

Reviews

TREATMENT OF CANCER

Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases. Edited by George T. Pack, B.Sc., M.D., F.A.C.S., and Edward M. Livingston, B.Sc., M.D. In three volumes. (\$36.00 or £9 the set.) New York and London: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper and Brothers.

To describe the treatment of cancer and allied conditions in all its various aspects and in all parts of the body is a task which really merits the use of that overworked adjective "colossal"; nevertheless it has been attempted and carried through in a praiseworthy manner in the books now under review. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the three large volumes contain some 2,600 pages of matter, while the indexes alone add more than 200 pages to this total.

The general editorship is in the hands of George T. Pack and Edward M. Livingston, and the list of contributors contains 150 names of authors, many of them with international reputations. From such a galaxy we can only pick upon a few for mention, but the following names carry their own significance: Adson, Balfour, Braasch, Broders, Chaoul, Coley, Crile, Ewing, Gwathmey, Handley, Jackson, Lahey, Mayo, Polya, Rankin, Young; yet the other names in this long list are scarcely less imposing. A high general standard of information would naturally be expected from such sources, and a perusal of the various sections shows that our anticipations are justified. It is obviously impossible in a short review to examine each section critically, but mention can be made of a few to indicate the character of the work.

An early chapter on the microscopical grading of cancer affords an excellent opportunity for Broders to explain his investigations on this subject; others on surgical, aspiration, and punch biopsy are full of practical information. Several good chapters are devoted to the general theory and application of radiation therapy in all its forms, including the Chaoul tube on the one hand and the use of very high voltage installations on the other. Quite properly the question of protection in radiotherapy receives adequate attention. Following these discursive sections the rest of the book deals regionally with cancer of the various organs. In each section the description of treatment is comprehensive, and includes surgery, diathermy, irradiation in all its forms, and, where appropriate, other forms of treatment such as Coley's fluid, etc. Even such matters as the prosthetic reconstruction of the face and mouth following cancer therapy are not neglected.

On the whole it seems that the balance between the various methods of attacking cancer in any particular situation is well held, and in the few instances where the authors' opinions do not agree, as is bound to occur in a book of this type, the editors have added some judicial paragraphs to guide the reader. The combined knowledge and skill here represented could not possibly come within the range of one man's ability, but the multiple authorship occasionally leads, despite efficient editing, to a certain amount of overlap. In particular this is noted in the sections on growths of the colon and rectum. There are some 1,500 illustrations, the high quality of which is equalled by the general make-up of the volumes. The publishers as well as the authors are to be congratulated upon their enterprise in producing a notable contribution to the cancer problem, and, provided the matter can from time to time be brought up to date, these volumes should be universally recognized as a standard of reference in this subject for a long period to come.

HANDBOOK OF ANAESTHETICS

Handbook of Anaesthetics. (Formerly Ross and Fairlie.) Fifth edition. Revised by R. J. Minnitt, M.D., D.A. With Chapters on Local and Spinal Anaesthesia by W. Quarry Wood, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.Ed. (Pp. 364; illustrated. 12s. 6d. net, postage 7d.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1940.

In his preface to the fifth edition of Ross and Fairlie's *Handbook of Anaesthetics* Dr. R. J. Minnitt drops a broad hint that he means to do a good deal of sweeping before the sixth edition appears but is rather acutely conscious of being a new broom this time. His difficulty is one with which it is easy to sympathize: for he has to bring up to date an elementary textbook (usually more difficult to write than an advanced one) which has achieved a recognized position through the possession of several real and obvious merits. Among these were clear presentation of accurate information, good selection of what must be included and what omitted in a book of limited scope, and good arrangement of material. In the present evidently transitional stage of development it would be better not to offer criticism of things which Dr. Minnitt probably himself realizes are open to it, but to dwell rather on the substantial merits both of what he has inherited from his predecessors and what he has added to it.

