

rise to them. Questions on adenoids do not appear in association with those on disease in children, a question on "quinsy" appears in one section and a question on "acute tonsillitis" in another, divided from it by more than fifty pages. It is curious, and seems worth notice, that two on adenoids and four on the tonsils were the only questions on these subjects during the nineteen years, and that during this period only two questions were asked about appendicitis. Questions on typhoid continue to be relatively frequent, while there seem to be none on influenza. In the section headed "Diseases of bone, fractures, and dislocations" are found nineteen questions on diseases, thirty-two on fractures, and only two on dislocations. Diseases of joints and deformities are in another section. The examiners' neglect of dislocations is rather remarkable.

A survey of this compilation leads to the impression that the questions in midwifery are the easiest to answer on paper (though among the most difficult to put into practical application thereafter); that there are a number of questions which have become almost traditional; and that it might be a very good thing if, one of these years, the examiners were to surprise the examinees with a whole series of questions entirely unrelated to those set forth in this book.

AMBROISE PARÉ.

So much has been written about the great man who was the Father of French Surgery that it is not easy to say anything new about him or to add much to what is already known. It is possible, however, to present the facts in a new way, and this Dr. LÉON MICHELET has done with great success.⁶ He has taken certain incidents in Paré's life and has surrounded each with a frame, which enables the reader to understand their true significance. To do this satisfactorily a writer must be well fitted with a knowledge of French history during the sixteenth century—general, social, and professional—and in each branch Dr. Michelet shows himself to be well equipped. The setting, of course, is imaginary, but it is so near what probably happened as not to be much out of keeping with the truth. The book can therefore be read with pleasure by the scholar who knows, as well as by the general reader who wishes to learn. Dr. Michelet has not tried to solve any of the problems in connexion with the life of Paré. He accepts the date of his birth as 1509; he believes him to have been a Protestant, and he uses as a frontispiece the portrait dated 1581. Dr. VICTOR PAUCHET contributes a preface in which he seeks to interpret Paré's character from phrenology by Paul Nyssens of Brussels, from his handwriting by Camillo Streletski, and by Dr. Leopold Levi using "endocrinological methods." These methods show, it is said, that the portrait—seemingly he only used one—proves Paré to have shown signs of "hyperpituitarism, hyperthyroidism, and hypergenitalism."

NOTES ON BOOKS.

With the help of Dr. GEORGE ALEXANDRESCU, formerly assistant at the Institut d'Histologie, and physician to the hospital at Bucarest, Dr. SERGE VORONOFF has published a short book on *Testicular Grafting from Ape to Man*,⁷ which has been translated by Dr. Theodore C. Merrill. Dr. Voronoff wishes to emphasize the point that his results have been due to a special and personal grafting method "which has nothing in common with methods of other operators." He proceeds, therefore, to give a detailed description of his method, accompanied by very good illustrations of each step in the operation. The rest of the book deals with the results of the examination of testicular simian grafts removed from man after periods never hitherto attained. Histological sections, studied by Professor Retterer of Paris, have proved the prolonged survival of the glandular cells in the simian grafts, and the perfect correlation existing between physiological phenomena observed after grafting and histological changes in the grafts. The authors' conviction is that the true germinal cells of the graft,

⁶ *La Vie d'Ambroise Paré*. Par Dr. Léon Michelet. Préface du Dr. Victor Pauchet. Paris: Librairie Le François. 1930. (6½ x 10, pp. xii + 160; 1 plate. 25 fr.)

⁷ *Testicular Grafting from Ape to Man*. By Serge Voronoff and George Alexandrescu. Translated by Theodore C. Merrill, M.D. London: Brentano's, Ltd. 1929. (6 x 8, pp. viii + 125; 39 figures.)

those of the primary tubules constituting the mother-cells of the adult tubules, together with the cells of Sertoli, have the principal, if not the exclusive, function of producing the testicular hormone. They assert that the role of the interstitial cells in producing the hormone is completely disproved.

