

Reviews.

ABDOMINAL AND PELVIC SURGERY.

CONTRIBUTIONS to surgical literature by Professor RUTHERFORD MORISON are always welcome, and his latest book deals, in the main, with acute, subacute, and chronic abdominal lesions.¹

In the introduction the progress of the art of surgery is traced in an illuminating way through the Listerian days to the present time. Although since his youth surgery has to a large extent passed gradually from the hands of the general practitioner into those of the specialist, Mr. Morison regards the general practitioner as the most important unit of the medical profession. He emphasizes his responsibility for early diagnosis, and urges him to move quicker in dealing with abdominal emergencies; he regards the results as still bad, and holds that "the chief cause of death is at the present and always has been—delay." As is well known, he is a warm advocate of team work, but disapproves of the division of special ailments into departments which are too watertight.

Prominence is given to the importance of diagnosis throughout the book, and everywhere the author's sound knowledge of physiology is evident. Individual diagnostic points of all the surgical abdominal diseases are illustrated by detailed accounts of clinical cases personally observed. In this connexion it may be noted that he records a fatal case, unique in his experience, where operation before the appendix had ruptured failed to save life.

Difficulties are emphasized by records of failure; he urges greater care in diagnosis, and deprecates the prevailing "open the abdomen and see" fashion. Numerous aphorisms might be picked out, but we will quote only a few typical examples (each illustrated by clinical evidence):

Abdominal injuries. "Beware of the diagnosis 'only winded' after an abdominal contusion or of the 'trivial wound' in an abdominal wall."

Urinary calculus. "A sudden bad pain extending from the kidney to the bladder and attended by a rigor suggests stone in the pelvis of the kidney and blocking its outlet." And "A similar pain, though more severe and extending down to the testicle or labium, suggests the passage of a stone into the ureter."

Pyosalpinx. "Capricious haemorrhage associated with pain and recurrent attacks of pelvic peritonitis suggests pyosalpinx."

Intussusception. "A sudden attack of crying and vomiting in a healthy, generally male, child, suggests intussusception."

Apropos of the choice of an operating surgeon, Mr. Morison writes: "Many can play at golf after prolonged instruction and practice, but few can play golf. Unless the golf is in it can never come out. There are many operators, but few surgeons."

The section on the after-treatment of patients who have undergone operation is so well done that it could with advantage be printed separately and circulated among all house-surgeons and nurses.

The text and print are good, and the illustrations most helpful.

It is a difficult book to review, for it is unique, and in all parts, whether it be diagnosis or treatment, remarkably good. It has the charm of simplicity, and is full of sound practical wisdom set down in plain understandable language. Its two main merits, however, are that it embodies solely the author's views, the views of a keen observer of wide experience, and is free from all ambiguity.

A good teacher is dogmatic, but the dogma must be sound; the book is typical of Professor Morison, for his helpful dogmatic statements are useful to all. The book was professedly written for general practitioners, but it is equally valuable for consultants (including gynaecologists), and should be read by all surgical teachers. It is worthy of a handy place on every medical practitioner's bookshelf.

¹ *Abdominal and Pelvic Surgery for Practitioners.* By Rutherford Morison, Hon. M.A., Hon. D.C.L., Hon. LL.D., M.B., F.R.C.S. Edin. and Eng. London: H. Milford, Oxford University Press. 1925. (Cn. 8vo, pp. xi + 212; 9 figures. 8s. 6d. net.)

CARDIAC THERAPEUTICS.

THE book on cardiac drugs² by Dr. L. CHEINISSE gives an account of all the important remedies used for heart disease in France. The chief drugs described are the cardiac glucosides, including digitalis, strophanthus and squill, calcium chloride, camphor, and quinidine.

The book is of particular interest because it indicates considerable differences between cardiac therapy in France and in this country. The therapeutic action of the cardiac glucosides is discussed at some length, but little reference is made to the important work done in this country and in America which in the last twenty years has profoundly modified this branch of therapeutics. The article on quinidine is much more complete, and it is to be noted that Dr. Cheinisse claims that he was the first (in 1921) to bring to the notice of French clinicians the discoveries made by Wenckebach and Frey in 1918. When discussing the action of camphor he mentions the interesting fact that during the war the shortage of vegetable oils led to the use in France of vaseline as a solvent for camphor in hypodermic injections, and that such injections frequently were followed, after a long latent period of many months, by the appearance of local tumours which showed malignant characters. Vaseline injected subcutaneously is apparently a dangerous foreign body which may cause the appearance of large tumours that may grow and invade the deeper tissues.