Naturally some unevenness of style is observable: many chapters are almost models of well-expressed dogmatic teaching; others are rather full of grammatical solecisms such as "the patient is induced with . . ." (shade of Clifford Allbutt!) when what is meant is "anaesthesia is induced by . . ." The chapter on choice of anaesthetic for various types of case would gain by references to spinal and to local anaesthesia, which are virtually omitted from purview; and it may be suggested also that there are other causes of mechanical obstruction of the airway besides obstructive goitre, oedema of the glottis, and chest affections. Dr. Minnitt knows that well enough, of course, but students reading page 250 might not realize it. It is of no great intrinsic importance that novocain is not spelt with the final "e" which it is regularly given here, but this is a symptom of the rather perfunctory proof-reading which is doubtless on Dr. Minnitt's list of things to be remedied. The book is so valuable that it cannot be very long before "next time" comes about.

FOOD AND DIETETICS

Hutchison's Food and the Principles of Dietetics. Revised by V. H. Mottram, M.A., and George Graham, M.D., F.R.C.P. Ninth edition. (Pp. 648. 21s. net.) London: Edward Arnold and Co. 1940.

The ninth edition of Sir Robert Hutchison's "Food and the Principles of Dietetics" has been edited and extensively revised by Prof. Mottram and Dr. George Graham. Its contents fall into four parts. Part I deals with diet in normal life, and in the space of 184 pages an excellent account is given of the physiology of nutrition. Part II deals with the composition and character of food and beverages, and a vast amount of valuable information will be found in the 260 pages which comprise this section. No greater compliment can be given than to say that the section fully maintains the high standard which has made Hutchison's monograph one of the leading books on diet in this country for the past forty years. There next follows an excellent account of the principles of feeding in infancy and childhood by Dr. C. F. Harris.

The final section is mainly concerned with the dietetic treatment of disease. To the general practitioner this aspect is of particular importance, and he may well be disappointed that the editors should devote less than one-sixth of a book on dietetics to the part played by diet in the treatment of disease. Surely the value and the

limitations of diet in the various types and stages of the chronic rheumatic diseases and diseases of the heart and blood vessels and the liver and biliary tract are worthy of more space than the one or two pages devoted to them. This section does not reach the high standard attained by the rest of the book.

ACTIONS OF DRUGS

Pharmacology. By J. H. Gaddum, Sc.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Oxford Medical Publications. (Pp. 407. 17s. 6d. net.) London: Oxford University Press. 1940.

Prof. Gaddum in the preface to his new textbook entitled *Pharmacology* explains that his object has been to present the general principles of the subject in a brief form to medical students. This task is one beset with great difficulties because pharmacology has developed along empirical lines, and in consequence an enormous mass of detailed information has been acquired, whilst general principles are scarce. Furthermore, the medical student is interested in a small number of compounds that have been chosen on account of their therapeutic value and not on account of their general pharmacological interest.

The volume comprises about 400 pages, and the author has dealt with all the chief drugs of therapeutic importance, hence his main problem has been that of selecting the most relevant data and presenting them as clearly and concisely as possible. The difficult problem of demonstrating the relations between different members of groups of compounds has been overcome by the use of ingenious tables which show the variations in structure very concisely and clearly. This method is applied to such groups as the sympathomimetic amines, the phenol derivatives, and the sulphonamide drugs. The volume covers all the important aspects of drug action, and certain sections provide information that is not readily available elsewhere in a concise form; such sections are those dealing with the action of drugs on nerve endings and the principles of biological assay.

The special interest of Prof. Gaddum's book is that it represents an approach to pharmacology from an unusual standpoint, and hence can be recommended not only to students but also to teachers of pharmacology and therapeutics.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY FOR PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

Child Psychology for Professional Workers. By Florence M. Teagarden, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of Pittsburgh. (Pp. 641. \$3.25.) New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Prof. Teagarden has produced a really valuable book. Primarily designed for professional social workers, teachers, and nurses who have to work among children, whether in school, home, or institution, this volume will prove to be a mine of information for anyone interested in the life of the child. Its great merit is that it is centred on the normal and not on the abnormal child, and that the author has succeeded in avoiding the worst of the psychological jargon of the present day.

