

Reviews

PSYCHO-ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUE

The Technique of Psycho-analysis. By Edward Glover, M.D. (Pp. 404+x. 35s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1955.

Neither Freud nor any of the early pioneers in psycho-analysis ventured to write a full exposition of its technique. Perhaps they were acting on Bernard Shaw's cruel epigram, "He who can does; he who cannot teaches"; but more probably they were daunted by the endless ramifications of an enormously complex subject. The second generation of psycho-analysts were less restrained, and after the First World War several books appeared on technique. One recalls a very poor one in 1920 by Paul Bousfield, a fairly good one in 1922 by David Forsyth, and an excellent one in the same year by de Saussure. Then followed a series of six lectures by Edward Glover in 1928, which were published as a supplement to the *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis*. Since that time Dr. Glover has severed his connexion with other psycho-analysts. This has doubtless given him more independence, but has its own peculiar disadvantages.

The present book is made up of three parts. The first, longest, and most essential one consists of a greatly expanded version of the lectures just mentioned. The second is a record of a lengthy questionnaire Dr. Glover carried out in 1936-8 among British psycho-analysts. The main conclusion emerging from it is the extraordinary difficulty of formulating questions with sufficient precision to elicit comparable replies of value from different analysts. The third part is a reprint of three thoughtful essays that were published in the *International Journal* in 1931, 1937, and 1954 respectively.

The book is written in an easy, fluent, and vivid style, and is packed with the author's characteristic shrewd wisdom. Although ostensibly addressed to students, it can be read with profit by every practising psycho-analyst. So many detailed issues are raised in it that it would need a long technical essay to evaluate them properly, and this no doubt will happen elsewhere. In the meantime it can be hailed as a contribution of value to a difficult topic, and recommended to those who are directly concerned with it. It is well produced and has an excellent index.

ERNEST JONES.

EPSOM COLLEGE

Epsom College Register, 1855-1954. Edited by T. R. Thomson. (Pp. 620; illustrated. 31s. 6d.) Oxford: University Press for Old Epsomian Club. 1955.

Timed very accurately to anticipate the visit of Her Majesty, whose demonstration of her interest in the centenary of the College has gratified the whole of our profession, this *Epsom College Register*, as a labour of love on the part of Dr. T. R. Thomson and of the Old Epsomian Club, reflects the greatest credit on all concerned in its production, including the Oxford University Press. The introductory chapters, which are in fact a brief history of the school in its first hundred years of existence, should prove intriguing to the medical profession at large as well as to the considerable Epsomian section of it, and also to those of the general public who are education-minded. That the College has deserved well of the profession, so many of whose sons it has educated, especially by its provision of free places for those boys (and girls) left in straitened circumstances by early parental death and other causes, is a truism which there is no need to labour here. That it urgently needs financial help to carry out an essential programme of improved buildings and other amenities is equally true. The Council has for some months striven unceasingly to convince the medical profession of this, with a degree of success not as yet by any means commensurate

with its truth. The production of this admirable volume may help to persuade those who chance to read it that the enterprise and vision of the Council really do deserve generous support. Of the *Register* itself it can be reported that it is well worthy to take rank among the best of the similar products emanating in recent years from public schools of similar standing. It is a splendid monument to the patriotism and piety of the Old Epsomian Club.

HENRY ROBINSON.

MODERN TRENDS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Modern Trends in Ophthalmology. Third series. Edited by Arnold Sorsby. (Pp. 346+xiv; illustrated. 65s.) London: Butterworth and Co., Ltd. 1955.

The purpose of a book such as this is to enable its reader to keep in touch not only with recently consolidated gains in knowledge but also with current trends in thought and experiments in technique through which the advances of the future may accrue. This volume, the third of its series, follows the general lines of its predecessors. Its 28 chapters divided into six sections cover such a diversity of subject-matter as to make a general appraisal difficult; the value attached to each section will vary with the interests, experience, and familiarity with the literature of each individual reader, but each section is not without interest, and the general balance is good. Those surgically inclined will welcome the chapters on corneal and retinal operations and on surgical technicalities, and another giving a clear exposition of the management of vertical squint. In the diagnostic and clinical fields are excellent and well-illustrated articles on, among other subjects, slit-lamp fundus microscopy, binocular ophthalmoscopy, and tonography; while particular recognition may be accorded to chapters on the nature of malformations and on the criteria of genetic affections, and to the section on social ophthalmology dealing with the problems of the blind and visually handicapped. Current views in relation to ocular pharmacology, collagen diseases, allergy, virus diseases, and the fitting of contact lenses are among other subjects discussed.

Some of the sections are so short and of such little apparent value or interest as to make the reviewer wish that they had been omitted to allow of the "selected bibliographies" having been made less selective; for example, in one chapter in which 36 or so authors are quoted in the text, only 12 references are appended. It is also perhaps unfortunate that in certain directions, particularly in an article on retrolental fibroplasia, and even allowing for the inevitable time-lag between writing and publication, the book's titular claim to modernity can hardly be upheld. Nevertheless this volume, excellently produced and well illustrated and indexed, will go a long way in helping to keep the ophthalmologist abreast of the times and in touch with the modern trends of his specialty.

A. J. B. GOLDSMITH.

RECENT ADVANCES IN TREATMENT

Modern Treatment Yearbook, 1955. Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. With 36 contributors. (Pp. 344+viii; illustrated. 25s.) London: For Medical Press by Baillière, Tindall and Cox, Ltd. 1955.

The Modern Treatment Yearbook, which comes of age in this twenty-first publication, is designed to keep the practitioner informed on the practical application of the latest research in medicine, using the latter term in its widest sense. Though the emphasis is on therapeutics, the yearbook includes more than a bare description of recent advances in treatment, for it recognizes that it is impossible to describe treatment adequately without defining the condition to be treated, which often involves some discussion on aetiology and diagnosis. It thus provides what is essentially an annual refresher course in medicine given by 36 physicians and surgeons, mostly chosen from those working in London or its environs. A great diversity of subjects is covered