If this book, whose author displays so much erudition and indeed clarity and accuracy of exposition, is needed for the training of the mental nurse, it forces us to ask ourselves whether we are not entirely on the wrong lines in the training of nurses. So far as mental illness is concerned the real understanding of the general nurse is conspicuous by its absence through no fault of the nurse: and only gradually is the psychiatrist himself beginning to know how to deal with true sympathy with his much afflicted patient. Is his chief assistant best trained by cramming her head with bare facts? Time alone will tell. Meanwhile, the aspirant to nursing qualification will find in this book all the factual material she requires. What she will make of this, and how she will use it, probably depends more on herself than on her teachers.

FIRST LINES IN BACTERIOLOGY


A Textbook of Bacteriology and Immunology, by J. M. Dougherty and A. J. Lambert, of Villanova, Pa., U.S.A., is based on experience in teaching "premedical" and "preprofessional" students-"preparing to teach the biological sciences." As an introduction to the subject for such students it is excellent; for the medical student in his clinical years it is inadequate. It is a very readable book, in which the authors' aim to make the subject both interesting and easily intelligible has been well achieved. The introductory chapter on the development of the subject is particularly good, as are those on general principles and methods. The descriptions of individual bacteria and of their relation to disease and laboratory diagnosis are simple and incomplete: to give examples, there is no mention of the coagulase test, the serological classification of haemolytic streptococci, types of diptheria bacilli, or how to interpret the results of an agglutination test in the diagnosis of enteric fever. This book is therefore only introductory, and its title might well be altered to convey this.

Bacteria in Relation to Nursing, by C. E. Dukes, is intended for those training to be sister tutors, but may be found useful both practically and in preparing for examinations by nurses generally. It is written in a clear and pleasant, almost conversational, style, and is attractively produced and well illustrated by drawings. There are only two photographic illustrations, both showing nurses in uniform working in a laboratory. The main subjects are methods, the characters of the principal pathogenic bacteria, immunity, the collection and examination of various kinds of specimen, and sterilization and disinfection. A final chapter outlines a suggested course of practical instruction. The necessary simplification has been achieved without sacrifice of truth, but there are a few minor inaccuracies: it is said that agar is obtained from algae and that diptheria bacilli will not grow in broth. It is hard on Dubos to describe gramicidin as a purely Russian discovery, and the mention of convalescent serum for the treatment as well as the prevention of measles may mislead. In the next edition we should like to see at least a paragraph explaining what viruses are (they are only incidentally mentioned in two places), and perhaps something similar might be done for protozoa.

The seventh edition of Aids to Bacteriology, by H. Spitt-Wilson, is said to have been completely revised, but almost archaic features of much earlier editions survive in it and many modern advances are unmentioned. The characters of growth in gelatin and on potato are regularly described; one would prefer, for instance, with typhoid and dysentery bacilli to be told of some of the highly selective media which now facilitate their isolation. The greater part of the book "dates" to twenty or more years ago, and if it is to be of use to medical students it should be rewritten, preferably by a teacher familiar with their needs.
A meeting of the whole medical profession in the Birmingham area will be held at the Nuffield Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 6.30 p.m., for the purpose of considera-
tion of the Council of the B.M.A. regarding the N.H.I. capitation
fee and the action to be taken by the Negotiating Committee, and
instruct representatives to the Special Representative Meeting on
Jan. 28.

A joint meeting of the Food Group of the Society of Chemical
Industry and the Liverpool Section of the Society will be held at
the University of Liverpool on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6.30 p.m., when
Mr. P. N. Williams will present a paper on "Synthetic Fats."

The annual general meeting of the Harveian Society of London
academy will be held at: 26, Portland Place, London, W., on Wednesday,
Jan. 15, at 8.15 p.m., when the president, Brig. H. L. Glyn Hughes,
will deliver his presidential address on "Normandy to the Baltic
from a Medical Angle."

A meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at 90,
Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 2.30 p.m.,
when a discussion on "Health Centres" will be opened by
Prof. R. H. Parry.

The following radiological meetings will be held in London next
week: Thursday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m., British Institute of Radiology,
13, W. Oxford Street, W., meeting on "Radiology of Tuberculosis: -
Arterial Injuries, with Reference to Arteriography in the Diagnosis"
; Friday, Jan. 17, at 2.30 p.m., Section of Radiology of Royal
Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., papers by Dr. S.
Howell, "Tomography," and Dr. A. Elkeles, "Disseminated Osseous
Nodules in Malaria." The Eugenics Society will be held at the Royal
Society's Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on Tuesday,
Jan. 21, at 5.30 p.m., when Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, Sir Cyril
Hurt, and Dr. J. H. Fraser Roberts will present a symposium on "The
Roads of Intelligence to Fertility." All interested in the subject
are invited to attend.

The King has appointed Dr. Edward Cochrane to be an Official
Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Aden.

Mr. J. J. Robertson, Labour M.P. for Berwick and Haddington,
has been appointed to the General Medical Council in succession
by the Federation. He is one of the five members of the Council
nominated by the Crown. Mr. Robertson, a 48-year-old Shetlander,
has had a varied career—retail fruit merchant in Edinburgh, middle-
weight champion of the Navy in 1918, at the Ministry of Supply
in the recent war, and M.P. since the 1945 general election.

The British Postgraduate Medical Federation is shortly to be
recognized by Royal Charter as a school of London University,
with Sir Francis Fraser as Director. The Maudsley Hospital Medical
School will become an Institute within the Federation. For the
centenary year 1946-7 the University has granted the Federation
£147,000.

The Royal Medical Foundation of Epsom College invites applications
for a Challace annuity, present value £32 per annum, which is
to be awarded to a medical practitioner who, on account of age,
has been compelled to retire from professional work. There is no
limitation as to age. Forms of application can be obtained from the
secretary's office, Epsom College, Epsom.

The Hospital for Tropical Diseases, which was closed during the
war, has now been reopened at 23, Devonshire Street, London,
W.1 (W. Wellcome, 85), and is open to all patients suffering from
tropical diseases. There is an out-patient department, for which
appointments should be made by telephone or by letter.

A team of medical and public health workers from Ceylon are
visiting this country for six months under a scheme arranged
between the National Tuberculosis Association of Great Britain
and the Ceylon Government to study tuberculosis control, treat-
ment, and rehabilitation, as well as sanatorium methods and mass
vaccination.

The Ministry of Health announces the ending of the arrangement
whereby relatives of Merchant Navy men seriously ill in hospital
could apply to the police for a railway warrant.

Dr. Annecke, Chief Malaria Officer for South Africa, recently
announced further extensions of "Operation Arthur," the anti-
malarial campaign that has been waged in Eastern Transvaal for
the last three seasons. He said that, given the manpower, the whole
of the Transvaal and the Union could be cleared of malaria.