usually be debrided and closed, perhaps with the addition of a skin graft. Infected wounds must first be controlled by debridement and antibiotics before healing can take place. On these basic tenets, the author then considers in great detail the assessment of wounds, the use of local anaesthesia, and the fine points of suturing techniques and the application of dressings. Special sections deal with maxillo-facial, finger, nerve and tendon injuries, and with burns.

The section on tetanus prophylaxis comes down strongly on the side of A.T.S. in patients who have not been immunized; certainly many casualty departments in this country eschew A.T.S. in favour of antibiotics in unprotected patients. Elsewhere the text is in full accord with current practice in the United Kingdom.

This is certainly a book which will be of considerable value to casualty officers. The advice is sound and practical, the text easy to read, and the profuse illustrations are well chosen and often dramatic.

HAROLD ELLIS.

Task Force on Thrombosis


In November 1967 the task force on thrombosis of the division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council, U.S.A., assembled a conference on thrombosis in Washington D.C. The participants later prepared review articles on the topics they discussed at the conference, and their manuscripts form this book. The editors have undoubtedly achieved their goal—to present a book containing up-to-date stimulating recent information together with a review of established facts that will “serve as a basis for future developments and reviews.”

This is a book that should be on the shelves of all libraries. Special thrombosis—clinician, pathologist, or biochemist. It is not only an excellent source of reference, but contains the recent thoughts and ideas of many renowned experts. As each chapter has a different author the book is best read discontinuously, as a series of separate articles. Because it tries to be up to date there are many points with which one could disagree, but this increases its value, for it is not a textbook and not meant to be authoritative. My only criticism is that some of the chapters are too short and do not review the literature fully.

It is regrettable that it could not have been published somewhat earlier. It is now two and a half years since the conference.

N. L. BROWSE.

Down's Syndrome


In this book an attempt has been made to evaluate the sometimes contradictory epidemiological information about the various factors in Down's syndrome. Information from the very extensive world literature has been culled, and the authors have covered the varying geographical incidence of the condition, its incidence in time and space, and the maternal and paternal factors which might influence the incidence. They have dealt with the cytogenetic aspect and the family aggregation and twin studies, and also, its association with other diseases, principally leukaemia, thyroid disease, and other chromosomal abnormalities. Some biochemical characteristics of Down's syndrome and the mortality figures are touched on, but the clinical aspects of the condition are not mentioned. In the concluding chapter Dr. Lillienfeld makes some suggestions for future epidemiological research, such as careful incidence studies in areas where there is a suggestion of widely differing incidence, and also a careful study of the trisomic cases, separating the young and the old mothers.

One gets the impression that Dr. Lillienfeld was far from certain for whom he was writing this book, for he felt impelled to explain elementary epidemiological methods and simple genetics. In evaluating some of the conflicting reports he has perhaps not always been quite critical enough. Also, it is a pity that the ethnic term “mongolism” has been used throughout the book rather than Down's syndrome. However, both the reference list and bibliography are excellent. These alone would make the book a most useful addition to the library for all those who have an interest in Down's syndrome.

K. M. LAURENCE.

Cutting for Stone


The history of each disease is a fascinating story, but none is quite so intriguing as that of bladder stone. Evidence for its occurrence dates from about 5000 B.C., but no doubt it plagued mankind long before. Thus for more than seven millennia “the stone” until recently has, in the Western hemisphere at least, been a common ailment. Consequently its history is a long and rich one, curiously never before presented in English in any detail.

Professor Ellis now provides a brief account of the history of bladder calculi with considerable accuracy, well-written, and beautifully illustrated. He traces the surgical handling of bladder stone from the first detailed account available to us made by Celsus in the first century A.D., and the subsequent story is told by considering in turn the three possible operations: the perineal approach, intravesical crushing, and the suprapubic route. The first was described by Celsus and employed among others by Paré, by Frère Jacques (1651-1724) and an itinerant cutter for stone, Cheseleden (1688-1752), and Sir Astley Cooper (1768-1841); it was still being used in the 1890s. The usual modern method, suprapubic lithotomy, has, however, been in favor for only 400 years. Trans-urethral lithotomy was first used successfully early in the 19th century, and Professor Ellis includes here an account of the two most famous patients treated by it: Leopold I, King of the Belgians, and Emperor Napoleon III of France. Other famous sufferers from the stone, in particular Pepys, Benjamin Franklin, and Napoleon, are also referred to. Finally litholapaxy, the originator in the last century, is described. The intriguing enigmas of aetiology and the declining incidence of the disease in the West are mentioned.

This book deals effectively with the main surgical developments in the history of bladder stone, and is based mainly on literature in English. Had Professor Ellis included medical treatment, no doubt he would have described the incredible affair of Joanna Stevens who in 1739 sold her valueless stone cure to the nation by Act of Parliament. As a brief introduction to a fascinating topic, Professor Ellis's book can be highly recommended. It may perhaps stimulate others to study aspects he has not been able to cover.

EDWIN CLARKE.
Appointments

BIRMINGHAM REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—J. M. Small, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., D.O. (maximum part-time (9 non-half days)] consultant ophthalmologist to the Shrewsbury group); H. D. Jones, M.B., F.R.C.Ophthalm., (maximum part-time (9 non-half days)] consultant to the North Birmingham group); M. W. N. Nichols, M.B., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., (maximum part-time (9 non-half days)] consultant to the South Worcestershire group); D. H. D. Townsend, M.B., F.R.C.S. (whole-time consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the North Birmingham group); G. H. Beiler, M.R.C.Path. (whole-time consultant histopathologist to the Mid Staffordshire group); A. I. Missing, M.R.C.A.S. (whole-time consultant anaesthetist to the South Worcestershire group); D. A. K. Woodward, M.B., F.R.C.S. (maximum part-time (9 non-half days)] consultant surgeon to the Coventry group).


NORTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—A. T. Bevan, M.B., M.R.C.R. (consultant general medicine to St. Helens group of hospitals); M. F. Green, M.B., M.R.C.P. (consultant geriatrician to Enfield and Tottenham groups of hospitals); S. L. O. Jackson, M.D., M.R.C.P. (consultant gynaecologist to Brentwood and South Bucks group of hospitals); J. D. J. Parker, M.B. (part-time consultant in veneralology to Tottenham group of hospitals); J. C. R. Munday, M.B., F.F.R. (consultant radiologist to Enfield group of hospitals).


Societies and Lectures

For attending lectures marked Q a fee is charged or a ticket is required. Applications should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, 27 April
INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY.—Diagnostic—5 p.m., Dr. F. R. Betley: Effect of Sweets on the Wound.
INSTITUTE OF HISTOLOGY ANDEmbryology.—5.30 p.m. Combined staff consultation clinical meeting.
ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL POSTGRADUATE CENTRE, LONDON.—5.30 p.m. Public Conference.
ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL.—4.30 p.m. Microlites—Airbus Closure.

Tuesday, 28 April
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—2.30 p.m., Committee Meeting: Mr. A. M. Nicholls, M.B., D.S.O., M.R.C.S. (President, British Medical Journal).
CENTRAL MIddLESEX HOSPITAL.—At Isewan lecture theatre, 12.30 p.m., Dr. J. E. Williams: Some Recent Advances in Nuclear Medicine.
INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY.—At Hammersmith Hospital, 2 p.m., Dr. J. D. O. London: Contractions and Tubal Ligation.—Problems and Solutions, Dr. J. G. J. D. Jenkins: Diabetic Guide. (Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Secretary.