution, birth control, sterility, and venereal disease. The English editor, Mr. Kenneth Walker, has modified the chapters dealing with the history of sex, its problems, social repercussions, and sex education, so as to represent a European or English view rather than one essentially American.

Preparations and Appliances

A PROSTATIC SPECULUM

Mr. C. DUNDAS MAITLAND (Guildford) writes: The illustration appended depicts the prostatic speculum designed by me for use in the operation of suprapubic electro-resection of the prostate, which I described in the *Journal* (February 1st, p. 203) in an article entitled "Prostatic Resection." It consists of a blunt-pointed speculum cut away on one side to accommodate the posterior and postero-lateral lobes of the prostate. This speculum is welded to a thin solid steel shaft, with a handle of convenient size and shape. The curve of the speculum and angle of attachment to the shaft are such that a curve (A C) is produced approximately the same



as the curve of the proximal urethra. This greatly facilitates the passage of the point of the speculum through the prostatic and into the membranous urethra, and at the same time produces an antero-inferior slope of the distal shaft, which prevents the part A B from in any way obscuring the field of vision when the instrument is in position for operating. The most suitable angle was determined by experimenting with a two-piece instrument in a malleable clamp-holder, to which speculae could be attached at variable angles. The final selection has been embodied in the one-piece instrument as depicted. This was made for me by Messrs. S. Maw Son and Sons Ltd., Aldersgate Street, E.C.1, to whom I am indebted for their advice and co-operation.

AN ANTIPHLOGISTIC DRESSING

"C. P. 10" is a new antiphlogistic dressing (Carnegie Bros. Ltd., 227, Essex Road, N.1). It has a kaolin basis, to which is added magnesium sulphate, glycerol, and boric acid, together with methyl salicylate (rubefacient) and thymol benzoyl (antiseptic). The product is a soft, spongy material, which is supplied ready spread for use as a poultice. The makers claim that it is exceptionally easy to apply, because it only requires to be warmed up to body temperature and is then ready for use; and that it is superior to other forms of fomentation or poultice, for use in sepsis, relief of pain, etc.