

complete as is possible in sixty-eight pages, although practically nothing is said about the reaction of the blood. There is a thorough discussion of the coagulation of the blood by Professor Zunz. On the other hand, Professor Achard gives a vague and verbose discussion of theories of oedema, in which he does not appear to distinguish between osmotic pressure and hydration of proteins. Had he cleared his ideas and included more of the known facts (as, for example, those of Moore and van Slyke bearing on the relation of oedema to plasma proteins) he could have presented far more information in fewer pages. The single page given to the pathological physiology of blood platelets is most inadequate. Anaemias and leukaemias are not included. The section on respiratory pigments in invertebrates is very brief, while that on coagulation of the blood in invertebrates occupies less than a full page. The section on immunity, by Professor Bordet, is masterly, as far as it goes, but makes little mention of the great volume of work carried out in the last ten or so years. It entirely omits the work done by Landsteiner's school on the relation of specificity to chemical structure. In the section on anaphylaxis, by Professor Besredka, considerable attention is paid to the practical aspects of the subject. This is all to the good, for it maintains interest and counteracts a too academic outlook. But it appears inadvisable in a work of this nature to include a purely practical section on blood transfusion, particularly at the expense of other important matter.

In such a treatise full references are essential in order that the reader may be able to form his own opinion on the work which the author quotes and to look up details that the author has omitted. No references are given in some sections; in others the bibliography is most incomplete. In all the sections little work is quoted except that published in French journals. There is no index.

Notes on Books

An Introduction to Pharmacology and Therapeutics,⁷ by Professor J. A. GUNN, was first published in 1929, but has already reached a fourth edition. The continued demand for this book is proof that there is a widely felt need for some short and simple exposition of the scientific facts which form the basis of rational therapy. The author modestly attributes the success of his book to a revival of interest in the treatment of disease, but its popularity is chiefly due to the fact that, while it is concise, it is also readable and accurate.

⁷ *An Introduction to Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. By J. A. Gunn, M.A., M.D. Fourth edition. London: H. Milford, Oxford University Press. 1934. (Pp. 237. 5s. net.)

Murrell's handbook *What to Do in Cases of Poisoning*⁸ has now reached its fourteenth edition, and for the last three Dr. PHILIP HAMILL has been responsible. The edition under review has been carefully revised, and many new poisons have been added. We find, for example, accounts of dinitrophenol intoxication, the use of strychnine in barbiturate poisoning, and antimony poisoning from enamel-ware glaze. The long-continued popularity of this pocket volume is the best proof of its merits. We suggest, however, that its utility might be increased by a somewhat fuller account of the commonest causes of poisoning, such as coal gas and lysol.

The first volume of the forty-fourth series of *International Clinics*⁹ is divided into four parts, devoted respectively to original articles on medicine, surgery, and paediatrics, and reviews of recent progress in medicine and surgery. The section on medicine contains instructive papers by Noel Fiessinger of Paris on hepatic insufficiency, by Lay Martin of Baltimore on jaundice, by Tinsley R. Harrison of Baltimore on enlargement of the heart, by William S. Lowe of Baltimore on so-called functional heart disease, by G. L. W. Gorham and K. E. Crouse of Albany on recent advances in the treatment of cardiac and renal oedema, by Henry M. Moses on the management of old-age conditions, and by Samuel Weiss and Vera L. Coles on the role of the vegetative nervous system in gastro-intestinal diseases. The section on surgery contains an interesting paper by I. A. Bigges and William B. Porter of Richmond, Va., with a record of seven personal cases and a review of the literature. The sections on paediatrics consist of a symposium on lead poisoning in its various aspects, including its occurrence in children, by H. B. Cushing and H. S. Mitchell, x-ray diagnosis by H. E. Childe, its biochemical aspects by I. M. Rabinowitch, the pathology by Lawrence J. Rhea, and treatment by S. G. Ross, all of Montreal. Recent progress in medicine is discussed by A. Cantarow of Philadelphia, and in abdominal surgery by Donald C. Balfour and James R. Watson of Rochester, Minnesota.

The British Social Hygiene Council (Carteret House, London, S.W.1) has published a thirty-four-page booklet entitled *Health Notes for Young Men Overseas*, which provides suitable information on venereal diseases, etc., intended for young employees of tea, rubber, and other firms going to the East. It has been prepared by Dr. T. DRUMMOND SHIELS on the lines of the Ross Institute booklet on malaria, and can be obtained for 4d. Up to 25 per cent. of free copies are offered to firms placing an order for these booklets.

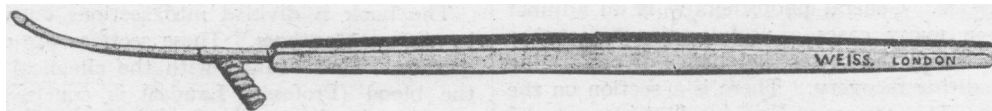
⁸ *What to Do in Cases of Poisoning*. Edited by P. Hamill, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Fourteenth edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co. Ltd. 1934. (Pp. viii + 204. 5s. net.)

⁹ *International Clinics*. Vol. i, forty-fourth series, 1934. Edited by Louis Hamman, M.D. Philadelphia, Montreal, and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1934. (Four volumes quarterly. 50s.)

Preparations and Appliances

IRRIGATING REPOSITOR FOR CATARACT EXTRACTION

Mr. B. W. RYCROFT, F.R.C.S. (London, W.), writes: During the operation of cataract extraction it is frequently necessary to irrigate the anterior chamber in order to remove residual lens cortex after the nucleus has been extracted. Thereafter



the iris is replaced and the edges of the wound cleared of capsule, etc. In order to complete this double manoeuvre by a single instrument an irrigating repositor has been constructed, and has proved satisfactory in practice.

The instrument (shown in the accompanying figure) consists of a fine bone hollow tube of silver tapered to a narrow

point, and slightly curved on the flat. This is mounted on a handle, to which is fitted a small nozzle for attachment of a rubber tube, around which the whole shaft is balanced. The diameter of the tube is little more than that of an ordinary iris repositor, and can be inserted between the lips of the corneal section without causing the wound to gape. Further-

more, it may be easily passed to the lower limits of the anterior chamber in order to obtain a reverse flow and to dislodge stubborn masses of lens cortex. The rate of flow is controlled by either hand.

The instrument is constructed by John Weiss and Co., Oxford Street, London, W.