

## Reviews

### THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

*The Lymphatic System: Its Part in Regulating Composition and Volume of Tissue Fluid.* By Cecil K. Drinker. Lane Medical Lectures. Stanford University Publications: University Series. University Sciences, Volume IV, No. 2. (Pp. 101; illustrated. 14s.) California: Stanford University Press; London: Oxford University Press. 1942.

This series of five lectures makes entertaining reading, and maintains the high standards of the Lane Lectures. It is entertaining because the treatment of the subject is original and the author's asides both sagacious and witty, and it maintains the high standards demanded by tradition by reason of the originality of the approach. Space will not permit of long quotations, but the following might well be put up in large letters in many a laboratory. "It is a misfortune that those who apply the idea that living creatures are but complicated expressions of the natural laws which they slowly learn from studies of inanimate objects, measure the reactions of living things with a rod whose every mark is stamped with the authority that can be established for non-living material."

The keynote of the lectures is that the lymphatic system can best be understood by consideration of its essential connexion with the circulatory system, with which it is integrated into a means for maintaining a constant internal environment for the tissues. The historical development of this point of view is attractively treated, as is also the author's search for a biological explanation of the evolution of lymphatics, a subject that still remains somewhat obscure.

The interdependence of blood, tissue fluid, and lymph is elegantly illustrated by the author's own recent work on the lymph flow from the heart and lungs. This work is not only in itself a triumph of technical skill but an excellent illustration of the general principles involved, and, moreover, is likely to be of importance in the pathology of the organs concerned. The last chapter deals with the relation of the lymphatic system to practical problems of medicine and surgery, and shows how a knowledge of the relations between blood, tissue fluid, and lymph throws light on some long-established practices.

### INSTRUCTION FOR NURSES

*A General Textbook of Nursing: A Comprehensive Guide.* By Evelyn C. Pearce, 8th Edition. (Pp. 915; illustrated. 15s.) London: Faber and Faber, 1943.

*Teaching in Schools of Nursing.* By Alice M. Jackson, M.A., and Katharine F. Armstrong, D.N., S.R.N. With an Introduction by Cyril L. Burt, M.A., D.Sc. (Pp. 244. 7s. 6d.) London: Faber and Faber, 1943.

Miss Evelyn Pearce has revised her well-known volume *A General Textbook of Nursing* for an eighth edition, a surprising record when it is recalled that it first appeared as recently as 1937. Changes have been made in accordance with advances in treatment, so that there is now a note about penicillin and an interesting new "routine" for the dressing of surgical cases. What seems to be missing is not so much the latest form of treatment as a more up-to-date outlook on the whole future of nursing. The term "social medicine" does not appear in the index, and the part that nurses must play in the social and preventive medicine of the future is not stressed. The word "almoner" does not appear in the index, though mentioned in the text in a brief manner in relation to the discharge of patients.

A reprint of *Teaching in Schools of Nursing* by Miss Alice M. Jackson and Miss Katharine Armstrong has now been issued and appears to be identical with the first edition published in 1934. Here again the new orientation in the world of medicine is lacking, although in an appendix on the "block" system of training the curriculum includes two lectures by the hospital almoner on social services.

### CONTROL OF INSECT PESTS

*Biological Control of Insects.* By Hugh Nicol. (Pp. 174. 9d.) Pelican Books. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1943.

"Biological control," says Dr. Nicol, "has been practised by every person who has kept cats on account of the mice. . . . With this deceptively simple example he encourages the layman to study the complexities of modern achievements in biological control of pests. Nature is a battleground in which innumerable forms of life compete to live and reproduce. By agricultural

practice man has swayed the ecological balance, but in the course of centuries it has become readjusted in Europe and Asia. The matter is otherwise, however, in recently developed areas of the world, farmed on the largest scale. The constant movements of commerce have brought to these lands insect pests without parasites or competitors to hamper them. The results have been destruction spreading like a forest fire. Chemical and mechanical control measures have achieved little success in these cases, and the apparently obvious procedure of collecting and destroying the pest was entirely useless. Only by the use of scientific observation and experiment were the missing biological checks discovered and brought, perhaps, thousands of miles to the new country. The remarkable success of these measures in many countries was well deserved by the perseverance of the entomologists concerned. Dr. Nicol describes many such campaigns, each presenting different features of interest. Unusual scientific terms are explained, but there is no attempt to "write down" to the reader, who is, perhaps, more likely to be a scientist or medical man than an average citizen. There are some good illustrations.

### Notes on Books

An abridgment of Mr. J. G. CROWTHER's book *Soviet Science*, published in 1936, has now appeared as a ninepenny "Pelican." The original material was collected during seven visits to the U.S.S.R. between 1929 and 1935, when the foundations of contemporary Soviet scientific and technical strength were laid under the First Five-Years Plan. A large public will welcome this handy and inexpensive edition.

## Preparations and Appliances

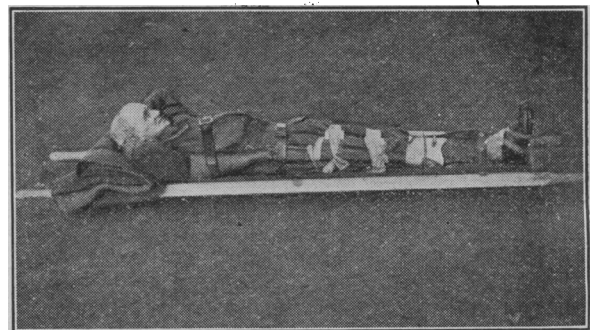
### EMERGENCY SPLINT FOR FRACTURED FEMUR

Major P. L. W. WILLIAMS, D.S.O., F.R.C.S.Ed., Battalion Medical Officer, 4th Cornwall (Wadebridge) Battalion, Home Guard, writes:

An emergency splint for fractured femur (and adjustable for leg bones) has been made up entirely with personal equipment, which can be applied by two untrained men in the absence of skilled assistance. The photograph shows it applied to a member of the Home Guard.

#### Directions

Place the casualty in extended position, limbs together. One man grasps heel and foot of injured limb, makes steady extension, and maintains it until bandaging is completed. The other places rifle along outer side, butt well up to armpit, first removing bolt, ensuring that neither rifle nor magazine contains any cartridge, and extracting pull-through; then ties boot-



laces together and, with large handkerchief or field dressing, puts a figure-of-eight bandage round rifle, ankle, and boot, tying off on sole of boot; then encircles upper part of chest with one of their belts, and hips with another, passing each one, when length permits, round the rifle first. Two field dressings are next applied, pads on wound as far apart as possible, short end of bandage to outer side, long end brought round under thigh, round the rifle, then over and round both thighs and tied off to the short end, knot on rifle. Finally, a pair of anklets buckled together is placed round both legs just below knees and then buckled up, and the pull-through cord passed round them and tied to give the anklets a firm grip on the legs.

I wish to make acknowledgments to Dr. H. C. Harley, who showed in a letter to the *Lancet* that the men's personal equipment could be effectively used for fixation of the rifle, and to the Editor of the *Journal of the R.A.M.C.* for permission to reproduce this description.