

An author who attempts a monograph has usually little to hope for ; he might even be regarded as fortunate in finding a publisher willing to accept the risk of publication. To be asked for a second edition is remarkable, and Professor Whitnall deserves hearty congratulations.

OPERATIVE DENTAL SURGERY

The third edition of Mr. J. B. PARFITT'S *Operative Dental Surgery*⁴ is a work that justifies Sir Frank Colyer's opinion, expressed in the preface to the latest issue of his *Dental Surgery and Pathology*, that the manipulative details of everyday dentistry are best left to a book dealing specifically with the subject. The work comprises some 400 pages, with no hint of redundancy—in fact, we should like to see the author enlarge his chapter on the operation of extraction to include a more detailed account of its difficulties and how to anticipate them. The bulk of the book is extremely practical. There are valuable notes on lighting the surgery and the use of the headlamp ; on general cleanliness and on aseptic methods applied to instruments in everyday use ; on pain-saving in the filling of teeth ; on the care of children's teeth (and we note that the author advises a visit to the dentist every six weeks or two months during the pre-school age). Discussing dental caries, the author allows himself to indulge in the luxury of a hope that the work of Mrs. Mellanby and of Broderick has brought prevention within sight. On the subject of filling materials he notes that the much maligned material, amalgam, stands now in higher repute than ever. He seems dubious about the retention of pulpless teeth in the mouth, though if even the modest claims made for ionic medication in the chapter on that subject should prove well founded he might well take a more hopeful outlook on root-filling ; he remarks that " a tooth properly filled with gold is hygienically in as good condition as if it had never decayed at all." In the chapters on inlays of gold and of porcelain, and on crowns of various sorts, " bridges " are not mentioned ; but perhaps they belong to the " workroom " side of dentistry, which the book is not designed to include.

MARGARET McMILLAN

To give some account of the life and work of Margaret McMillan, and to attempt to portray her personality, was a task that had to be undertaken, and was well worth doing. It has been accomplished quite effectively in a small volume entitled *Margaret McMillan : Prophet and Pioneer*,⁵ by Dr. ALBERT MANSBRIDGE. The book will probably be read mainly by those who knew Miss McMillan, or at any rate by those who had perhaps seen her and had some connexion with the fields of activity in which she was so abundantly engaged. To such readers it cannot fail to be full of interest and enlightenment ; and to others it will afford a vivid presentment of an ardent, insurgent, and impressive personality, which was not without features that could properly be described as " odd " and even " cantankerous "—adjectives used in the book itself in tributes from admiring friends who knew her well. The praise which should be given to the work of Margaret McMillan in Bradford and in London must indeed be high. There is nothing lacking in Dr. Mansbridge's biography on this score. It would perhaps be unfair, with reference to a book of this kind, to

⁴ *Operative Dental Surgery*. By J. B. Parfitt, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.D.S. Third edition. London: Edward Arnold and Co. 1931. (Pp. vii + 405 ; 141 figures. 21s. net.)

⁵ *Margaret McMillan : Prophet and Pioneer*. By Albert Mansbridge, C.H. London and Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 1932. (Pp. xxv + 178 ; illustrated. 6s. net.)

complain that the heroine is kept throughout in a brilliant, if not glaring, limelight, and that the impression is definitely conveyed that she was the sole, or at any rate by far the most important and effective, pioneer in the movements in which she was interested. This is particularly so in regard to the efforts to improve educational methods and to promote the health of school children through medical inspection and treatment, and by other means. There were a number of other pioneers in this movement whose influence is held by many to have been more effective than Miss McMillan's. Indeed, it is not too much to say that there were times and places in which the particular activities of Bradford and the peculiar methods of Miss McMillan were a distinct handicap, and even hindrance, to those who, in less provocative and tempestuous ways, were successfully pursuing the same ends. No doubt there were seasons and localities in which the one method rather than the other was the more appropriate, but to ignore the efforts and influence of those who worked by methods other than those that were natural to Margaret McMillan tends to place matters in a false perspective. Incidentally, the action of the organized medical profession should not be overlooked. It was generally admitted at the time that the reasoned advocacy of medical inspection and improved health methods in schools by the British Medical Association was a paramount influence in causing the medical inspection of school children to be accepted as a policy by the Board of Education and the Government in 1906, and its statutory enactment as a duty of local education authorities in 1907. This fact is nowadays too often forgotten, and it receives no recognition in the volume under review.

The omission may, however, be readily excused ; and it is gratifying to find due record and acknowledgement of the part played by Dr. James Kerr and by Sir Robert Morant, who is properly described as a " truly great man, supreme in his time as a civil servant, with unique powers of constructive administration," and as " a veritable driving force "—this, be it remembered, even before he was entrusted with the difficult task of initiating the administration of national health insurance.

