E.N.T. EXAMINATION

Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat: A Textbook of Clinical and Laboratory Procedures. By Georges Portmann, M.D. Translated by F. Montreuil, M.D., and J. G. Waltner, M.D. (Pp. 728; 666 figures. £7 10s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1951.

This textbook of clinical and laboratory procedures is founded on the author's teaching methods formed after many years' experience. It is confined to the anatomy, physiology, and clinical examination of the upper respiratory tract. The examination of the patient is in all sections described under two headings—"indirect" and "direct"—and the author emphasizes the importance of a searching inquiry into the history, the examiner considering himself a physician rather than a specialist. The author's account of direct examination gives a detailed description of all the possible methods, some of historic interest only and some of doubtful value—for example, transillumination of the mastoid cells by a small lamp in the external meatus—and the student has little guide to their relative importance. All the anatomy is admirable and profusely illustrated with excellent photographs and diagrams.

There are six main sections: ear; nose; mouth and pharynx; larynx, trachea, and bronchi; oesophagus; and a last one, on laboratory methods, not found in English textbooks. There are also full descriptions of the way to take *x*-ray pictures—left to the experts in this country. The section on the ear is particularly detailed, with many photographs to show the canals. The descriptions of caloric, rotation, and electrical testing of the function of the labyrinth are very exact, particularly that of rotation, and pictures show how to test each individual canal. The account of caloric testing includes a description of Hallpike's and Kobrak's methods. It is of interest that Haslinger's instruments for examination of the larynx and bronchi are those commonly used, though Chevalier Jackson's tubes are described.

It is rare to see such a galaxy of admirably reproduced illustrations in any textbook, and the student or indeed the specialist would by their study be able to carry out any test or examination even though he had never seen them applied to a patient.

W. M. MOLLISON.

METHOD IN MEDICINE

De la Méthode en Médecine. By Professor René Cruchet. Second edition. (Pp. 248. No price.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1951.

This book is the second edition of a volume which was first published in 1942. It was written when France was under German occupation and the author, no longer young, was suffering from privation and unhappiness, written indeed largely to withdraw his mind from so painful a situation. It is one of a series of publications on the logic and philosophy of the sciences, and attempts to deduce what may be called the laws of medicine. It therefore has a close affinity to Dr. Clark-Kennedy's treatise on medicine, though it differs from that book in a more historical approach. The author begins by discussing the spirit of observation in medicine and the definition of diseases. He then discusses in a general way the physical signs of disease, their evolution, the pathological basis, and the aetiology. Finally, there are sections on diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.

Professor Cruchet is a distinguished neurologist, and like most neurologists he is imbued with a belief in the paramount importance of bedside observation and in the value of direct reasoning from physical signs. In the definition of disease the characteristic grouping of signs and symptoms is more important than the specific cause. To the non-neurologist physical signs no longer have the same appeal, because few other tissues give such specific responses as the nervous system, and those who regard medicine as a branch of applied science or sociology may feel that a preoccupation with signs and symptoms is likely to confine attention to the surface of things. Nevertheless it is good to be reminded that medicine should have a logic and a philosophy. The book is simply produced and written in a clear and easily comprehensible French style.

L. J. WITTS.

APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY

Lehrbuch der speziellen Pathologischen Physiologie. Edited by Ludwig Heilmeyer. Eighth edition, revised. (Pp. 606; 107 illustrations. M. 24.) Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer. 1951.

It is surprising that applied physiology has not become independent like anatomy, pure physiology, and morbid anatomy. The subject is of great and growing importance, but is taught by too many experts to be seen as a whole. Applied physiology courses for medical students deal with only a fraction of the subject, most of it being taught by clinicians and pathologists under such names as functional pathology, pathological chemistry, or just plain medicine and surgery. Because of this fragmented teaching, the full range of applied physiology can be seen only in textbooks.

Heilmeyer's *Lehrbuch* has the same object as "Best and Taylor," but is only about half its size. The theme of the book is that applied physiology is a logical development of the work of Wunderlich, Claude Bernard, and Virchow. In contrast to clinical symptomatology, it is concerned to understand the disease process and the mechanism of disordered function. The main divisions of the subject correspond to the physiological systems of the body, but include biochemical divisions that cross system boundaries. Various authorities write on the blood, the respiration, the circulation, the kidneys, the alimentary system, vitamin deficiencies, metabolism, and the vegetative nervous system and ductless glands. The work is up to date and gives long bibliographies; these are virtually restricted to textbooks and monographs, most of them German. The analytical table of contents and the index are of the customary Teutonic excellence, but the text paper and cover are of poor quality—a matter for sympathy rather than censure. The many previous editions show the value of the book to German students and doctors; outside Germany, teachers may find it useful for reference.

RAYMOND WHITEHEAD.

ALLERGY REVIEWED

Progress in Allergy. Volume 3. (*Fortschritte der Allergielehre*.) Edited by Paul Kallos. (Pp. 572; 82 figures. Swiss francs 68.65.) Basle: S. Karger. 1952.

The editor of this book, Paul Kallos, writes a general introduction and an excellent brief review of the use of ergot derivatives in migraine. The dozen contributors are allowed complete freedom of expression, which is obviously a wise policy but leads to some overlapping and contradiction.

General reviews are given by Dr. M. Murray Peshkin of allergy in children, Dr. Leon Unger of bronchial asthma, Dr. Joseph Harkavy of cardiovascular allergy, and Dr. Ethan Brown of drug allergy. Dr. Albert Rowe reviews bronchial asthma due to food allergy, and Dr. David Harley the infective factor in asthma; he expresses strongly his belief in the value of bacterial vaccines made by the pathogen-selective-culture method. Dr. Arthur Stoll discusses the chemistry of the ergot alkaloids, and Dr. E. Rothlin and Dr. R. Bircher contribute an article on the actions of these alkaloids in allergic states. The volume ends by a logical and model article by Dr. J. F. Ackroyd on "sedormid" purpura. Surprisingly enough in a book dated 1952, there is but scanty mention of A.C.T.H. and cortisone in relation to allergic conditions. To sum up, this volume, like previous ones in this series, gives an excellent account of their contributors' present views and practice, and will therefore be read with benefit by all interested in the subject of allergy.

C. J. C. BRITTON.