

MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY.

THE production of textbooks on bacteriology in Italy has hitherto been on a very modest scale; and it has been intermittent and inadequate to the needs of Italian students. This is attributed by Professor SANARELLI, in the preface which he contributes to Professor VITTORIO PUNTONI's manual of medical microbiology,⁵ to the limited circulation of Italian scientific books. Students have, in consequence, necessarily had recourse to foreign books; and in these, Sanarelli complains, the work even of the best Italian observers is rarely appreciated at its true value, and is often overlooked altogether. The publication of Puntoni's work, which does honour to the Roman school of microbiology, removes this reproach. In a brief historical introduction the author refers, with some evident national pride, to the contributions of Italians in founding the science of microbiology. It was Spallanzani who demolished the theory of spontaneous generation, which was seriously obstructing the progress of the science; and the first conception of the pathogenic specificity of micro-organisms is due to Agostino Bassi. Bassi not only discovered the microbe of silkworm disease, but appreciated the main points of the epidemiology and prophylaxis of the disease, including antiseptics. Of Puntoni's book it may be said that it forms a reliable guide to the whole subject of medical microbiology, including the general technique and the special investigation of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and ultra-microscopic organisms. The list of organisms included in the work is very complete, and their properties, including the phenomena of immunity and allergy, are described with great clearness; and the illustrations are good and well chosen. The book is evidently the outcome of the author's own observations, and is in no sense a mere compilation, although the observations of other workers receive full recognition. It is an excellent and practical manual.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE useful and clearly written little work, by Drs. JOHN GUY and G. J. I. LINKLATER, on *Hygiene for Nurses*,⁶ which is drawn up in accordance with the syllabus issued by the General Nursing Council, is divided into two parts. The first deals with the communal aspects of hygiene, such as water, ventilation, heating, lighting, sewage disposal, communicable diseases, and external parasites. The second part is devoted to the personal aspects of hygiene, including a consideration of food, clothing, mental and physical exercise, and the relation of the nurse to public health. Appendixes contain an account of the activities of the Scottish Board of Health, as well as the list of notifiable diseases and the composition of various foods.

The fourth volume of the thirty-ninth series of *International Clinics*,⁷ of which the first three were noticed in our issue of December 7th, 1929, p. 1060, contains, like its predecessors, a number of attractive and well-written articles on a great variety of subjects. The first five papers emanate from the Fitzsimons General Hospital of the United States Army, and are devoted to the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by heliotherapy, artificial pneumothorax, phrenicectomy, and other surgical methods. A section entitled "Diagnosis and Treatment" includes papers on the home treatment of diabetes, the surgical aspects of chronic ulcerative colitis, and the importance of a scientific foundation in mental hygiene. In the section on surgery the papers deal with the surgical physiology of the phrenic nerve, the injection treatment of varicose veins, the diagnosis and treatment of hernia, the history of thoracic surgery, the complications of extrapleural thoracoplasty, the anterior abdominal incision, radium therapy of cancer of the rectum, and the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. The final sections, entitled respectively "Medical Questionnaires" and "Medical Trend," contain a heterogeneous collection of short crisp articles on such topics as the treatment of burns, prevention of measles, recent work in undulant fever, the nature of exanthematides, the biological diagnosis of pregnancy, the control of rheumatism, the use of leeches in present-day treatment, the Mayo Clinic and Foundation, the

⁵ *Manuale di Microbiologia Medica*. Del Vittorio Puntoni. Prefazione del Professor G. Sanarelli. Rome: Studio Editoriale degli Istituti Universitari Socrate Bucciarelli. 1930. (Sup. roy. 8vo, pp. xv + 735; 327 figures. Lire novantotto.)

⁶ *Hygiene for Nurses*. By John Guy, M.D., D.P.H., etc., and G. J. I. Linklater, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., etc. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1930. (Cr. 8vo, pp. vii + 212; 18 figures. 5s. net.)

