

glycaemia" somewhat loosely for any rise above the fasting level, and writes in the same paragraph of an "extremely slight hyperglycaemia" and a "low blood sugar curve" as synonymous in cases of coeliac disease after ingestion of glucose. Once the terminology has been mastered, however, readers will find this monograph full of useful information. The level of blood sugar in eczema and rickets is also discussed on the basis of a small number of cases. The English is throughout excellent for a foreign writer, although the influence of America is shown in the use of the term "crackers" for biscuits, and the spelling of names is not always accurate, Professor Leonard Parsons having lost his final "s."

NOTES ON BOOKS

The second and revised edition of *A Manual of General Medical Practice*,⁹ by Dr. STANLEY SYKES, can be recommended for those who are beginning medical practice. It contains pithy and practical comments on the conditions most likely to be met, and takes for granted such medical and surgical knowledge as the student will have already obtained, thus saving space. It is therefore an eminently readable book, with a satisfactory index and a helpful outlook.

Dr. WILLIAM A. WHITE has contributed a volume (No. 54) to the Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series. It is entitled *Medical Psychology: The Mental Factor in Disease*,¹⁰ and surveys the subject generally, though entering into a good deal of detail. The main theme is that disease, wherever occurring, has always a psychological aspect, and that therefore psychology should be just as much an essential part of the medical curriculum as is physiology. The author's arguments and clinical illustrations go far to support this thesis.

Two further Parts—XI and XII—of Baillièrè's *Synthetic Anatomy*¹¹ have now appeared. They deal with the male and female perineum in much the same way as previous members of this useful series. In so far as structural and regional anatomy can be taught by pictorial methods, this series is undoubtedly most valuable, but it will probably find its chief use in recalling to the memory of the surgeon, as well as of the medical student, the visual impressions gained by actual study of the human subject.

The *Proceedings of the Second International Congress for Sex Research*,¹² held at the house of the British Medical Association from August 3rd to 9th, 1930, under the presidency of Professor F. A. E. Crew of Edinburgh, have recently been published in a single volume, which is divided into five parts, devoted respectively to biology, hormones, therapy, contraception, and sociology. Of the eighty papers contained in the volume, forty are in English, twenty-one in German, eleven in French, and eight in Italian. Among the papers may be mentioned those on the influence of diet on the procreative faculty of white mice, dogs, and cats, by E. Agduhr; the evolution of secondary sex characters and of accessory sex organs, by J. J. Cunningham; sex differences in the physique of Minnesota University students, by C. H. Jackson; the physiology of sexuality in plants, by F. W. Sansom; biochemical studies on the testicular hormone, by F. C. Koch and A. E. Womack; biological tests of the

female hormone, by J. Freud; gynaecology and sexology, by P. Strassmann; constitutional factors in human sterility, by A. W. Rowe; chemical contraceptives, by J. R. Baker; the erotic life of the child, by P. K. Bruhn; and psycho-analysis and biology, by Ernest Jones.

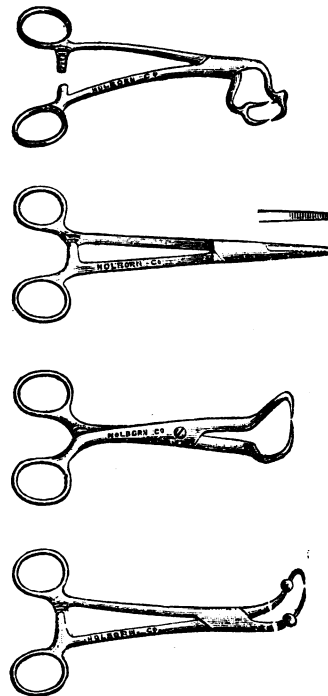
PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES

AN IMPROVED TETRA FORCEPS

Dr. ERNEST W. LEWIS (Southport) writes:

The tetra forceps in common use have several disadvantages. For instance, the bows, being on the same plane as the teeth, tend to stick up and get in the way of the surgeon. The teeth or jaws are too small, and for this reason are difficult to release from the towel with one hand. The illustration shows an improved model made on my suggestions. The jaws are large, enabling one to apply or remove the forceps with ease. They are a convenient length, shorter than the usual type, the shanks are curved, and the finger-rings are made at right angles to the teeth, so that the forceps lie flat. The jaws being double-toothed, the shanks do not slip about under the tetra cloth.

The forceps have been made for me by the Holborn Surgical Instrument Co., Ltd., 26, Thavies Inn, E.C.1.



CRYSTALLINE VITAMIN D

Calciferol is the name given to pure crystalline vitamin D, as recently isolated by a team of workers at the National Institute for Medical Research (see *British Medical Journal*, November 7th, p. 858). This substance has now been produced on a larger scale by British Drug Houses Ltd., who are offering it for sale. The product has an amazing biological potency, for it contains 40,000 units per milligram. British Drug Houses Ltd. are to be congratulated on having performed a useful service to scientific research by making this substance generally available.

NOVUTOX LOCAL ANAESTHETIC

Novutox local anaesthetic is described as containing para-amino-benzoyl di-ethyl-amino-ethanol hydrochloride and adrenaline in Ringer's solution, with an addition of quinine derivatives and 0.1 to 0.2 per cent. benzoic acid. The first drug is also termed procaine hydrochloride (*U.S.P.*, 'x), ethocaine hydrochloride (*B.P.C.*), but is best known under various proprietary names, such as novocain. E. Bergin (*Deut. med. Woch.*, 1929, lvii, 1835) states that novutox contains 1 in 80,000 chinatoxin; he reports favourably on its antiseptic and local anaesthetic action. The makers (Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., 39, Aldersgate Street, E.C.1) report bacteriological tests which prove that solutions of novutox remain sterile for weeks after a bottle or ampoule is opened. The advantages and convenience of a local anaesthetic solution that is self-sterilizing are obvious.

A QUININE DERIVATIVE

Thio-quin is a quinine derivative of Indian manufacture (Bio-Technical Works, Ahmedabad). The makers state that its composition is di-hydroxy-trimethoxy-quinine phenyl sulphate. They claim that it does not produce cinchonism, that it is efficacious as a prophylactic and curative agent in malaria, and that it can be produced at a price which compares favourably with that of quinine. Any advance in anti-malarial therapy is a matter of great importance, and we hope that further investigation will substantiate the claims made by the makers.

⁹ *A Manual of General Medical Practice*. By W. Stanley Sykes, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Second edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1931. (Pp. xi + 213; 1 figure. 7s. 6d. net.)

¹⁰ *Medical Psychology: The Mental Factor in Disease*. By William A. White. New York and Washington: Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Company. 1931. (Pp. v + 141; 4 figures.)

¹¹ *Baillièrè's Synthetic Anatomy*. By J. E. Cheesman. Part XI, Perineum (male); Part XII, Perineum (female). London: Baillièrè, Tindall and Cox. 1931. (3s. net each part.)

¹² *Proceedings of the Second International Congress for Sex Research*, London, 1930. Edited by A. W. Greenwood. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd. 1931. (Pp. xi + 637; illustrated. 21s. net.)