

front line and not from the comparative comfort of the base and clearing hospitals.

The author deals fully with functional contracture, but is unable to put forward any evidence in favour of Babinski's theory of reflex contracture, a theory which, despite the great authority of its propounder, finds now very few advocates.

The subject of psycho-analysis is treated very fairly. It is recognized that the method may furnish valuable indications of the genesis of various obsessions, whilst war experience has amply refuted the sexual theories of Freud.

Treatment is discussed with the sanity and balance that we expect from Sir Frederick Mott. He has a very poor opinion of hypnotism as a curative agent. Like all experienced neurologists, he is well aware that rapid removal of symptoms in cases of hysteria can be effected by practically any method of common-sense suggestion. The much-advertised ten minutes cures have always been commonplaces of neurological hospitals, and indeed have often been effectively rivalled by quacks on the music-hall stage. We hope that the sane utterances of the author on this subject may be brought home to the ardent young psychologists and physicians who have of late made British medicine slightly ridiculous by their insistence on miraculous cures, both in the medical and the lay press. It is easy, of course, to understand how dramatic such cases may appear to those whose neurological experience dates with the war, and it is to be hoped that self-restraint will come with increasing knowledge. Sir Frederick Mott is very emphatic on the necessity for the establishment of an atmosphere of cure, and nothing, he finds, excites faith so much as seeing the benefit of treatment. The methods of re-education advocated are all simple, but he is no believer in leaving their application to the masseuse—a practice which, more than anything else, has been responsible for lack of success in treatment.

An excellent preface written by Dr. Addison augurs well for the future of neurology under the Ministry of Health. Attempts to exploit the new ministry will no doubt be made by numberless cranks, medical and lay, in favour of schemes of psychotherapy based on unscientific psychology and a more or less complete ignorance of the physiology of the nervous system; and it is some comfort to reflect that so long as such sane and scholarly work as this of Sir Frederick Mott's is recognized by those in power there will be little likelihood of their succeeding.

BRITISH HEALTH RESORTS.

TEMPORARY residence in the occupied territories in the Rhineland has served to prove to many of our military and civilian workers that in some respects they have a good deal to learn from their late enemies, but the thoroughness of the organization of foreign health resorts has always been appreciated by English visitors, whether in search of health or amusement.

The prolonged closure of all the German and Austrian "cure-places" has reacted upon the various health resorts of the British Isles, and hence the appearance of a new edition of Dr. NEVILLE WOOD's book² on the subject should be welcome, as supplying an account of all the changes, additions, and improvements that the last few years have brought about.

Much has been done, both from the scientific and the practical standpoints, to bring British hydrotherapy into the prominence that it deserves, but it is still very far from the goal of universal recognition. Medical hydrology and climatology require constant and careful study by skilled observers working together, and this can only be done in properly equipped institutions, which must, at the same time, be rendered attractive to patients. This latter consideration has never been neglected by the managers of the spas of Central Europe, but only in a few of our own are sufficient pains taken to render treatment agreeable and at the same time effective.

Dr. Wood's book supplies a great deal of useful information as to ways and means, and is well illustrated by photographs showing the general features of most of the places mentioned, with detailed views of some of them. It would be rendered still more useful as a work of reference if

² *Health Resorts of the British Islands*. Edited by Neville Wood, M.D. Second edition. London: University of London Press, Ltd. 1919. (Demy 8vo, pp. xvi + 253; illustrated. 6s. net.)

supplied with a more comprehensive index and classification of diseases, with cross references.

Considerations of space have, no doubt, led to the compression of details with regard to many of the less popular places, but it is obvious that very many coastal and inland resorts are deserving of far more recognition than they have yet received. There is abundant scope for scientific study and for commercial development, in order that these properties may be fully investigated and adequately utilized. Dr. Wood's book points the way to such recognition, and it is to be hoped that future editions may be able to record the results of vastly increased effort.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

As Dr. SEQUEIRA's *Diseases of the Skin*,³ first published in 1911, has already reached a third edition, it is clear that he appeals successfully to a large number of readers. For a textbook on a special subject this comparatively rapid series of editions is no mean achievement, and it is indeed not too much to say that his book is a standard work in British dermatology. Compared with many of the Continental treatises it is relatively small, but this feature in no way detracts from its excellence; the reader will find in it a clear exposition of the more commonly seen skin complaints, besides many references to and short accounts of the rarer affections. Illustrations are of peculiar importance in a book of this nature, and they have been generously supplied in this volume. Whether representation of skin disease by means of colour photography, although at the moment fashionable, is always an unqualified success, may be a matter of opinion, but even here no ground for serious criticism exists.

