

increasing strengths of potassium permanganate are recommended. Most of the references are to French and American literature, but the authors are somewhat at fault when they suggest that Mac Elligot (sic) was at St. Mary's Hospital in 1941 (actually he was in the Royal Air Force) and that Col. Harrison, who as our readers know was, and is, Adviser in V.D. at the Ministry of Health, was responsible for Army statistics.

This booklet is largely of historical interest, but is worth reading if only to see how French doctors faced their difficulties without the help of penicillin.

ARBUTHNOT LANE

Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., C.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.: His Life and Work.
By W. E. Tanner, M.S., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 192. 15s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1946.

If a surgeon's greatness is judged by the threefold standards of originality of mind, manual skill, and power to inspire others, Lane is perhaps the greatest British surgeon of the past hundred years. Lister was an original thinker, but no operator. Macewen was a brilliant craftsman who made outstanding advances, but he never won affection and he left a desert behind him. Moynihan was a technical artist and a gifted orator, but he lacked that humility which great leaders possess. Lane illuminated every branch of surgery by his genius, he operated with a sure dexterity that has never been surpassed, and he had the ability to inspire deep devotion and blind loyalty in all who worked with him, even for short periods and in a humble capacity. Many of the leaders of surgery in this generation and the two before it have been proud to call themselves Lane's men.

Lane was a leader in transforming Listerian antiseptics into modern asepsis. He taught surgeons to change as well as to gown before operating. He was the first, in Britain at all events, to explore the mastoid antrum, to drain the lateral sinus and tie the jugular vein for septic thrombosis, to resect a rib for empyema, to repair cleft palate successfully, to establish a new standard in the treatment of fractures. He was the originator of modern views on skeletal mechanics, the teacher of the "no touch" technique, the designer of a host of instruments which have been modified but never improved upon. As orthopaedics passes from a dignified descendant of bone-setting to a major branch of surgery, Lane emerges as its founder and first high priest. Beside these lasting achievements his failures and his foibles pass into insignificance.

Those who knew Lane will find much of the man they loved and honoured in this book, but it is doubtful if strangers will do so. Tanner's real admiration for his old chief is apparent, but in a desire for completeness he has lost proportion in detail. On page 3, just when a picture of the central figure is emerging, he breaks off to mention Hoeffticke and Horniman, names that mean nothing to-day, and to quote at length Lane's views on liquid paraffin. Appreciations of his vivid and simple character are there; so also are long quotations from the laudatory speeches that greeted him in America and from the letters of his admirers in this country. His glories and his failings stand side by side in equal prominence.

THE MIND OF THE CHILD

The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child. Volume I. 1945. (Pp. 423. 30s.) London: Imago Publishing Co., Ltd.

This is the first annual volume of papers on the psychology of the child from the point of view of the strict psychoanalytic discipline. There is not a great deal of coherence in the sum total of the papers, so that each must be read on its own merits, but it is no doubt useful to have them collected in one volume.

The first section deals with so-called genetic problems—that is, the causal influences which promote neuroses and disturbed behaviour in general. Perhaps the most important of these is a criticism of Melanie Klein's theories by Dr. Glover, who disapproves of them inasmuch as they tend to destroy the coherence of the original Freudian doctrine. There is an interesting comparison between children brought up in a founding home and in a nursery. In the former protection is at a minimum and frustration at a maximum; in the latter the reverse is the case. Both extremes are held to be bad for the future emotional development of the child, over-protection being specially deleterious after the first year.

In the second section child analysis is discussed by Anna Freud in a paper on the indications for child analysis and in several clinical case records.—Case records and commentaries illustrate the third part, which is given up to guidance work. The fourth part deals with education and the contributions of psychoanalysis to this end. These contributions are slowly building up a collection of observations which should eventually allow of a practical formulation of the goals of education and the methods which are most likely to be successful in achieving these goals. The fifth section considers problems of group life, the most important of which are the gangs of young delinquents, whose influence on the mind of the individual member must be understood if successful reclamation is to be achieved. Finally there are some reviews of books and commentaries, including one on the literature dealing with the evacuation of children in wartime.

This book will be useful only to those who understand the technical terms used by psychoanalysts and appreciate their full implications.

A BOOK ON REFRACTION

Refraction of the Eye. By Alfred Cowan, M.D. Second edition, thoroughly revised. (Pp. 278; 181 engravings and 3 coloured plates. 24s.) London: Henry Kimpton.

Refraction of the Eye, by Dr. Alfred Cowan of Philadelphia, covers a rather wider field than do books on the subject in this country. The purely clinical aspects of refraction work are discussed in the concluding third of the text, and the teaching does not differ materially from the current practice here, though simplification is carried to lengths where it becomes confusing. This is seen from the advice given in omitting the conventional symbols for sphere and cylinder in the prescription. None the less the text is remarkably complete and contains aspects not well known to the English reader. This applies less to the objective than to the subjective methods, which include accounts of cyclodamia (a modified form of fogging) and velonoskioscopy. Many practical points reveal the experienced refractionist and teacher. The concluding chapter on contact lenses and telescopic spectacles is lucid and brief.

The greater part of the book is taken up with a geometrical exposition of optics. The subject-matter is rather more advanced than is expected here of candidates for the diploma examinations. It is, however, well presented and adequately illustrated. The book contains a bibliography with about three hundred items (selected on no obvious principle).

Notes on Books

In *Brompton Hospital Reports*, vol. xiii, 1944, the physicians and surgeons of the hospital make their annual bow with a series of exceptionally interesting papers. Mr. J. E. H. Roberts inquires "What is the right time, please?" and discusses the best moment for operation in various tuberculous conditions. Dr. W. D. W. Brooks analyses nearly half a million mass radiography figures from the Navy and discusses the management of early cases. Dr. A. Margaret Macpherson reports on the subject of the supervision of the child in the tuberculous household. Dr. Clifford Hoyle describes with great charm the part which disease has played in the lives and works of great men. But these are only some of a series of interesting contributions. The volume concludes with a sub-committee's report from the hospital upon the incidence of tuberculosis among the nursing staff, together with recommendations for hygiene. Altogether a useful volume, obtainable, price 10s. post free, from the Secretary, Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, London, S.W.3.

Sir LIONEL WHITBY and Dr. C. J. C. BRITTON are to be congratulated on the appearance of a fifth edition of their textbook on *Disorders of the Blood* (J. and A. Churchill, 30s.) only ten years after the first edition. The success of their book is due to two things. The first is the personal experience of the authors and the shrewd judgment with which they have been able to marshal the literature of haematology. The second is the remarkably reasonable price. This edition contains some new plates, and recent work on the rhesus factor has been well summarized. Future editions will probably pay less attention to lysolecithin, as Fahraeus's attractive theory of haemolysis has been generally abandoned for want of confirmation, and more attention to the value of penicillin in agranulocytosis. This book still contains all that anyone but a professional haematologist need know about the diseases of the blood.