

A BEDSIDE HANDBOOK

Bedside Diagnosis. By Charles Mackay Seward, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. With foreword by Sir Henry Cohen, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 372. 17s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1949.

Dr. Seward points out the wide gap that exists between the symptoms complained of by the patient and the contents of the usual textbook of systematic medicine, and he attempts to help the student bridge this gulf. The book opens with sections on psychogenic symptoms and pain, but the remainder of the text consists of 20 chapters discussing the implications of single signs or symptoms. Each chapter is prefaced by a list of the common causes of the symptom in question; the underlying physiological disturbance is described whenever possible; and suggestions are made for shortening the list of possible diagnoses by analysis of the presenting complaint. There follow a brief description of the diseases responsible for the symptom and an account of the important investigations that may be required in diagnosis.

The author's plan is sound, and is that followed by many clinical teachers in the wards. The information is accurate; where statistics are given they are well chosen; and the work bears the stamp of a practical physician throughout. The book has flaws, though it is only fair to add that these are the result of its brevity, for even the common diseases are too numerous and too variable to be adequately described in such small compass. A notable weakness is lack of information on the diagnosis of diseases of the nervous system, common conditions such as disseminated sclerosis, hemiplegia, and epilepsy not being mentioned. But as the book is intended as a guide to the principles of diagnosis rather than a work of reference such omissions can be forgiven. The publishers are to be congratulated on the production, and the price is not high by to-day's standards. SIDNEY TRUELOVE.

The twelfth edition of *Clinical Methods*, by Sir Robert Hutchison and Dr. Donald Hunter (pp. 484; 17s. 6d.; London: Cassell, 1949), has undergone a thorough revision, for which the authors have called on the assistance of Dr. R. R. Bomford. Some of the methods and phrases that gave an air of antiquity to parts of the previous edition have been eliminated, and the text now incorporates modern work on haematology, liver function tests, and elementary radiology. Some teachers will note with displeasure that the third and fourth heart sounds have made an appearance in the book, and it is surprising that a long description of the polygraph has been retained in a practical volume of this sort. The format has been altered, and the use of large and small type will help the student considerably in the difficulty he faces with all his textbooks—the selection of the leading facts from the less important details. The illustrations have been greatly improved, particularly those of urinary crystals. This edition will be found easier to read and to remember than its predecessor, and the book remains equally important to candidates for Membership and the M.B.

Dr. F. M. R. Walshe's *Diseases of the Nervous System* (pp. 359; 17s. 6d.; Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone, 1949) made its first appearance as recently as 1940, which may be a matter of surprise to many of its readers. It has now become a well-established textbook and occupies as important a place in the student's reading as many senior volumes. In the sixth edition the text has everywhere been brought up to date. The chapter on neurosyphilis has been rewritten and the sections on acute poliomyelitis and intracranial abscess enlarged. The short chapter on psychoneuroses has been retained, and there is a useful scheme of examination of the nervous system at the end of the text. Dr. Walshe should relieve the student who carefully reads this book of the anxiety with which he usually contemplates a neurological case in the final examination.

In their *Elementary Atlas of Cardiology* (pp. 108; 99 illustrations; 12s. 6d.; Bristol: John Wright, 1948), Drs. Wallace-Jones, Chamberlain, and Rubin have put together a series of electrocardiograms illustrating abnormalities of rhythm and of myocardial function. These are the standard records used for undergraduate teaching; they and the accompanying legends fulfil this purpose excellently. The authors have perceived that even in an elementary textbook chest leads must be mentioned, and they include IV R, IV F, and CR1. It is not clear why both of the first two are described when some other lead instead of IV F, such as CR6 or CR7, would have given additional information. The book includes a section on the radiography of the heart. This achieves a succinct presentation of the principal abnormalities, but the illustrations are not of high quality.

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

Text Book of Surgery. By P. Kiely, B.Sc., M.D., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 1,184. 45s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1949.

The Evidence for Voluntary Action. Edited by Lord Beveridge and A. F. Wells. (Pp. 343. 16s.) London: Allen and Unwin. 1949.