Near the end of the book is a short chapter on cardiac opotherapy in which the effects of saline extracts of minced heart given by the rectum are discussed. Enthusiastic supporters of this line of treatment are quoted, but it is only just to say that Dr. Cheinisse does not himself support these claims.

ANCIENT HEALING GODS.

PROFESSOR JAYNE has made a laborious investigation of the literature of ancient civilizations with the object of putting together accounts of the healing deities. The result is a collection of great scientific value. His book, entitled *The Healing Gods of Ancient Civilizations*,³ is unusually well documented and systematically set forth, and he exhibits a scientific and critical judgement that is all too rare among students of medical history.

It is said that scepticism is the first duty of the man of science. This is no less true of the historian of science. It is extraordinary how many statements pass current in works on the history of medicine for which no ultimate evidence is forthcoming. From such faults Dr. Jayne's work is free. He ranges over the civilizations of Egypt, Assyria, Phoenicia, India, and Iran, as well as the Greek, Roman, and Celtic worlds. No man, it is true, can be a first-hand authority in all these fields, but, so far as we have been able to test, Dr. Jayne's cautious and critical spirit has prevented him from relying on any but first-hand investigators.

Despite these virtues, this excellent book appears to us to be based on a fundamental anthropological fallacy. This fallacy is often encountered in works on the history of medicine and in collections put together for the purpose of illustrating the history of medicine. It is the fallacy that assumes that before the rise of scientific medicine man was in the habit of distinguishing, or was indeed capable of distinguishing, disease as a separate entity. This does not seem to have been the case. The reading of the Bible alone should be sufficient to disprove it. Man suffered good and evil at the hands, as he supposed, of supernatural beings, and all supernatural beings were, in this sense, disease gods and gods of healing. To write a history of gods of healing would thus be to write a complete mythology. What Professor Jayne has done is to separate from the other gods, in a somewhat artificial manner, those with whom archaeologists and historians have so far succeeded in associating rites in connexion with disease. The list is always growing, and there is reason to

² *Les Médicaments Cardiaques.* Par Dr. L. Cheinisse. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1925. (5½ x 8½; pp. 179. 14 fr.)

³ *The Healing Gods of Ancient Civilizations.* By Walter Addison Jayne, M.D. Newhaven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1925. (Roy. 8vo, pp. xl+569; 7 plates. 25s. net.)

believe that it will one day be identical with the list of the gods themselves. Professor Jayne himself calls attention to this in his preface, but he has not followed the matter to its logical conclusion.

In other respects Dr. Jayne has done a good and useful piece of work. Much of the book is of great interest to the ordinary reader. Its excellent arrangement, its admirable index, and its bibliography greatly facilitate reference. These qualities would alone be sufficient to gain and retain for it a special place in the literature of medical history.

SOME HOSPITAL REPORTS.

THE fifty-eighth volume of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*,⁴ edited by a new committee, returns to its familiar binding and shape, after an experimental change into a crown octavo volume. In a short note on the history of the *Reports* the contents of the first volume in 1864 are recalled, and of the writers in the original volume two, Sir William Church and Sir Dyce Duckworth, survive full of honours unto this present. There are three sympathetic obituaries—on Dr. E. E. Klein, Dr. H. H. Tooth, and Dr. Herbert Williamson. Dr. Klein, who came from Austria to England in 1871 as assistant professor at the Brown Institute, was primarily a histologist, but entirely self-taught, became the only general bacteriologist in this country, and for years exerted a very great influence in the development of the subject in this country. There are eight articles on professional subjects, and lists are given of the officers of the hospital, of additions to the library and museum, and the proceedings of the Abernethian Society and of the Paget Club are reported. Writing on the vicissitudes of a patient with trigeminal neuralgia, Mr. L. Bathe Rawling states that he is not convinced that injections of alcohol, which must be intraneural or intraganglionic, make subsequent surgical procedure in the way of exposure of the ganglion, its root and branches, more difficult. He adds that were he a sufferer from this dread disease he would "most certainly fly to alcohol injection first, falling back on the surgeon when, and if, that method failed."