NOTES ON BOOKS

The ninth volume (Plastic operation—Multiple sclerosis) of the New German Dictionary of Practical Medicine,⁶ edited by Professor George Klemperer and the late Professor Felix Klemperer (who died at the age of 65 on April 2nd), contains the following articles by well-known authorities : A critical survey of the present state of plastic operations, by Professor E. Holländer of Berlin ; diseases of the pleurae, by Professor O. Bruns of Königsberg ; small-pox and vaccination, by Professor H. A. Gins of Berlin ; polycythaemia, by Professor G. Klemperer and Dr. P. Fleischmann of Berlin ; progressive spinal muscular atrophy, by Professor H. Curschmann of Rostock ; general paralysis, by Professor Wagner-Jauregg of Vienna ; diseases of the prostate, by Dr. R. Lichtenstein of Vienna ; psoriasis, by Professor F. Pinkus of Berlin ; psycho-analysis, by Dr. Edith Jacobsohn and Professor A. Kronfeld of Berlin ; psychopathy and psychosis, by Professor H. W. Gruhle of Heidelberg ; acute pyelitis, by Professor S. Isaac of Frankfurt ; pyelitis and pyelonephritis, by Dr. S. Perlmann of Berlin ; rickets, by Dr. K. Huldshinsky of Berlin ; rubella and other acute infectious erythemata and exanthemata, by Dr. W. Keller of Heidelberg ; glands, by Professor H. Hetsch of Frankfurt ; spinal cord tumours, by Dr. E. Guttmann of Breslau ; relapsing fever, by Professor C. Hegler of Hamburg ; spinal deformities, by Professor G. Hohmann of Frankfurt ; dysentery, by Professor H. Hetsch

⁶ *Neue Deutsche Klinik*. Herausgegeben von Professor Dr. Georg Klemperer und weiland Felix Klemperer. Neunter Band. Berlin und Wien: Urban und Schwarzenberg. 1932. (Pp. 798 ; 204 figures, 1 plate. Paper cover R.M.30, bound R.M.36.)

of Frankfort; scarlet fever, by Professor U. Friedemann and Dr. D. A. Elkeles of Berlin; schizophrenia, by Professor H. W. Gruhle of Heidelberg; sweat cures, by Professor A. Strasser of Vienna; sea-sickness, by Professor E. Starckenstein of Prague; septic diseases, by Professor K. Bingold of Nuremberg; and multiple sclerosis, by Professor H. Pette, Hamburg.

Two more slim volumes in the Illustrated Practical Medicine Series have now appeared. Professor P. VALLERY-RADOT and Dr. F. CLAUDE write on Bronchial Asthma,⁷ giving a satisfactory clinical study, but failing to draw attention to any of the modern work on aetiology. This is because they quote almost wholly from French literature and exclude American, British, and German results, with the exception of a description of the Prausnitz-Küstner reaction. The second monograph, Hypertrophy of the Thymus,⁸ by Professors G. MOURIQUAND and M. BERNHELM, suffers from a similar disadvantage, for although an appended bibliography is certainly international in scope it omits the report of the Medical Research Council which seemed to end the story of "status lymphaticus." Professor Mouriquand's views on this are well known, and he marshals his evidence in a manner which would be almost convincing if it were not for the statistical data of the English report. Other aspects of thymic enlargement are well described.

Under the title The Blood Pressure Regulator Tone in its Significance for Parasympathetic Tone and Sympathetic Tone,⁹ Professor H. E. HERING has written an important monograph dealing with modern work on the regulation of blood pressure through the carotid sinus mechanism and the aortic nerves. He gives his reasons for using the term "Blutdruckzügler" for the controlling mechanism—the most literal translation of "Zügler" being "bridle"—and he makes very careful choice of the terms employed throughout his somewhat complicated essay. His conclusion is that the tone of the blood pressure regulator mechanism, comprising the sinus and aortic centripetal nerves, stimulates parasympathetic tone and depresses sympathetic tone, the initiating stimulus for the tone of the regulator being the blood pressure. This conclusion, thus barely stated, is not, perhaps, a fair way of describing the monograph, for it does less than justice to the logical way by which it is reached. To the many workers now engaged on research into this fascinating development of physiology Professor Hering's book will be most useful.

