

and paid by their patients; but when doctors have sold their practices to the State, when their incomes come mainly, or even wholly, directly or indirectly from the State, and when they can be excluded from the Service on the final decision of a Minister, it is not easy to understand in what sense they will retain their independence.

Certification is mentioned only briefly, but the author might have referred to the implications which many doctors see and fear in the future ubiquity and importance of medical certificates in connexion with the money benefits of National Insurance. Discussing expulsion from the Service and right of appeal to the courts the author very fairly marshals the arguments on both sides, but agrees that the Minister should have the last word. He sees no reason why the taking over of the hospitals should lessen local voluntary work and interest, and says, not perhaps with much conviction, "there is plenty of room in hospital life for voluntary help—the linen-rooms and the domestic side generally will remain open as before." He considers that "central ownership of hospitals is only the predecessor to decentralization and the encouragement of local independence"; and he concludes that "the Service will be very good or very bad," and whether it is good or bad "depends on whether there will be a tightening of bureaucratic control, and on the whole-hearted co-operation of the doctors." Yet how can anyone, with the embrace of post-war bureaucracy about him, hope for a slackening of its hold, fortified as it is in this case by the great powers given to the Minister and his staff. However, the optimist may be right. The book is honestly written, persuasive in tone, and not deliberately provocative.

ALFRED COX.

TEXTBOOK OF ALLERGY

Allergy. By Erich Urbach, M.D., and Philip M. Gottlieb, M.D. Second edition, revised and enlarged. (Pp. 968; 410 figures. 70s.) London: William Heinemann (Medical Books). 1946.

In the second edition the authors have revised and enlarged this book and added new sections on the psychosomatic aspects of allergy, the Rh factor, allergic bronchitis, allergic cough, and eosinophilic erythroedema. Of the 3,325 references almost 1,300 are new to this edition. The classification of the phenomena of hypersensitiveness—always a difficult problem—is rather involved. The authors' views on propeptan therapy, a form of treatment originated by the senior author, are far from being generally accepted by specialists in this field; and the dosage of pollen extract recommended in hay-fever is considerably lower than that usually prescribed in this country.

This excellent reference book, up to date and well constructed, is probably the most complete on allergy yet published. It will be welcomed by those especially concerned with the subject, and many chapters will interest all students of medicine, though the general physician may find it heavy going in parts.

D. A. WILLIAMS.

INCOME TAX

At Home with Income Tax. By R. W. Harris. (Pp. 178. 6s. 6d.) London: Stone and Cox. 1946.

The aim of this book is to provide the ordinary taxpayer, in a compact and readily accessible form, with a guide to the income tax, while avoiding complicated problems that are not of general interest. The author has succeeded to an extent quite unusual in this field. The general arrangement is excellent, the print clear, and the exposition simple (so far as simplicity is attainable in this subject) and illuminated by examples. The "Notes for Professional Men" and those dealing with expenses are as useful as a broad description permits; the importance of taking income tax into account in connexion with the terms on which a share in a practice changes hands will particularly interest medical practitioners. The author discusses P.A.Y.E. briefly, and mainly from the weekly wage earner's standpoint.

One of the hazards besetting this sort of book is that changes in the law are liable to make it out of date in a comparatively short time, but the fundamental features of the income tax, which are well explained here, are not likely to alter much. We can recommend it as the best available guide for "the ordinary man and woman" for whom it is intended.

BOOKS RECEIVED

[Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received]

A Contribution to the Knowledge of the Influences of Gonadotropic and Sex Hormones on the Gonads of Rats. By J. H. Gaarenstroom and S. E. De Jongh. (Pp. 164. Florins 8.) New York and Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company. 1946.

An account of experiments on sex hormones stressing the independent existence of two gonadotrophic hormones in each animal species.

Handbook of Elementary Anatomy. By John J. Teklenburg. (Pp. 16. 5s. 6d.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1947.

A book of coloured plates displaying human anatomy; intended for students of nursing and first aid.

The Birth of a Child. By Grantly Dick Read, M.A., M.D. (Pp. 99. 5s.) London: Heinemann. 1947.

The author expounds in simple terms his theory that the pain of labour can be countered by relaxation and education; for the midwife and general reader.

A Study on Oxygen Toxicity at Atmospheric Pressure. By W. T. L. Ohlsson. (Pp. 93. No price.) Lund, Sweden: Hakan Ohlsson. 1947.

A monograph on oxygen poisoning in man with an account of experimental investigation in animals.

Postgraduate Obstetrics. By W. F. Mengert, M.D. (Pp. 392. 25s.) London: Hamish Hamilton. 1947.

An American textbook of obstetrics intended for the general practitioner.

Parenteral Alimentation in Surgery. By Robert Elman, M.D. (Pp. 284. 21s.) London: Hamish Hamilton. 1947.

The author discusses the indications for and methods of parenteral administration of fluids, with special reference to amino-acids and proteins.

Anatomical Terms. By E. J. Field, M.D., M.S., and R. J. Harrison, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Pp. 165. 7s. 6d.) Cambridge: W. Heffer. 1947.

A pocket-book to help students to understand the etymology of anatomical terms.

The Care of Children from One to Five. By John Gibbens, M.B., M.R.C.P. 3rd ed. (Pp. 192. 5s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1947.

The third edition of this well-known book contains much new material, including a chapter on books and music and an appendix on the care of young children in the Tropics.

The Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus. By E. P. Joslin, A.M., M.D., Sc.D., et al. 8th ed. (Pp. 861. 50s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1946.

A textbook on diabetes based on the experience of 29,000 diabetics and glycosurics.

The Physical Background of Perception. By E. D. Adrian, O.M., F.R.S. (Pp. 95. 10s.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1947.

A reprint of the author's Wayflete lectures delivered in 1946.

Elements of Surgery. By Fauset Welsh, B.Sc., M.B., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 83. 7s. 6d.) Oxford: Oxford University Press (Geoffrey Cumberlege). 1947.

An introduction to surgery intended for nurses and medical students.

The Microscope. Its Theory and Applications. By J. H. Wredden, F.R.M.S. (Pp. 296. 21s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1947.

A discussion of the optical principles, construction, and components of the microscope, with an account of photomicrography and of the preparation of specimens.

Child Health and Development. Edited by R. W. B. Ellis, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 364. 18s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1947.

The book is in two parts; the first deals with the physical, mental, and intellectual development of the normal child, and the second with the social service and conditions related to child health.