After a short essay by Dr. Hugh Thursfield on the treatment of meningococcal meningitis, there is a note on the detection of tubercle bacilli in the cerebro-spinal fluid by Dr. R. G. Canti, who demonstrated its presence in 17, or 85 per cent., of 20 cases of tuberculous meningitis; he found that the chances of success are much increased by previous incubation of the whole fluid. Dr. C. Langton Hewer's article on splanchnic analgesia is illustrated by three figures showing the technique of this method, which has the great virtue of diminishing shock from operative trauma. Mr. Wilfred Shaw deals with the relation between cyclical changes in the ovaries and similar events in the endometrium. The control of the intestinal flora is considered by Dr. L. P. Garrod, who concludes that a "normal intestinal flora" as such does not exist, and that the gravest doubts must be cast on the alleged pathogenicity of faecal streptococci.

The concluding number of the seventy-fifth volume of *Guy's Hospital Reports*⁵ opens with an article by the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, Sir Archibald Garrod, on Alexander John Gaspard Marcet (1770-1822), who was physician to Guy's Hospital (1804-1819), was with his friend, Dr. Yelloly, much concerned in the formation of the Medical and Chirurgical Society in 1805, and in 1817 wrote an essay on the chemical history and medical treatment of calculous disorders, which he dedicated to Wollaston. A further contribution to the study of the physical fitness of men assessed by various methods is made by Professor M. S. Pembrey, Mr. W. D. Hambley, and Mr. E. C. Warner, who conclude that there is not any single real test, other than the old one of trial and error, for physical fitness in every and any kind of occupation, and that physical fitness is relative and not identical with

good physique; they think that the pulse is for many reasons the best test. In the third instalment of the article on massage and remedial exercises in medicine Dr. G. H. Hunt considers diseases of the lungs and pleurae; he divides the subject into (1) local treatment—namely, emptying cavities and bronchiectases, and expansion of collapsed lung, and (2) general treatment to improve the circulatory and respiratory conditions and so the patient's general health. The successful editor, Dr. A. F. HURST, contributes three papers: a short one on tuberculous infection of a chronic gastric ulcer; an interesting account of diverticula of the colon; and a discussion on the diagnosis of cancer of the stomach, an abstract of which served as the introduction to the discussion in the Surgical Section at the Bath meeting of the British Medical Association. This is supplemented by an analysis of fifty selected cases at Guy's Hospital by Dr. N. L. Lloyd. The results of splenectomy for acholuric jaundice, especially the changes in the fragility of the red blood corpuscles, are considered by Dr. J. M. H. Campbell and Mr. E. C. Warner, who detail four cases, three in one family, and conclude that while splenectomy removes the symptoms it does not increase the resistance of the red cells to haemolysis, much more than splenectomy normally does, and only very rarely, if at all, brings the fragility back to normal. The symptoms are therefore due to the haemolytic activity of the spleen and not to the fragility of the red cells, which is probably an underlying inherited condition in the familial cases. Dr. A. F. Knott, pathologist to the New Lodge Clinic, provides an article on the significance of coliform bacilli in the duodenum, based on the experience gained from 172 routine examinations of bile obtained from the gall bladder by the duodenal tube; he finds that pathogenic coliform bacilli occur in 90 per cent. of biliary lesions as compared with an incidence of 30 per cent. in other conditions. The treatment of active rickets by the mercury vapour lamp is considered with wise moderation by Dr. J. F. Carter-Brain and Mr. A. A. Osman.

THE NATURE AND ORIGIN OF CANCER.

IN connexion with the post-graduate classes arranged by the medical faculty of Vienna for the year 1924, it was proposed to include a series of lectures on carcinoma, which should furnish those attending the course, most of whom were medical men in actual practice, with a concise statement of the views at present held with regard to the nature and origin of the disease, its leading clinical features, and the main principles of its treatment. In order that medical men should be put in possession of something less evanescent than the subject-matter of a series of lectures is apt to prove, it was further proposed to embody the lectures in a book. The proposal has been carried out under the auspices of the Austrian society for the investigation and prevention of cancer, and twenty-eight of the leading members of that society delivered a series of thirty lectures, which have now been issued in a single volume.⁶

There can be no doubt of the utility of a book of this kind. Not so many years ago the conception of carcinoma may be said almost to have been embraced in the two words "medullary" and "scirrhous"; since that time our knowledge has been extended, not only by means of the scalpel and microscope, but also by chemical, bacteriological, radiological, serological, statistical, and other methods, and the disease has been produced experimentally in animals. The busy practitioner has no time to follow the intricacies of the subject, and is probably more bewildered than informed by any attempt to do so. He desires to know briefly what is the practical outcome of all this research, and in the volume referred to he will find concise statements on this head by recognized authorities in the subject. Another advantage in a book of this kind is the total absence of all preliminary matter—definitions, classifications, and so forth, requisites for enabling the student to pass his examinations; practical matters such as

