

ism, and the therapeutic use of implants of crystalline tablets of insoluble hormones. Hanson's remarkable results in stimulating precocious growth and development in rats with thymus extracts have now been shown to be due to glutathione. The close chemical relation of the active principle of the adrenal cortex to progesterone has been established. The whole book has been thoroughly revised, and it remains one of the most useful of all the textbooks of endocrinology.

### EXPERIMENTAL PHARMACOLOGY

*Experimental Pharmacology and Materia Medica.* By Dennis E. Jackson, Ph.D., M.D. Second edition. (Pp. 906. 50s. net.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1939.

The second edition of Prof. Jackson's book will be very welcome to those working on mammalian physiology and pharmacology. The first edition appeared twenty years ago, and its excellent illustrations made it a valuable laboratory manual. The new edition is greatly enlarged (906 pages, 892 illustrations, and 55 coloured plates). Its special features are the numerous and excellent pictures of apparatus and dissections. Fully illustrated descriptions are given of all the common mammalian experiments and also of certain less familiar experiments devised by the author.

A short second part of the volume provides condensed instructions in laboratory techniques which will be found extremely useful in all laboratories that put together much of their own apparatus. The last section deals with materia medica and prescription writing; the most noteworthy feature of this section is the inclusion of attractive coloured pictures of certain medicinal plants.

The book is intended as a guide for the student, but, since the law in Great Britain would forbid most of the experiments described being performed by them, it is scarcely suitable for use by undergraduates on this side of the Atlantic. Research workers interested in mammalian experiments will, however, find this second edition even more valuable than the first.

### Notes on Books

The advances of modern chemotherapy are reflected in many sections of the thoroughly revised third edition of *Diseases of Infancy and Childhood*, by Dr. WILFRID SHELDON (J. and A. Churchill, 24s.). There are also certain additions, such as an account of the tuberculin patch test, and it is a tribute to the author's wisdom that he has seen fit to revise his section on infant feeding in accordance with advances in his practice—a welcome finding when so often a "system" of feeding once adopted remains the same for the lifetime of the physician! There are several new illustrations, and a useful appendix containing lists of proprietary vitamin preparations. This popular book should continue to sell widely among students and practitioners.

The first volume of the tenth edition of Cunningham's *Manual of Practical Anatomy*, revised by Prof. J. C. BRASH and Dr. E. B. JAMIESON, has been published by the Oxford University Press at the price of 15s. We welcome the continuance of this popular student's textbook on the traditional academic lines of its predecessors. Besides some additions and amendments to the text, several new radiographs and line drawings, and a coloured figure of the axillary and sterno-clavicular regions, have been included. This book has now served its purpose as a guide to dissectors for over fifty years. Long may it carry on this most important function!

In *The Conquest of Bacteria: from 606 to 693* F. SHERWOOD TAYLOR has chosen a subject of more limited interest than those of his *Science Front*, 1939, which we reviewed recently. As an exposition of chemotherapy in terms intelligible to the layman it has the same merits of lucidity, scientific accuracy, and freedom from overstatement. The scope and effects of

sulphonamide treatment are described in some detail, and the only serious criticism which can be made—itsself a matter of opinion rather than of fact—is that the advantages of sulphapyridine over sulphanilamide for some purposes are perhaps less certain than is here implied. The new book is published at 6s. by Secker and Warburg.

## Preparations and Appliances

### IMPROVED WALKING CALLIPER

Mr. G. H. STEELE, F.R.C.S. (Guildford) writes:

Two difficulties met with in connexion with walking callipers are to make ischial weight-bearing comfortable and to decide whether the calliper is taking the whole weight of the patient. As regards the first, the standard alternatives of a ring and a bucket are equally hard, and the latter does not really take much weight off the ischium. Being struck by the comfort of a car seat consisting of an inflated rubber tyre, I decided to incorporate such a device in the ring of a calliper, as shown in the diagram (Fig. 1). A section of cycle tyre extends along

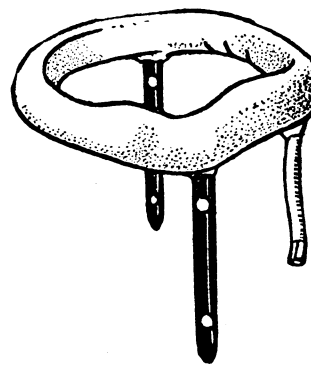


FIG. 1

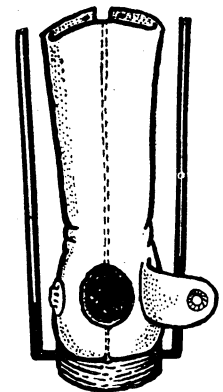


FIG. 2

the inner and posterior parts of the ring and can be inflated to any desired pressure.

As regards the second, a hand slipped between the tuberosity and the ring merely tells if most of the weight is being taken by the calliper. With a shoe the finger can be slipped under the heel, but with a boot, which is more comfortable, there is no way of doing this except to cut a hole in the back of the heel. This has been done and the hole covered by a press-button flap (Fig. 2).

The improved calliper has been made for me by Messrs. Sillis, Strudwick and Co., 131, Albert Street, N.W.1.

### PROTECTION OF THE EARS

Since the outbreak of war a number of devices for protecting the ear against noise and blast have been put on the market. The cheapest remedy is plugs of clean cotton-wool previously impregnated with vaseline. They can be carried in a small tin case in the pocket or handbag.

*Ear-pax Ear Plugs* provide a convenient cotton-wool plug for the ears and a rubber mouth cushion to clench between the teeth, as advised by the Ministry of Home Security. The cotton-wool would give an even better protection to the ears if impregnated with vaseline. The price is 6d. the set.

*Sound Deadener* (A. and H., price 1s. the pair) is a malleable plug of fibrous clay designed to exclude noise and protect the ear drums. It has, however, the disadvantage that in a susceptible person prolonged and frequent use might set up an external otitis.

*Aurax Ear Protectors* should offer good protection against blast, but would not appear to be so efficient against noise. There is a risk that with prolonged use, as, for example, during sleep, they might set up an eczema of the external auditory meatus. They have the advantage of being portable and handy. Price, 1s. the pair.