

notes on first aid from the point of view of military surgery, on methods of training women's Voluntary Aid Detachments, and on the sort of equipment with which each member should provide herself with a view to her own comfort when living in improvised quarters. As to the manner in which the author has achieved his task it is possible to express an opinion quite briefly. The booklet is clearly written from end to end, and worth placing in the hands of every member of a woman's Voluntary Aid Detachment, if only for the purpose of convincing her of the greatness of the responsibilities that she and her fellows are called upon to undertake. All statements as to equipment and training are detailed and comprehensive, and those made on the subject of nursing summarize a vast subject with considerable skill.

In regard to the planning of the book, this is excellent so far as it goes, but in a future edition it would be well to include chapters dealing with other duties that these detachments can and should perform; for instance, attending to the needs of convalescents and stragglers, providing hot soup and other suitable food for the wounded on their arrival at railway stations or during detention elsewhere on their way to hospital, as also refreshments for troops conveyed by train, or men on the march. Attention might also be paid in a future edition to the apparent inconsistency of advising that for training purposes the detachments should be divided into three sections, one being a cooking section (p. 100), and yet expressing (p. 20) the opinion that while cooking classes are no doubt useful training, it would be far better to engage professional cooks for the hospital, and reserve the amateur (cooking) skill for emergencies.

Though this view may, perhaps, be perfectly sound it is curious to find it upheld in such a context, for, when all is said and done, it remains somewhat doubtful whether improvised hospitals staffed by amateur nurses can ever be of real value, even if in this country any hospital unit intermediate between the field ambulance and the general hospital be truly required. The more imperfect the tools, the more skilled should be the workers. Still, the number of Voluntary Aid Detachments in existence is very large, and if it be essential that they should include the provision and working of temporary hospitals among their duties, the more thoroughly their members study a book of this order the better for all concerned.

SURGERY.

THERE are not many books on surgery that survive the twenty-fifth anniversary of their first appearance, but there is no indication of any failing vitality in the sixteenth edition of CAIRD and CATHCART'S *Surgical Handbook*.³ The new edition has been revised throughout and considerable additions have been made, but there have been many excisions also, so that on balance the new edition contains only about forty pages more than the old. The most considerable alterations seem to have been made in the chapters on fractures, on anaesthesia, and on spinal curvatures. In the first of these the method by massage and early movement introduced by the late Lucas-Championnière is recommended. "The operations on recent fractures," the authors say, "require much surgical skill and a thoroughly reliable technique, otherwise bad functional results, amputations, or even deaths are liable to result. This makes it desirable to find a method which is more widely applicable with safety and yet gives satisfactory functional results. Such we believe to be furnished by Lucas-Championnière's massage and movement treatment." After admitting that the method requires more time and attention than that by immobilization, they say:

In the suitable cases the results amply justify the trouble taken. The principles involved can be grasped, and the manipulations required can be learnt, by any medical man, and he can have the treatment carried out in most cases by some sensible friend or relation of the patient under his direction. In mining or other industrial centres it ought to be quite possible to have persons suitably trained to carry out the treatment under the local doctor's instructions.

Many of the older diagrams used to illustrate earlier editions have been replaced by new ones. The book

³ *A Surgical Handbook for the Use of Students, Practitioners, House-Surgeons and Dressers*. By F. M. Caird, M.B., F.R.C.S. Edin., and C. W. Cathcart, M.B., F.R.C.S. Eng. and Edin. Sixteenth edition, revised and enlarged. London: Eng. Griffin and Co., Ltd. 1911. (Fcap. 8vo, pp. 379; 208 figures. 8s. 6d.)

retains its position as a thoroughly trustworthy guide, and is still in bulk a real handbook.

Of the *Manual of Minor Surgery and Bandaging*,⁴ written originally by Christopher Heath as far back as 1861 and subsequently revised and edited by Bilton Pollard, a fifteenth edition, bearing the name of Mr. MORRISTON DAVIES, has been issued this month. It contains over ninety new illustrations, and the whole of the contents have been brought thoroughly into line with existing knowledge and the most advanced technique. Quite rightly the original title of the work has been preserved, but it can no longer be said to convey a full conception of its nature. In effect, the volume is a compendium of all the technical knowledge that should be possessed by a medical man called upon to perform the kind of work that is entrusted to resident surgical officers in institutions where these are given a fairly free hand in the matter of treating casualties and cases requiring operations of the simpler kind. Moreover, the treatment of different points is in most cases thorough: for instance, despite the fact that the author lays it down as a general principle that fractures of the patella should be treated by operation, a detailed and adequate description of their treatment by other methods is supplied. No doubt most of the contents represent what is already more or less familiar knowledge to men of house-surgeon rank, but in view of its comprehensiveness and precision of statement it is likely to be useful to all those about to take up resident posts, as also to those called upon to do work of a corresponding kind without having had the advantage of holding a responsible position in the surgical wards, and to the many who at the present time are called upon to fill positions involving surgical work after long and perhaps exclusive devotion to other branches of medicine.

The book which Dr. J. G. MUMFORD, Lecturer on Surgery in Harvard University, has published on *The Practice of Surgery*⁵ is inscribed to his "friends and associates in the Society of Clinical Surgery," and, as might be divined from this dedication, he has assumed throughout the book that the reader has some preliminary training in surgery. He has deliberately assigned the greater part of his space to what may be called everyday surgery. The first part of the volume is on the abdomen, and the first chapter in it is on appendicitis; this is an example of his plan of treating surgical diseases in what he considers to be "their order of interest importance, and frequency so far as this may be done with due regard to a proper sequence." The second part deals with the female organs of generation, the third with the genito-urinary organs, the fourth with the chest, the fifth with the face and neck, and the sixth with the head and spine. Thereafter follow chapters on minor surgery, on shock and the surgery of the circulation, on tumours, on fractures and dislocations, with a brief chapter on orthopaedic surgery and a concluding chapter on amputations. The volume contains a large number of illustrations which are clearly drawn and well selected. Taken as a whole, the book is not only very practical, but very personal, and its value as a contribution to surgical literature rests on these two qualities.

MEDICINAL AND DIETETIC PREPARATIONS.

Hedley's Malted Milk.

WE have received for examination a sample of Hedley's Malted Milk, the wholesale agents for which are Messrs. Sanger's, Ltd. (42A, Hampstead Road, London, N.W.). This preparation is in the form of a dry powder, which makes a milky mixture with water. Our analysis showed the sample to contain: Protein (calculated from nitrogen), 12.4 per cent., fat 13.9 per cent. It possessed a considerable diastatic power, rather more than one-fifth of its weight of dry starch being digested in half an hour at the temperature of the body. It appears to possess the qualities of a nutritious food, easy of assimilation.

⁴ *A Manual of Minor Surgery and Bandaging* (Heath, Pollard) for the Use of House-Surgeons, Dressers, and Junior Practitioners. By H. Morrison Davies, M.D., M.C. Cantab., F.R.C.S. Fifteenth edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1914. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 473; 239 figures. 7s. 6d. net.)

⁵ *The Practice of Surgery*. By J. G. Mumford, M.D. Second edition, thoroughly revised. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1914. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 1032; 681 figures. Cloth, 30s. net.)