

However, these are but small blemishes in an excellent little book. One hopes that it will be widely read and become a pioneer, to be followed by more exhaustive works on this subject, which will provide not only interest for the clinician but also a detailed source of reference for the research worker in anaesthetics.

COSMETICS

Modern Cosmeticology. By Ralph G. Harry, F.R.I.C. Second edition. (Pp. 432; illustrated. 35s.) London: Leonard Hill Ltd. 1944.

This book had a very good reception when first published in 1939. There are considerable alterations in the new edition. The book has grown very greatly, having expanded from fewer than 300 to over 400 pages, and is now embellished with numerous figures, including 8 coloured plates. It may be added that, whereas it was originally published in New York, it has crossed the ocean, notwithstanding the difficulties of war, and is now published in London. Although it has greatly increased in size the paper used is much thinner, and it has diminished in bulk and is very convenient to handle.

The new edition is fortified by a foreword from Dr. P. B. Mumford, who gives it his blessing. The scientific approach to the whole subject, which we noted with satisfaction in the first edition, is still well maintained—perhaps this is in large measure due to the fact that Mr. Harry is an original investigator of some experience. He himself has worked particularly on the conditions necessary for the preservation of oils. These compounds are of much importance in the manufacture of many forms of cosmetics, and they are very liable to become rancid owing to the development of a certain degree of oxidation in them, and rancidity spoils any cosmetic preparation. This tendency can be controlled to a very large extent by the help which certain anti-oxidants give to the keeping qualities of various oils. His experiments show that gum guaiacum is a very good anti-oxidant which has the advantage that, unlike several other compounds that have been used for the purpose, it appears to be quite innocuous.

This volume includes a consideration not only of creams and powders but also of the cosmetic problems presented by the hair, the teeth, the nails, and, in fact, by all the cutaneous appendages. Naturally it overlaps the domain of the skin physician, but the author is extremely careful not to trespass too far into pathology and therapeutics, and there is no doubt that the dermatologist can profit a great deal from study of this book; in fact, even more from the present edition than from the original one. On the whole the illustrations are apposite and useful, but it is doubtful whether the coloured photomicrographs of the human skin and scalp are valuable enough to justify the additional cost they must involve. They throw very little light upon the problems with which cosmetics are concerned. This, however, is a very minor blemish, if indeed a blemish at all, and we have no hesitation in recommending *Modern Cosmeticology* to all concerned with the enhancement of human beauty.

Notes on Books

Dr. ARLETTE BARBEQUOT-BUTAVAND has produced a book—*Cahiers de Dessins d'Anatomie*—for the use of the hospital attendants and nursing staff of the Medical School at Lyons. It is issued by J. B. Baillière et Fils, of Paris, in two parts, each containing 57 plates and comprising 203 separate figures. These consist of a series of anatomical drawings in simple outline, with brief legends and names of the principal parts, supplemented by occasional comments. The drawings are arranged in copybook form, the plates being on one side of the opened book—the left—whereas the opposite page on the right is left blank, to be filled in by the pupil with notes or copies of the printed drawings, which it is suggested may be coloured so as to distinguish bones, arteries, veins, nerves, and muscles from one another. The principal object which the author has had in mind is, he states, twofold: since anatomy is easily understood and impressed on the memory by drawings, to provide something concrete, which will enable each pupil to develop his own powers of observation and dexterity in drawing; and at the same time to cultivate his visual memory. He also recommends that pupils should, when possible, supplement the drawings on the printed page by original drawings from Nature, and thus increase the value of their course of study and of the books they read and benefit them in the exercise of their profession. In these days, when hospital attendants, nurses, and doctors of different nationalities frequently

become associated in their work, the publication of these two "Cahiers" should be no bar to their use by English-speaking readers, but, on the contrary, a distinct advantage, since it would tend to familiarize them with the names of the various parts and organs of the body in the French language.

The importance of the care and housing of the aged is being increasingly realized. A pamphlet entitled *Bucks Old People's Welfare* tells the story of the formation of a county committee for that purpose at Aylesbury on Feb. 3, 1945. Sir Leonard West, chairman of the Buckinghamshire County Council, presided, and every branch of social endeavour was represented. It was pointed out by Mrs. Keeling that it was the transfer of responsibility for supplementary pensions in December, 1940, to the Assistance Board that had brought to light the fact that many old people were living alone under the most unfavourable conditions. The aim of this committee was to see that such were not only fed, clothed, and sheltered "in a negative kind of peace" but enabled to spend what was left of their lives in "positive happiness." In pursuit of this laudable, if difficult, objective, representatives were appointed to look into the situation and to report later with suggestions to an adjourned conference. The body of this booklet discusses, in an interesting way, both short-term and long-term policy for remedying a gap in our social services still inadequately filled, though some real success has been achieved already. It is evidently written by an enthusiast for the subject, with definite and clear-cut ideas. Copies may be had from the printers, Hunt, Barnard and Co., Aylesbury, price 1s. 2d. post free.

The welcome we gave to the first edition of Dr. JULIUS BAUER'S *Constitution and Disease* can be given with equal cordiality to the second (William Heinemann; 21s.). That this has been called for within eighteen months of the publication of the original edition proves its usefulness. For too long the genetic factor in disease received scanty and intermittent attention, and although this is being corrected it has not been easy to obtain the evidence in a compact form such as is now possible from these pages. In this new edition the text has been amplified, the bibliography has been added to considerably, and it is now, as it should be, provided with an adequate index.

We have noticed in these columns several books on the population problem. Mr. MARK ABRAMS'S little book, *The Population of Great Britain: Current Trends and Future Problems* (George Allen and Unwin; 3s. 6d.) is among the best; it is very clearly written and objective. It can be read through in an hour and provides an intelligent person with an adequate basis of knowledge. We may add that, unlike so many wartime books, it is pleasant to look at and read.

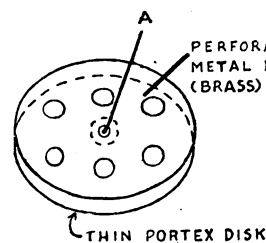
Preparations and Appliances

VALVE DISK FOR CIRCLE ABSORBERS

Dr. J. CLUTTON-BROCK (Lincoln) sends the following description of a new valve disk for circle absorbers:

This device consists of a disk of thin flexible portex joined concentrically to a thin perforated disk of metal.

I have found these disks very satisfactory in my absorber as they only weigh 13 gr. as opposed to 34 gr. for a standard metal disk of the same size. There is no tendency to blow back at a pressure of 200 mm. Hg. Although they are, perhaps, a little heavier than a similar bakelite disk, there is no question of warping, and I have found most bakelite disks definitely not very flat. The two disks are joined together at the point A by a small aluminium rivet. The thickness of the metal disk is 0.005 in., and the portex 0.007 in. The thin portex disk lies on the knife edge and makes a perfect airtight seal.



SULPHATHIAZOLE SUSPENSION

Messrs. Menley and James, Ltd., now offer for sale "mickraform" sulphathiazole suspension. It is a sterile suspension containing 20% sulphathiazole in very fine crystalline form, far finer than ordinary crystals. Since sulphathiazole has a low solubility, these smaller crystals give a much better chance of the sulphathiazole getting into solution. The suspension can be applied much more effectively than powder to deep wounds. It has a pH between 5.5 and 6.5, and is said to be stable.