⁷ *International Clinics*. Vol. IV. Edited by Henry W. Cattell, M.D. Philadelphia. Thirty-ninth series. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1929. (Med. 8vo, pp. xi + 308; illustrated. 12s. 6d. net.)

Pan-Pacific Surgical Conference, and many others, eminently suited for busy practitioners who wish to keep their reading up to date.

Halcyon, or the Future of Monogamy,⁸ written on prophetic lines like Bellamy's *Looking Backwards* and H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*, is an extremely clever addition to the To-day and To-morrow Series. Beginning with an account of the present-day trend of public opinion about sexual matters, the author, Miss VERA BRITAIN, who has a keen, not to say sarcastic, eye for our inconsistencies, pictures the future, as described in "The History of English Moral Institutions in the Nineteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty-first Centuries," by Minerva Huxterwin, Professor of Moral History in the University of Oxford, and a *soi-disant* kinswoman of Edward Westermarck, author of "The History of Human Marriage." In the second of the chapters quoted from this book written in the middle of the twenty-first century, the "Period of Sexual Reform (1930-1975)" is described, and this is followed by the third chapter on "Scientific Progress (1950-2000) and its relation to the Moral Revolution." The last chapter on "The Triumph of Voluntary Monogamy (2000-2030)" refers to the benefits resulting from the universal knowledge of birth control, the Married Women's Independence Act (1949), and other Acts. Thus early and happy marriages between those of similar ages became common and venereal disease negligible. This vigorous advocacy of birth control, sex instruction, and trial marriages will arouse much thought and, no doubt, strong opposition.

Dr. DAVID YELLOWLEES's little book entitled *Psychology's Defence of the Faith*⁹ is based on a course of lectures delivered at a conference of the Student Christian Movement, held at Swanwick last summer. The author's main purpose is to consider what psychology has to do with religion, and to indicate and discuss some of the psychological factors connected with religious belief and its development.

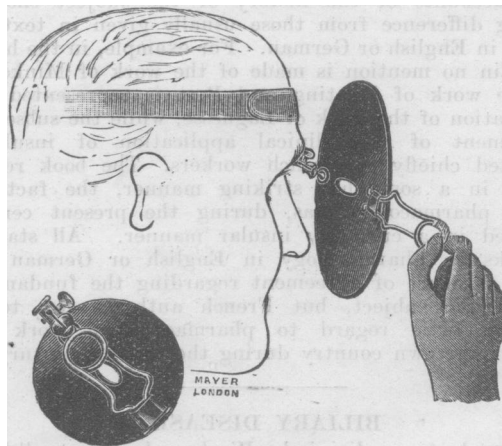
⁸ London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co.; New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. (Fcap. 8vo, pp. 92. 2s. 6d. net.)

⁹ London: Student Christian Movement. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 190. 5s. net.)

PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES.

AN ADJUSTABLE HEAD MIRROR.

MR. O. POPPER, F.R.C.S.Ed. (London, W.), writes: The instrument here illustrated was shown at a recent meeting of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine. Although designed mainly for the nose, throat, and ear surgeon, this mirror may be found useful in other departments of surgery where one is operating on deep parts (rectum, cervix, etc.), where a strong beam of light is essential, and where it is necessary to alter the direction of the beam frequently during the operation. The illustration is self-explanatory. The direction of the beam is adjusted by means of the detachable wire spring handle, which has been previously sterilized, and then inserted with the surgically clean hand into the socket on the



back of the mirror casing without manual contact with the latter. The mirror can now be moved with ease and safety, and with due regard to asepsis. In spite of the bewildering array of headlights, the mirror remains the most efficient as well as the cheapest and most certain form of illumination.

The illustration also shows the handle in the reverse position, where it occupies very little space. I believe this handle to be preferable to the clothes peg generally employed, in that it never slips, does not occupy any reflecting surface of the mirror or injure the latter, and that it is always carried (reversed) on the mirror. It adds very little to the bulk or cost of the instrument. The makers are Messrs. Mayer and Phelps of New Cavendish Street, W.1.