⁴ *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*. Vol. lviii. London: John Murray, 1925. (Demy 8vo, pp. xx + 113; 3 figures, 2 charts. 21s. net.)
⁵ *Guy's Hospital Reports*. Vol. 75 (vol. 6, fourth series), No. 4, October, 1925. Edited by Arthur F. Hurst, M.D. London: Wakley and Son (1912) Ltd., 1925. (Med. 8vo, pp. 373-456; 1 full plate, 23 figures. Annual subscription, 22 2s. for volume of four parts; single numbers, 12s. 6d. each.)

⁶ *Die Krebskrankheit. Ein Zyklus von Vorträgen herausgegeben von der Oesterreichischen Gesellschaft zur Erforschung und Bekämpfung der Krebskrankheiten*. Wien: J. Springer, 1925. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 356; 95 figures. Paper cover, 30s.; bound, 35s.)

the practitioner wishes to be informed upon are entered on directly and without circumlocution.

The first few lectures are devoted to general subjects, such as the morphology and etiology of cancer, malignancy, the biochemistry of cancer, experimental tumour formation, and the problem of the frequency of cancer in the population; under the heading of experimental work will be found a discussion of the kindred subject of the Rous-sarcoma and the question of filterable viruses which has recently acquired a new significance from researches in this country. The remainder of the work deals with carcinoma as met with in the various organs and tissues of the body. Among the articles contributed special mention may be made of a very interesting account of the pre-cancerous stage in the skin, by Professor Kyrle, and of articles on the breast by Professor Fraenkel, the larynx by Professor Hajek, and the stomach by Professors Glaessner and Eiselsberg. The authors have amplified their lectures to some extent in order to render the descriptions complete, and a considerable number of illustrations have been introduced into the text.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

THE name of Florence Nightingale seizes the popular imagination as that of a sweet, gentle, and withal lovable woman. But when Sir EDWARD COOK published his *Life of Florence Nightingale* in 1913 a somewhat different picture was presented in his two exhaustive volumes. A woman of indefatigable energy, indomitable courage, and a fixed determination to have her own way, brooking no delay and attacking with purposeful sarcasm official opposition to her will, was portrayed. Much of this view of Florence Nightingale was subsequently made use of by Lytton Strachey in his *Eminent Victorians*, published in 1918, where a less agreeable picture of Florence Nightingale is drawn. It is probably on this account that it has been considered advisable to publish a shorter *Life* in the form of a revised and abridged edition of Sir Edward Cook's. The authoress, ROSALIND NASH, has compressed into some four hundred pages the two volumes of the original work, cutting and picking from them here and there in much the same way as Fitzgerald constructed his immortal verses from the *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám. We cannot say, however, that Mrs. Nash's volume has anything like the same historical value as Sir Edward Cook's. It is a readable volume, but it leaves out too much. The part that is least compressed is that which deals with the Crimean war—in effect, that which presents to us the picture of the traditional "Lady of the Lamp" and the "Ministering Angel," and we are glad to have it; but much that is of intense interest in Florence Nightingale's correspondence is omitted, and the whole of that side of her character, brought out by her efforts at Indian reforms to which Sir E. Cook devotes a considerable portion of his second volume, is compressed into a dozen pages forming Part V, and a similar number of pages forming Chapter XI of Part III. In fact, the abridged edition devotes only one-third of the volume to Florence Nightingale's life and work after the Crimean war, although it was subsequent to 1855 that her real genius blossomed and her remarkable capacity for hard detail in effecting reforms in workhouse management, civil hospitals, and nursing, as well as in the army and army medical service, came into play. In describing Florence Nightingale's influence on the Red Cross movement, Sir E. Cook refers to Henri Dunant as a Swiss physician, and Mrs. Nash as a Swiss doctor. He was neither. He was a private gentleman and, to some extent at any rate, a company promoter; it was in this latter capacity that he found himself in the neighbourhood of Solferino at the time of the battle, if we may believe Professor François's *Berceau de la Croix Rouge*. Another curious mistake of which Mrs. Nash alone is guilty is the footnote on page 215, to the effect that Sir Thomas Longmore died in 1925 at the age of 97. He died in 1895 at the age of 79. Evidently the late Dr. Longhurst has been confused with him, although Dr. Longhurst's name does not appear in either

Sir E. Cook's or Mrs. Nash's volumes. An appendix of the latter's book deals with Lytton Strachey's "Florence Nightingale," which the authoress implies is the work of an entertaining caricaturist. Another appendix tells the reader how to make a "Nightingale."