We have received from the Library of the North Caucasian Association of Scientific Research Institute a Russian monograph,⁸ with a German summary, by Professor K. MIRAM, on a Red Cross expedition in September, 1928, to the Adyge district in North Caucasus. The purpose of the expedition was to inquire into the mode of life, physical development, and diseases prevalent among the Adyge, a primitive Circassian race, whose chief source of livelihood is agriculture and the breeding of cattle. Measurements showed that while the men exceeded Topinard's average in size, the women were 6 to 7 per cent. below it. The principal diseases found in the country were malaria, tuberculosis, goitre, syphilis, and gonorrhoea, the last of which was probably responsible for the decline in the population.

Drs. E. LESNÉ and M. COFFIN have contributed to the modern French series of "Paediatric monographs" a useful little book entitled "Vomiting in Infancy."⁹ Their general scheme for examination of infants with vomiting as the main symptom is very sound and inclusive, while the classification of vomiting follows orthodox lines. Particularly interesting is the section on spasms of the stomach and pylorus, with useful hints on treatment, while there is a very good account of hypertrophic pyloric stenosis, with some of the results of operation in these cases. This is one of the first books to contain a record of pylorotomies as performed by Fredet in France for this condition, and the results are contrasted with those obtained in other countries.

⁸ *Die Adyge, ihre Lebensweise, Körperentwicklung und Krankheiten*. Von Professor K. Miram, Rostoff on Don. 1930. (7 x 9½, pp. x + 103.)
⁹ *Les Vomissements chez le Nourrisson*. Par E. Lesné et Maurice Coffin. Monographies de Pédiatrie et de Puériculture. Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie. 1930. (5½ x 7½, pp. 139; 21 figures, 1 plate. 25 fr.)

PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES.

A PRIVATE INVALID CARRIAGE.

A PRIVATE invalid carriage has been built for the Daimler Hire Company by Mann, Egerton and Company, of London and Norwich, consulting engineers to the Medical Insurance Agency. It will be recalled that this firm designed, also on a Daimler model, the ambulance which was used to convey the King from London to Bognor Regis in the early part of last year, a vehicle which was described and illustrated in these pages at the time. The new carriage, built on a 57-h.p. Daimler chassis, which has the longest wheel base of any private car chassis made, is so evenly balanced that in spite of its ample proportions it appears to be no longer than the modern high-powered limousine. The stretcher bed which it contains has been designed to give entire comfort and to prevent road shock or vibration. A specially designed mattress on a chromium-plated frame is mounted on a swivel under-carriage, the whole arrangement swinging round to facilitate the removal of the stretcher. Comfortable seating accommodation is also provided for the professional attendant and for any friend accompanying the patient. The interior decoration and appointments, the pile carpet and sponge-rubber floor covering, the compact and unobtrusive arrangements for the washbasin and sick-room appliances, the heating by a specially designed hot-water radiator, the ventilation by louvers fitted above the sidelights, the lighting by four electric lamps fitted flush into the roof, the precautions to prevent entrance of fumes and to deaden noise, combine to make the equipment of this vehicle a notable example of the art of ambulance design.

INVALID FURNITURE.

We have received from MESSRS. John Ward, Limited (246, Tottenham Court Road, W.1), a catalogue of their latest invalid furniture, a branch of craftsmanship in which they have specialized for many years. Scores of models of couches and chairs are exhibited. One pretty device is a spring frame made up of very strong coil springs, laced together by a material which stops all creaking. So long as the patient lies flat nothing happens, but if the head is raised an inch or two from the pillow the top section of the frame gently follows it until the invalid is completely supported sitting up, and at the same time the other two sections—all three sections being hinged together—come into a position which raises the knees to a restful, half-bent attitude, and prevents slipping. The wheeled-chair is reproduced in as many designs as there are infirmities, perhaps in as many as there are patients' fads to be humoured, and the utmost ingenuity has been exercised in diminishing vibration and the other irritations experienced in a chair and couch existence. A study of the catalogue shows how very effective a part of the nursing service upholstery has become.