

textbooks. The author has paid very little attention to original work carried out in America or Britain. This neglect is particularly striking in the chapter on implantation, and an outstanding omission is any reference to the important contributions of Caldwell and Malloy. For a modern textbook the author has emphasized puerperal sepsis too much and described foetal abnormalities in too great detail. As a standard textbook for Swiss students and practitioners the book will be held in esteem and perhaps with affection, but it is unlikely to receive much attention in either America or Great Britain.

WILFRED SHAW.

### A GUIDE TO CHEMOTHERAPY

*A-B-C's of Sulphonamide and Antibiotic Therapy.* By Merrin H. Long, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 231. 17s. 6d.) Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1948.

In this little book the author first discusses general principles and methods of administration of sulphonamides, penicillin, and streptomycin, and then the principal diseases and conditions, in alphabetical order from "abscess" to "yaws," for which they are indicated. His clear and dogmatic instructions include brief references to other forms of treatment and frequent warnings against undue reliance on chemotherapy when, for instance, surgery is also required, and against giving these drugs without adequate reason on the off-chance that they may do good.

Noteworthy features are the full discussions on syphilis and tuberculosis, the heroic system of dosage advocated for subacute bacterial endocarditis (2-hourly injections for six weeks), and the repeated warnings, because of the danger of sensitization, given against local application. He considers that the local treatment of ulcers, burns, and blepharitis with either sulphonamides or penicillin is inadvisable for this reason, which seems unfortunate. He advises the use of penicillin for controlling peritonitis due to perforating wounds but not for that produced by appendicitis, a distinction for which the reasons are not quite clear. Although in a few instances everyone may not agree with the instructions given, this book should be a useful and handy guide to the practitioner.

L. P. GARROD.

### MINOR SURGERY IN GERMANY

*Kleine Chirurgie.* By Professor Hans Kurtzahn, revised by W. Heyn. 12th edition. (Pp. 496. M.17.50.) Berlin: Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1948.

Perusal of this book makes one feel rather sad. Here is the 12th edition of a very popular German book on minor surgery rather poorly produced and very much out of date. Though this edition has the year 1948 on the title page it might almost as well have been published ten years ago. It contains much useful information on fractures, minor operations, and the like, but shows little evidence that the far-reaching new discoveries of the last few years have reached the medical profession in Germany. It is not necessary to read far to find this out. The sulphonamides are said to be useful, but no dosage is given, and the author says of their use in erysipelas that no definite judgment can be given on their efficacy. An account of penicillin occupies thirteen lines; it is described as a drug recently developed by the Americans; about its value we are told that we must wait for a future edition for a conclusive estimation of its efficacy. No description of dosage is given nor of methods of administering it. The author does not mention it in discussing the treatment of septic infection of the fingers, or that of carbuncle, for which extirpation is said to be the best treatment. He describes old-fashioned remedies for the treatment of burns and refers to therapy by tannic acid as a recent innovation. (It was introduced in 1925.) Tannic acid is specially recommended for the treatment of burnt fingers and hands. All the recent advances in the treatment of burns are ignored. And so we could go on. In this country the chief use of this book should be to stimulate surgeons to help their brethren in Germany to learn of the wonderful new remedies of which they know so little.

ZACHARY COPE.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

*Proceedings of the Annual Meeting, 1948.* British Medical Association. (Pp. 415. 35s., postage 1s. 3d. extra.) London: Butterworth. 1949.

The collected papers read at the Association Meeting in Cambridge last June.

*Papers on Psycho-analysis.* By E. Jones, M.D., F.R.C.P. 5th ed. (Pp. 504. 31s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1948.

In this edition nine recent papers replace some older ones.

*Arterial Hypertension.* By D. Ayman, M.D. (Pp. 91. 12s. 6d.) New York and London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1948.

A monograph reprinted from the *Oxford Loose-Leaf Medicine*.

*Death in Clairvoyance.* By J. Bell. (Pp. 244. 9s. 6d.) London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1949.

A detective story.

*Juvenile Rheumatism.* By G. E. M. Scott, M.B., L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.F.P.S. (Pp. 163. 25s.) Melbourne: W. Ramsay, Ltd. 1948.

A review of the author's experience.

*The Train.* By V. Panova. (Pp. 252. 9s. 6d.) London: Putnam and Co., Ltd. 1948.

A novel, translated from the Russian, about a hospital train in the U.S.S.R. during the war.

*Some Common Psychosomatic Manifestations.* By J. B. Murray, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. (Pp. 101. 7s. 6d.) London: Geoffrey Cumberlege. 1949.

An account of effort syndrome and the "low-back syndrome."

*Our Plundered Planet.* By F. Osborn. (Pp. 192. 10s. 6d.) London: Faber and Faber. 1949.

The author's theme is the conservation of soil fertility and the neglect of this in many countries.

*Guiding Human Misfits.* By Alexandra Adler, M.D. (Pp. 114. 7s. 6d.) London: Faber and Faber. 1949.

An account of the writer's experience; intended for both medical practitioners and laymen.

*Hemolysis and Related Phenomena.* By E. Ponder. (Pp. 398. 50s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1948.

A monograph on the structure and haemolysis of mammalian red cells.

*Topics in Physical Chemistry.* By W. M. Clark, Ph.D., Sc.D. (Pp. 738. 44s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1948.

A textbook for undergraduate students.

*The Belsen Trial.* Edited by R. Phillips, M.C., M.A., B.C.I. (Pp. 749. 30s.) London: William Hodge. 1949.

A verbatim record of the trial.

*Aids to Biochemistry.* By E. A. Cooper, D.Sc., F.R.I.C., A.R.C.S., and S. D. Nicholas, B.A., A.R.I.C. 4th ed. (Pp. 244. 5s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1948.

The book has been extensively revised for this edition.

*The Mystery of Birth.* By J. Oldfield, T.D., D.C.L., M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Pp. 208. 12s. 6d.) London: Rider. 1948.

Discussion of many topics related to birth, sex, and heredity.

*Outline of Arabic Contributions to Medicine and the Allied Sciences.* By A. A. Khairallah, B.A., M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 228. \$2.50.) Beirut: American Press. 1946.

Annotated quotations from Arabic works; in English.

*Energy and Matter.* By R. L. Worrall, M.B., Ch.M., D.P.H. (Pp. 144. 10s. 6d.) London: Staples Press. 1948.

A description in plain language of some of the concepts of modern physics.

*Anaemia Problems in Rheumatoid Arthritis.* By F. Nilsson. (Pp. 193. No price.) Uppsala: Appelbergs. 1948.

A monograph with references.