

do at present. It is not a difficult technique, and in its ordinary applications demands no great knowledge of psychiatry. The use of hypnosis in psychotherapy would require training and experience, but is a highly specialized field of application. Probably the easiest method by which acquaintance with the technique could be obtained would be by making the first trials not with adults but with children. The author has some useful guidance to give about the management of suggestion in its simplest forms, and suggestion is constantly given by any competent practitioner in his daily handling of patients.

ELIOT SLATER.

TEXTBOOKS FOR HEALTH VISITORS

Health Visiting. By Margaret McEwan, M.B.E., S.R.N., S.C.M. (Pp. 383; 5 charts. 18s.) London: Faber and Faber. 1951.

Textbook for Health Visitors. By Llywelyn Roberts, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., Beryl Corner, M.D., M.R.C.P., and I. G. Davies, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Pp. 551; illustrated. 21s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1951.

Two textbooks on the same subject, with bindings of similar hue, "drop like the fruits of the tree" into the lap of the health visitor more or less simultaneously. One such textbook has been much needed; two represent not a surfeit but a sufficiency; both will be welcomed in particular by health-visitor tutors and their students and by public health nurses generally.

Miss McEwan has brought her wide knowledge and experience in the training of health visitors to the task of writing a book which is modestly claimed to be an introduction to the work of the health visitor. It is much more than that: it is a storehouse of reliable information and sound comment which is easy to read and will take the health visitor student a long way in her heavy course of training, and she will wish to keep it by her when she is fully fledged. The section on the history of health visiting is sound and concise, and the various types of administrative authorities are clearly described. The bibliography is most helpful and the index well selected and accurate. Social legislation is interpreted simply and skilfully.

Three members of the Royal College of Physicians have combined to produce a larger and more comprehensive textbook designed for the health visitor in training and other health workers. It is well written, and the publishers are to be congratulated on the attractiveness of the format. There are numerous plates, charts, and diagrams—all well done. The chapter on infectious diseases is as useful as it is extensive, and those on the management of the baby and infant feeding are clear and practical. Food and the principles of dietetics are also well discussed, and I know of nothing better for rapid and easy reference in these rather extensive subjects. This excellent textbook is unfortunately marred by an index which, subjected to random sampling, all too soon revealed some irritating errors. And somehow "voluntary patient" has been substituted for "temporary patient" in a section of an interpretation of mental treatment legislation—certainly confusing and probably misleading to most readers.

Neither book covers completely the syllabus for the health visitors' examination, nor could either be regarded as a complete work of reference on the subject of health visiting. But it is doubtful whether any single textbook could cover the ground completely and still remain readable and within reasonable compass. In subsequent

editions the authors of these textbooks would be well advised to consider the advantage of discussing much more extensively the principles of teaching, in order to help the health visitor to become a good health educator. Both books are to be commended, and social workers will read them with profit and keep them as worthy additions to their library.

C METCALFE BROWN.

SIR HENRY THOMPSON

The Versatile Victorian. Being the Life of Sir Henry Thompson, Bt., 1820-1904. By Zachary Cope, M.D. (Pp. 179; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) London: Harvey and Blythe. 1951.

In his account of Sir Henry Thompson, Mr. Zachary Cope has produced a brilliant study of the social and medical world of the Victorian era, and of a man whose versatility resulted in a life of extraordinary interest. The author was fortunate in having at his disposal a large amount of material left by Thompson, practically constituting a detailed diary of the whole of his life, and he has made such admirable use of it that the result has all the interest of an autobiography. Born in 1820 and living in full vigour to the age of 84, Thompson covered a very remarkable period, and in the great progress of surgery in that period he had an ample share. Among his patients he numbered the King of the Belgians and Napoleon III, and he was the intimate and valued friend of successive members of our own royal family. Moreover, in a society which is now, alas, only a memory, he was an artist of some distinction and a social leader in the world of art and science.

We would congratulate the author on having found a subject so peculiarly suited to his own genius and on the production of a study fascinating from so many aspects. He has supplied a really valuable addition to our knowledge of an important period, and he has given us a story to which for variety of interest it would be difficult to find a parallel.

HENRY SOUTTAR.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received

A Laboratory Guide to the Anatomy of the Rabbit. By E. H. Craigie. (Pp. 113. 21s.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1951.

A Pathology of the Eye. By E. Wolff, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. 3rd ed. (Pp. 364. 55s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1951.

Heart Disease. By E. Goldberger, B.S., M.D. (Pp. 651. 70s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1951.

The Dentists Register, 1951. Published by the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. (Pp. 429. 18s.) London: Constable. 1951.

Studies in Lobotomy. Edited by M. Greenblatt, M.D., and others. (Pp. 495. 63s.) London: William Heinemann. 1951.

Disease in Infancy and Childhood. By R. W. B. Ellis, O.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 695. 42s.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1951.

Collected Papers of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, 1949-50. London: Middlesex Hospital. 1951.

Kurzges Lehrbuch der Enzymologie. By Professor T. Bersin. 3rd ed. (Pp. 274. M. 19.20.) Leipzig: Geest and Portig. 1951.

Lehrbuch der Chirurgie. Edited by Professor Gohrbandt and others. Vols. 1 and 2. 10th ed. (Pp. 1,600. M. 98.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1951.