It is not the fault of Professor KISCH that his admirable monograph¹⁰ on alternation of the heart does not succeed in removing the phenomenon and its associated sign, pulsus alternans, from the *index expurgatorius* of the careful practical clinician. It is difficult in a small space to do justice to the completeness of this useful work, for a more thorough account of all the aspects of alternation has not before appeared. The phenomenon is demonstrated with certainty only by instrumental methods, whose chief use is to establish the absence of certain conditions which can easily be confused with it; its pathology is not yet understood, in spite of the great amount of research carried out by Professor Kisch and others in the past twelve years; moreover, as cases of its occurrence in apparently healthy people over numerous years of active life are recorded, no one can say whether it is a sign of disease at all, or what its influence upon prognosis is. It seems well established that it does not appear alone as a sign of myocardial disease, but in the presence of other signs of organic impairment of ascertained gravity. We may conclude

⁷ *L'Asthme Bronchique*. Par P. Vallery-Radot et François Claude. La Pratique Médicale Illustrée. Paris: G. Doin et Cie. 1932. (Pp. 54; 2 figures. 16 fr.)

⁸ *Hypertrophie du Thymus et Etats Thymo-Lymphatique*. Par G. Mouriquand et Marcel Bernheim. La Pratique Médicale Illustrée. Paris: G. Doin et Cie. 1932. (Pp. 50; 4 plates. 20 fr.)

⁹ *Der Blutdruckzügler-tonus in seiner Bedeutung für den Parasympathik-tonus und Sympathik-tonus*. Von Professor Dr. H. E. Hering. Leipzig: G. Thieme. 1932. (Pp. 48. M.3.)

¹⁰ *Der Herzalternans*. Von Dr. Med. Bruno Kisch. Band ii. Dresden und Leipzig: Theodor Steinkopff. 1932. (Pp. xii + 213; 54 figures. RM.20; Geb. RM.21.50.)

that alternation of the heart has now by experience been found not to be the dire omen of approaching dissolution it was once thought to be.

For its second edition the *United States Army X-Ray Manual*¹¹ has been rewritten and edited by Lieut.-Colonel H. C. PILLSBURY. Originally designed, during the last war, as a guide to radiologists in military hospitals and as a textbook for instruction, it was intended to cover the problems of military service. The new edition has been modified to serve equally well in peace; it has been expanded to incorporate descriptions of the improved apparatus now in use, and of the revised methods of interpretation developed during the post-war years. Certain changes in the arrangement of the sections conduce to easy reference. The book is well illustrated and indexed, and should rival the popularity of its predecessor.

*The Inhumanists*¹² is a sensational account of the doings of resurrectionists in the days before the passing of the Anatomy Act, written in a lively narrative style. It does not contain any record of fact that may not be found in Bailey's *Diary of a Resurrectionist*, to which the author is obviously indebted.

¹¹ *United States Army X-Ray Manual*. Second edition, rewritten and edited by Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Pillsbury, M.D., U.S.A. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1932. (Pp. xvi + 482; 228 figures. 25s. net.)

¹² *The Inhumanists*. By Cecil Howard Turner. London: A. Ouseley, Ltd. 1932. (Pp. ix + 286. 8s. 6d.)

PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES

MINIMIZING AFTER-PAIN OF TONSILLECTOMY

Mr. A. LOWNDES YATES writes:

An investigation of cases has shown that the degree of pain which follows the operation of tonsillectomy is in proportion to the degree of trauma which has been inflicted on the tissues. The degree of pain which followed different operative methods was observed, and I concluded that comfortable convalescence was secured only when each movement of the dissecting instrument was clearly visible within a bloodless operative field. I found that dissection by gauze or sponging of the fauces produced considerable after-pain. When semi-blunt dissection was employed and the blood was removed by aspiration the results were better, but still left much to be desired, for in a case of difficulty, excepting at the instant of the aspiration, the operative field was rarely bloodless and the movements of the blunt dissector were not fully visible; trauma was thus inflicted on the areas which experience had shown gave rise to after-pain.

I have therefore combined the semi-blunt dissector with the aspirator in one instrument, and find that by its means a bloodless field can be secured and all manoeuvres made with that degree of firm precision which is required if the standard of post-operative comfort is to be maintained. This standard is that the adult patient should have such a limited degree of after-pain that he can take a breakfast of boiled eggs and bread-and-butter upon the morning following the operation, and in the afternoon can talk to his friends without undue discomfort. The illustration well describes the instrument, which is made by Mayer and Phelps. It is hollow, and the blood escapes up the lumen in the shank and handle of the instrument into the bottle of the aspiration apparatus.

Concentrated liquid liver extract (B. W. & Co.) is a preparation recently issued by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. One fluid ounce is equivalent to eight ounces of fresh liver. It is a palatable preparation which can be used to supplement or to replace fresh liver in the treatment of pernicious anaemia.

