

topics, and whether they are writing of bees or blood cells depict them as living things in simple language with a minimum of theorizing. To write a readable handbook of blood diseases without mentioning Castle or the porphyrins or the serum iron is indeed a triumph, but Emile Weil achieves it. We welcome too an author who has the temerity to describe the Tallqvist haemoglobinometer and not repeat the latest patter about copper or cobalt. It has been his aim to put cytology in the first place. He has not tried to write a textbook of blood diseases—that becomes progressively less easy as the discoveries of haematology are assimilated into general medicine—but he does give a good description not only of the examination of the blood but also of the cytology of exudates and punctures of the marrow, spleen, liver, and lymph glands.

We would not recommend this book as a text for the M.R.C.P. examination or even for a postgraduate course in haematology under some of our sterner pundits. But we would like to leave it in the side-room for students who are prepared to get their fingers dirty with Romanowsky stains and experience the thrill of first seeing Cabot's rings or Türk cells. It is not too expensive for the purpose, and it has some very pretty plates.

Notes on Books

The *Textbook of Medical Treatment*, by various authors, edited by three Scottish professors and with a foreword by another, was warmly welcomed in these columns on its appearance last summer (July 1, 1939, p. 17). A reprint, which is in fact more than a reprint, has now been issued by the publishers, E. and S. Livingstone of Edinburgh (price 25s.), the large first edition having been exhausted within seven months of publication. The whole book has been revised and certain errors of omission and commission corrected. Owing to the rapid advance of sulphonamide chemotherapy these emendations have been particularly numerous and extensive in the sections on cerebrospinal fever, septicaemias, venereal diseases, and respiratory diseases. A separate section on female sex hormones has been written by Dr. T. N. MacGregor, and some new pages have also been inserted on the treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction at the end of the section on psychotherapy in general practice.

Doctor Joan, of Australia and India, by BARBARA UNDERHILL, B.Sc., is published by the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, 19, Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (1s.). The strenuous life of a woman medical missionary is recounted in this short biography. Dr. Joan Taylor went from Australia to India, and from 1933 to 1937 laboured in Amritsar, the North-West Frontier, and Sukkur, Sindh. At each place she had extensive hospital and out-patient work, to which she gave herself with courage and devotion. The understaffed conditions in the hospitals proved too much for her strength, and she died at Karachi, whither she had gone to recuperate from exhaustion. The many illustrations in the book from photographs taken by "Doctor Joan" give a good idea of her surroundings, and most of the letterpress is composed of the descriptions she sent home about her life in India.

In the new edition of *La Maladie Hypertensive* (Paris: Masson et Cie, 0.75 dollar) Professor A. DUMAS gives an account, chiefly from the clinical aspect, of essential hypertension, tracing the history of the condition from the early symptomless stage to the usual termination with organic changes in heart, brain, and kidneys. He has little or nothing new to add to previous accounts of the symptoms, and mentions only very briefly the recent interesting work on the experimental production of hypertension by renal ischaemia, which suggests that the kidney may play a more important part than the sympathetic nervous system and the endocrine glands in human hypertension. Nervous and endocrine factors

are, however, considered by Dumas to be more likely at fault. There is a good deal of repetition in the book, but it may be recommended as giving a clear survey of the course of the disease.

In the Service of Suffering: Phases of Medical Missionary Enterprise, by Dr. CLEMENT C. CHESTERMAN, with a foreword by Viscount Sankey, is published in London at the Edinburgh House Press, price 2s. This handbook deals with Protestant medical missions in different lands. The first part is concerned with the Christian mission of healing; the second part describes in a somewhat sketchy way various hospitals in Africa, India, and China. The volume could with advantage have been double the size. It will be useful to students and nurses who think of dedicating themselves to medical mission work, a life in which, judging by the story told, there is a rich reward in every way except financially.

Preparations and Appliances

A SHORT ARTIFICIAL ARM

Dr. J. M. BARNARD (Sidcup, Kent) writes:

I enclose drawings of a short artificial arm which has been worn by one of my patients for several years in preference to a full-length arm, which he found clumsy and inconvenient in use.

This patient, left with a seven-inch stump in 1915 as a result of war wounds, was fitted with the usual arm, which he found such a nuisance that he did without it. As a result of this,

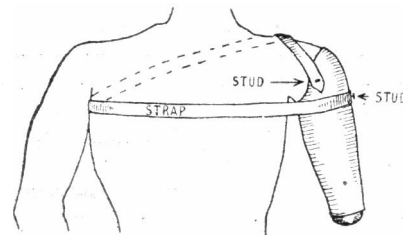


FIG. 1.—Front view of left arm in position, secured with one strap.

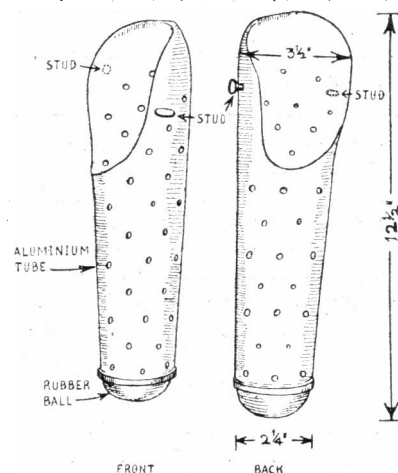


FIG. 2.—Aluminium case for left arm, with solid rubber ball at end, secured by single strap. Weight, 10½ oz.

and the fact that he was an architect, he developed a scoliosis and fibrositis of the back from postural faults when he was working or writing. He consulted me for the muscular pain in the back and loin.

I recommended him to have made a short arm just over elbow length fitted at the end with a rubber (sorbo) ball; this enabled him to sit normally at his desk and steady his papers with the ball. He has found it so useful that he has encouraged me to bring the appliance to your notice, as he feels sure there are many who would find it extremely useful.