In the text ample notice has been taken of recent contributions to dermatology. Good accounts are given of the skin affections of soldiers, such as trench feet and eruptions due to high explosives. As would be expected from Dr. Sequeira, the section on tuberculosis of the skin is especially full, and contains a mass of important and useful information.

At the present moment dermatology has assumed a position of special importance because of its close relation to syphilis. As a large increase in the incidence of this disorder is expected from the modifications of social conditions during the war, the views set forth should be critically examined. Most authorities will agree with the author that in the treatment of syphilis it is essential to combine mercury with the form of arsenical medication selected. The course recommended by Dr. Sequeira consists of four injections of arsenobillon, kharsivan, or galyl, followed by eight injections of mercury. Treatment is then suspended for a period of two months, when a "Wassermann" test is made; subsequent action depends on the result. Further, it is stated that every case should be under observation for at least two years, and that during this period occasional courses of mercury should be given, even if the "Wassermann" reaction be negative. This is sound advice, and will be endorsed by every worker with experience in venereal diseases. It would possibly have been a better guide had Dr. Sequeira given a more particular account of the form these subsequent mercurial courses should take, but perhaps he deems it wisest to leave these details to the worker, contenting himself with an expression of the principle to be followed.

The book is completed by several useful appendices, in which the various forms of treatment employed in dermatology are arranged under general headings. Here will be found much useful knowledge in a readily accessible form. The book repeats the attractive features of the previous editions, besides containing much additional information.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

DR. GABRIEL BIDOU has written a small book on instrumental orthopaedics,⁴ in which he advocates certain principles which he appears to consider new, in the treatment of paraplegia especially. These are the active control of the thigh and leg by means of shoulder move-

³ *Diseases of the Skin*. By James H. Sequeira, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng. Third edition. London: J. and A. Churchill, 1919. (Med. 8vo, pp. xiv + 644; 257 figs., 52 coloured plates. 36s. net.)

⁴ *De l'Orthopédie instrumentale*. By Docteur Gabriel Bidou. Paris: Published by the Author, the Orphan Apprentice School, 1919. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 132; 20 figures.)

ments, the use of elastic springs in a special manner, and the multiplication of range of movement by the use of leverage and of pulleys. Of these, the first has been used for years in artificial legs, chiefly in America. Dr. Bidou employs celluloid in place of leather. His methods are well illustrated by numerous plates.

Professor ALLEN'S large textbook of *Local and Regional Anaesthesia*⁵ gives a full account of the theory and practice of this important subject, and has in addition chapters on spinal, epidural, and other special varieties of local anaesthesia. The book, which has reached a second edition, is copiously illustrated, and is full of minute and practical directions as to the best methods of obtaining local anaesthesia in the various parts of the body. We recommend the work to the attention of all anaesthetists.

We have received from Professor J. B. MORELLI, of Montevideo, a large work, running to 1250 pages, on *Artificial Pneumothorax*⁶ and other methods of surgical intervention in pulmonary tuberculosis. Written in Spanish, these two volumes contain a great deal of information gathered from the extensive literature on the subject, most of it published in the last twelve or fifteen years, together with the author's comments and a full account of his own endeavours in this direction. Everything of importance connected with the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis seems to have been brought together in this lengthy compilation, which is well illustrated and reads like the composition of a fluent pen. Many references to the literature are given, and a number of illustrative skiagrams have been included at the end of the book.

The fifth edition of Colonel BLACKHAM'S concise and well written *Primer of Tropical Hygiene*⁷ should be in the hands of all intelligent residents in tropical countries. It is full of practical directions, and may be strongly recommended.

The fourth edition of the treatise on *Practical Butter-making*,⁸ by WALKER-TISDALE and ROBINSON, is a short and well illustrated account of a subject that has become one of surpassing interest in these margarine-ridden days, particularly to dwellers in towns where butter-making almost appears to rank among the arts lost during the war. In the hope of increasing the production of this indispensable article of diet we recommend the book to all readers, but especially to those who dwell in rural places.

HOPE MALLESON, in the short biography she has called *A Woman Doctor*,⁹ gives a striking account of the life of Mary Murdoch of Hull. Dr. Murdoch was one of those charming personalities framed in a small and delicate body, but endowed with a large heart and a great capacity for work of a high standard, together with the power to attract others to help her in the various public activities in which she took a part. Dr. Murdoch was an excellent surgeon and physician, greatly beloved by the people of Hull, by whom she was affectionately known as "Our Lady Murdoch." Dr. Murdoch's early death came as a great blow, not only to her colleagues and personal friends, but to a very large circle of patients, rich and poor. The biography is well worth reading, if only to learn how much can be done and done well by an earnest lover of her fellow creatures.

