

from its essential value as a common-sense and practical handbook for those concerned with the care of infants.

Dr. Harry Lowenberg, sen., has written a popular volume on *Care of Infants and Children* which intelligent mothers should find most useful. Nurses and even young medical graduates could also learn a great deal about normal infant and child hygiene from its pages.

SURGERY FOR ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION

The Surgical Treatment of Hypertension. By George Crile. Edited by Amy Rowland. (Pp. 239; 52 figures, 15 tables. 18s. net.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1938.

Although the surgical treatment of essential hypertension is but a recent development the results which have been published to date do not suggest that a treatment which will give uniformly good results has been found. Dr. Crile in this volume presents the thesis that when the coeliac ganglia are removed there is an increased fall in blood pressure which, too, is more lasting. It is early to say whether or not Dr. Crile's new treatment will be the method of choice in the future, as his first operation was performed on May 6, 1936, and his records only cover a period of about twelve months from the time of operation. It must be admitted that in his hands coeliac ganglionectomy produces a greater fall in blood pressure than does any of the other operative procedures at present in use. One must criticize, only on general principles, an operation which is carried out almost entirely by touch. There does not seem to be any valid reason for this "touch dissection," especially since so many surgeons are acquainted with the methods of coeliac anaesthesia by the transperitoneal route. Some modification of this method to enable it to be used for extirpation of the ganglia seems to present no serious anatomical difficulties, with the added advantages that (a) preliminary anaesthesia of the ganglia might give some idea of the probable result of extirpation on the blood pressure, and (b) all of the structures to be removed could be identified seriatim in full view. Dr. Crile develops his argument for the removal of the coeliac plexuses in an interesting way and has added a most complete bibliography and discussion of the literature of the treatment of essential hypertension by surgical methods.

Notes on Books

The thirteenth edition of Osler's *Principles and Practice of Medicine* has been revised by Dr. Henry A. Christian (Appleton, 35s.). Originally brought out in 1892, two years after the first edition of Taylor's *Medicine*, it has run a very similar course, the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth editions having been produced by Thomas McCrae. From his position as professor of medicine at Harvard and as a pupil of Osler and a friend and colleague of McCrae, the new editor, who is anxious to continue its traditions, will be heartily welcomed by all those who have been educated on this outstanding work. While closely following the inherited characteristics, much—about two hundred pages—new material has been added, and this edition is a worthy successor of its twelve predecessors.

The third volume of the first series of *New International Clinics* (J. B. Lippincott Company; 4 vols., 50s.) contains twenty original articles; a symposium on some of the uses of sulphanilamide, including its employment in the pneumonias, urinary infections, pelvic infections, and diseases of children; clinical lectures on Bright's disease, heart

disease, retroperitoneal meningococcus infection, obesity, and acute hypocyctic lymphatic leukaemia; and a review of recent work on pyelitis in pregnancy. Among the original articles special attention may be drawn to those on clinical and experimental observations on adrenal insufficiency, diabetic acidosis, favourable and unfavourable results from the practice of modern obstetric trends and procedures, present status of the surgical management of peptic ulcer, dermatitis from wearing apparel, urology for the general practitioner, caudal anaesthesia in proctology, and pulmonary tuberculosis and heart disease in anthracosis.

Die natürliche Heilweise im Rahmen der Gesamtmedizin (the place of natural therapy in medicine) contains a series of some thirty lectures by different persons, and is edited by Dr. C. ADAM. The editor explains the general purpose of the volume as follows: "The new German therapy is distinguished by the striving after synthesis. The desire of the Reichsärztführer is to build into scientific medicine the valuable portions of empirical and folk medicine. This is in accordance with the desires of all well-wishers to the health of the German people." The volume includes articles on many aspects of modern therapy and also articles on homoeopathy, folk medicine, etc. It is published by Gustav Fischer of Jena at RM. 14.

Preparations and Appliances

HEPATEX-T FOR THE TROPICS

Hepatex-T (Tropical), which is manufactured by Evans Sons Lescher and Webb Ltd., is a combination of liver principles intended for the treatment of the nutritional macrocytic anaemias which arise in tropical countries. These anaemias were first recognized as occurring in pregnancy, but have been produced in experimental animals by nutritional deficiencies. The disease was found to be relieved by liver feeding or by crude extracts of liver, but this effect is now known to be due to factors other than anahaemin. An unknown factor, vitamin B₁, and the vitamin B₂ complex all appear to be concerned. The same is more or less true in the case of sprue.

Hepatex-T (Tropical) is a preparation for intramuscular injection (dose 2 c.cm.), which is believed to contain all these factors, which are beneficial in the tropical anaemias mentioned.

CRYSTALLIZED TESTOSTERONE

Sterandryl (Roussel Laboratories, Ltd.), a preparation of crystallized testosterone propionate, is an oily solution intended for intramuscular administration and is supplied in three concentrations: 5, 10, and 25 mg./c.cm.

Investigation of the clinical action of the male sex hormone has been hampered until recently by the difficulty of obtaining adequate quantities, but the synthesis of testosterone has now been achieved. The practical significance of this advance is indicated by the fact that extraction of a quarter of a ton of bulls' testicles would be needed to provide 25 mg. of pure hormone. The makers provide a booklet explaining the mode of employment and possible clinical applications of the preparation. Promising results have been recorded with the use of testosterone for the relief of symptoms due to enlargement of the prostate. The dosage recommended is a series of injections on alternate days of doses of 5 to 25 mg.

IODO-CAFFEINE ELIXIR

Elixir iodo-caffeine compound (Evans Sons Lescher and Webb Ltd.) contains caffeine sodium iodide, together with hyoscyamus, valerian, and sal volatile. It is recommended for various purposes, including that of producing a sedative action in chronic asthmatics.