In a comprehensive study such as this much of the information is of necessity second-hand, and this is perhaps noticeable in the writing of the first few chapters, which deal with heredity, birth, and infantile development; but by the time the author reaches the chapters on the pre-school child and his progress through school life she has clearly come within the ambit of her own experience, and the book accordingly comes to life. The chapter in which behaviour difficulties are surveyed is especially good, while those chapters concerned with the effects of various illnesses and sensory and physical defects are adequate if not detailed. Finally, a record of the children's charter

as promulgated by President Hoover's White House Conference on Child Health and Protection is given: this might well be used as an ideal by all those concerned with the education of children in its widest sense. Although this book is meant primarily for a non-medical audience, doctors, in whatever branch of the profession they may find themselves, would do well to read it; for if we have any interest in our patients' welfare—which surely we must have—we all must come back to the proper upbringing of the child as the basis of healthy living.

Notes on Books

The latest of several recent popular books on medical microbiology is Dr. JOHN DREW'S *Man, Microbe, and Malady*, which has appeared in the sixpenny Pelican series. It is quite the most systematic and orthodox of its kind, and the inquiring and intelligent laymen will profit much by reading it. The arrangement and choice of subjects almost follow the lines of a regular textbook, but the author maintains interest by the use of simple language and by allowing facts to speak for themselves. The chapter on bacterial warfare is a novelty, and the reader will be relieved to hear that there are grave difficulties in the way of attacking effectively by this means. This is true, but there may be other methods which have not occurred to the author, and it would be rash to predict their failure in advance of any practical trial.

Occupational therapy has not received the attention in this country which it deserves. It is fairly well recognized in mental hospitals, and the few centres which teach it approach it chiefly from the point of view of psychiatry. It has, however, an invaluable scope in the after-treatment of nearly every form of disease. In the rebuilding of mind and spirit which is so necessary after most illnesses the lessons of the mental hospital can be usefully applied. In rehabilitation after orthopaedic injuries occupational therapy is a highly specialized art, for its application differs from limb to limb and even from case to case. Dr. NORAH A. HAWORTH and Miss E. MARY MACDONALD have written the first English textbook on the subject, which has for some years been fruitfully developed in Canada. Their *Theory of Occupational Therapy* (Baillière, Tindall and Cox; 6s.) is intended for students and nurses, and embodies a great deal of practical experience by well-known pioneers. They deal concisely with the treatment of mental patients, sufferers from tuberculosis and cardiac disease, and surgical and orthopaedic cases, and conclude with a practical chapter on finance, equipment, and the ancillary details of the art. The book is copiously illustrated with photographs and line drawings.

Preparations and Appliances

REFINED TETANUS AND GAS-GANGRENE ANTITOXIN-GLOBULINS

Mixed tetanus and gas-gangrene antitoxin is issued for the convenience of those who are called upon to treat wounds contaminated with soil, dust, etc., and is available as "Wellcome" brand refined tetanus and gas-gangrene polyvalent antitoxin-globulins. Each phial contains 3,000 international units of antitoxin for *Cl. tetani*, 3,000 units for *Cl. perfringens* (= *Cl. welchii*), 1,500 units for *Cl. septique*, and 1,000 units for *Cl. oedematiens*. These amounts are in accordance with the provisional recommendations of the Ministry of Health Emergency Medical Service for the serum prophylaxis of tetanus and gas gangrene (*British Medical Journal*, 1939, 2, Supplement, p. 169). The entire contents of the phial may be injected subcutaneously or intramuscularly as soon as possible after receipt of a wound that may have been infected with pathogenic anaerobes.