NOTES ON BOOKS.

ONE of the most curious non-medical works we remember to have had for review is that entitled *Americana*.⁸ It is a collection of newspaper paragraphs and other short items of print, supplied by readers in every part of the United States during the past year, and arranged and annotated by Mr. H. L. MENCKEN, editor of the *American Mercury*. In a short preface Mr. Mencken explains the genesis and purpose of the extracts. "They come in part from newspapers of wide circulation and from other easily accessible sources, but they come in larger part from little country papers, from broadsides and other such documents of purely local circulation, and from handbills and other advertisements observed along the streets. They thus offer a singularly intimate and revelatory insight into the daily life and thought of the American people. . . . Here are the things that Americans of the vast majority read every day. Here are the ideas that are regularly presented to them." These four or five hundred samples of raw provincialism are grouped geographically according to the States, and illustrate, we must suppose, the mind as well as the speech of an ingenuous people—a people from whom have sprung such medical marvels as chiropractic and the Abrams box. "But (observes the editor) those who see only humour in these fantastic paragraphs see only half that is in them. Fundamentally, nine-tenths of them are serious in intent, and they are all presented here for a quite serious purpose. That purpose, one of the main aims of the *American Mercury*, is to make the enlightened minority of Americans familiar, by documentary evidence, with what is going on in the minds of the masses." He believes that no headway can be made in opposing and changing absurd and mischievous ideas until it is known clearly what they are; hence [this book of "genuine home-brew." For the benefit of English readers a dryly humorous glossary has been appended, together with some caustic study notes for foreign students on the intellectual and moral standing of the several States. From these notes we learn, for example, that Delaware has no large city and no person of any consequence has lived in it for half a century; that good whisky is even cheaper in Florida than in New York; that one of the chief citizens of Kansas is a Mr. Howe, whose system teaches that wealth is the supreme good; that the climate of Louisiana is very hot and there are no inhabitants of any importance; that Mississippi has some of the worst newspapers in America; that primitive Washington has no citizens of any importance and is seldom heard from; with a good deal else to the same effect, only more so. It is rumoured that Mr. Mencken has in contemplation a volume of "Anglicana," but we doubt whether the choicest excerpts from our newspaper press could, in crudity of expression and artless vulgarity of thought, approach this amazing collection from America. Each extract is introduced with a line or two of editorial comment; thus, under the heading "Note on the training of a scientist from the Topeka Capital," we read: "Dr. M. F. Perkins, chiropractor, is now located in rooms 207-8 in the new Hotel Kansan. Before taking up the practice of chiropractic, Doctor Perkins operated a cleaning and pressing establishment at 727 Kansas avenue." Of professional interest also is the "follow-up letter employed upon ungrateful patients by a medical man of Paige, Texas," reproduced at page 238; and the dreadful end of "one Smith, a colored physician," burned to death by his white fellow citizens in the same State.

BALY'S *Spectroscopy*, Vol. I, is one of the series of textbooks of physical chemistry produced under the editorship of Sir William Ramsay and Professor Donnan, a series designed to assist the development of those departments of research on matter in molecular dimensions which have been notable for their far-reaching and powerful influences on the growth of other branches of science. The third edition includes so much matter resulting from new investigation that it has been necessary to divide the work into two volumes. Volume I,⁹ which has recently been issued, recites the history of the subject and describes apparatus and methods of practice. Professor Baly is not only an experienced worker in the subject but an enthusiastic explorer of all that underlies the means of success in its investigation. It is easy to discern from his writing that he has gathered

⁸ *Americana*, 1925. Edited by H. L. Mencken. London: Martin Hopkinson and Co., Ltd. (Demy 8vo, pp. 309 + x. 7s. 6d.)
⁹ *Spectroscopy*. By E. C. C. Baly, C.B.E., M.Sc., F.R.S. In two volumes. Vol. I. Third edition. London and New York: Longmans, Green and Co. 1924. (Demy 8vo, pp. xi + 298; 138 figures. Vol. I, 5s. net.)

¹ *The Life of Florence Nightingale*. By Sir Edward Cook. Abridged and revised by Rosalind Nash. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 1925. (Demy 8vo, pp. xi + 404; 2 plates. 15s. net.)