⁵ *Local and Regional Anaesthesia*. By Carroll W. Allen, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Tulane University of Louisiana, New Orleans, etc. Second edition, reset. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1918. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 674; 260 figures. 28s. net.)

⁶ *Pneumotorax Artificial y Otras Intervenciones en la Tuberculosis Pulmonar*. Estudio Critico y Clinico. By Dr. Juan B. Morelli, Professor de Clinica Terapeutica de la Facultad de Medicina. Vols. I and II. Montevideo: Imprenta Nacional. 1918 and 1919. (Roy. 8vo, vol. I, pp. 664; vol. II, pp. 665-1246; 61 figures; 8 plates.)

⁷ *A Primer of Tropical Hygiene*. By Colonel R. J. Blackham, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.Lond., A.M.S. Fifth edition, revised and enlarged. Bombay: G. Claridge and Co. 1918. (3s. by 4s.; pp. 154. 1 rupee.)

⁸ *Practical Butter-making: A Treatise for Butter-makers and Students*. By C. W. Walker-Tisdale, F.C.S., and Theodore R. Robinson, F.S.I. Fourth edition. London: Headley Brothers, Ltd. 1919. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 143; 32 figures. 5s. 6d. net.)

⁹ *A Woman Doctor: Mary Murdoch of Hull*. By Hope Malleison, B.A. London: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd. 1919. (Cr. 8vo, pp. xiii + 251; 4 portrait illustrations. 7s. 6d. net.)

THE Paris Students' Association and its sports section ("Paris Universit  Club") are taking the initiative in providing a park for games of all kinds. The committee includes the President of the French Republic, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Public Instruction, the deans of all the faculties, and a large number of prominent personalities.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

A Pneumatic Injector for Local Anaesthesia.

MR. E. G. SLESINGER, M.B., F.R.C.S.Eng., sends the following account of an apparatus designed to overcome some of the difficulties and objections to the usual syringe method of injecting local anaesthetics, particularly in the case of extensive operations or when local anaesthesia is desired as an adjunct to gas and oxygen in abdominal work:

It consists essentially of a container composed of a glass cylinder in a metal frame with a graduated scale. This frame has a top and a bottom cap, each of which screws into position, and, being lined with a pad of composition material, forms with the glass cylinder an airtight chamber. In the top cap of the container are, first, a tube fitted with a tap, in the end of which is an ordinary Dunlop bicycle valve, and secondly, a funnel opening with a screw plug for filling. The bottom cap has an exit tube with a tap. From the exit tube, by means of a connexion with a bayonet catch, runs a flexible metal tube to the other end of which the injection valve is attached by another bayonet catch. The injection valve is so constructed that when at rest no fluid can flow through it, but on light pressure on the button with which it is provided a free flow is established. To the distal end of the injection valve any desired type of needle can be fixed by a bayonet catch connexion. The whole apparatus can be readily boiled before use.

When using the apparatus the fluid for injection is poured in through the filling funnel and the plug screwed home. Approximately about 100 c.cm. or more, as shown on the scale on the frame, should be left for compression. An ordinary bicycle pump is now screwed on to the valve in the top cap, the tap at its base is opened, and the apparatus is pumped up until further pumping is impossible. The tap on the valve is then closed, the pump is removed, and the apparatus is ready for use. The tap in the bottom cap is opened and a needle attached. When the needle is inserted into the tissues and the button on the injection valve lightly pressed, fluid will flow in under sufficient pressure to produce even pressure skin anaesthesia if desired. The apparatus has been made for me by Messrs. Down Bros., St. Thomas's Street.

The advantages which it is claimed this apparatus affords over the usual syringe method are: (1) It saves a great deal of time; (2) when once prepared it will serve for several cases; (3) it obviates the tremor of the operator's hand which results from the pressure used in syringe injections; (4) it permits more accurate control of the injection; (5) it enables the amount of local anaesthetic used to be seen at a glance; (6) unlike the syringe, it does not break or get out of order easily. A further use for this apparatus is in giving a large number of of serum injections rapidly—for example, antitetanus injections—where flaming the needle between cases is all that is needed. The rubber on the bicycle valve should be inspected from time to time and replaced when necessary, and a little vaseline occasionally put into the injection valve from below.

THE Congress of Uruguay has voted £4,000 for the enforcement of the recently enacted law providing for the compulsory testing of all milch cows with tuberculin.

Two bursaries subscribed for by the colleagues and pupils of Senator Camillo Golgi have been founded in the University of Pavia on the occasion of his retirement under the age rule. They are to be awarded by preference to the sons of doctors fallen in the war. The freedom of the city of Pavia was at the same time conferred on the distinguished pathologist, and the municipality presented him with a gold medal and an artistically designed album containing the signatures of a large number of citizens.