The Value of Hormones in General Practice. By W. N. Kemp, M.D. (Pp. 115. 3s.) Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Company. 1949.

The Substitute Family. By F. Knight, L.H.D. (Pp. 84. 3s. 6d.) London: The Convocation Lecture, 1949, of the National Children's Home. 1949.

What is Psychoanalysis? By E. Jones, M.D. (Pp. 126. 7s. 6d.) London: George Allen and Unwin. 1949.

The Yearbook of Psychoanalysis, 1948. Vol. 4. (Pp. 356. 30s.) London: Imago. 1949.

Understandable Psychiatry. By L. E. Hinsie, M.D. (Pp. 359. 22s. 6d.) New York: The Macmillan Company. 1948.

A Review of Nursing. By H. F. Hansen, R.N., M.A. 6th ed (Pp. 866. 21s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1949.

The American Nurses Dictionary. By A. L. Price, B.S., R.N. (Pp. 656. 19s.) London: W. B. Saunders. 1949.

"Doctor Himself." An Unorthodox Biography of Harry Roberts, 1871-1946. By W. Stamp. (Pp. 163. 10s. 6d.) London: Hamish Hamilton. 1949.

The Principles of Chiropody. By J. H. Hanby, F.Ch.S., and H. E. Walker, F.Ch.S. (Pp. 383. 21s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1949.

Tablet Making. By A. Little and K. A. Mitchell. (Pp. 121. 15s.) Liverpool: The Northern Publishing Company. 1949.

Tax Tables, 1949-50. By G. Whillans, F.I.B. (3s. 6d.) London: Butterworth. 1949.

Précis des Maladies Allergiques. By Pasteur Vallery-Radot. (Pp. 223. 550 francs.) Paris: Editions Médicales Flammarion. 1949.

Le Sexe. By V. Dantchakoff. (Pp. 210. No price.) Paris: Presses Universitaires de France. 1949.

Thrombo-Phlébites Cérébrales. By R. Garcin and M. Pestel. (Pp. 135. 600 francs.) Paris: Masson. 1949.

Von der Angst der Kranken. By K. Scheele. (Pp. 75. M. 4.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Über die neuen Strahlenschutzregeln. By H. Graf. (Pp. 72. M. 4.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Über die Anzeigepflicht des Prosektors wegen Ärztlichen Verschuldens. By F. Feyrter. (Pp. 88. 12s.) Vienna: Wilhelm Maudrich. 1949.

Grundriss der Allgemeinen Zoologie. By A. Kühn. (Pp. 281. M. 18.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Die Bazillenruhr. By L. Roemheld. (Pp. 125. M. 10.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Leitfaden der Neurologie und Psychiatrie. By W. Kurth. (Pp. 305. M. 22.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1949.

Die Erkrankungen der Endokrinen Drüsen. By A. Oswald. (Pp. 580. 58 francs.) Berne: Hans Huber. 1949.

Uremia y Seudouremia. By J. A. Bofill. (Pp. 168. No price.) Barcelona: Ediciones Byp. 1949.

Medical News

New Minister of Health in Northern Ireland

Dame Dehra Parker, D.B.E., M.P., has been appointed Northern Ireland Minister of Health and Local Government in succession to the late Mr. William Grant, and she thus becomes the first woman Cabinet Minister in Northern Ireland.

Hebrew Medical Journal

The *Hebrew Medical Journal* enters its twenty-second year with the publication of Vol. 1 for 1949. This bilingual publication, edited by Dr. Moses Einhorn, comes from New York but maintains a close connexion with Israel in its endeavour to promote the development of Hebrew medical literature and terminology. The current issue includes a symposium on present-day public health problems in Israel (printed in both Hebrew and English), and contributions on old Hebrew manuscripts, the Bible and Medicine, and Hebrew medical terminology (printed in Hebrew only).

Study of Child Care

British advances in the field of child care are being studied by 45 doctors, nurses, and social workers from sixteen European and Middle East countries during a 15-weeks course in social paediatrics which has been financed by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and organized by the Ministry of Health and the British Council. After a week in London for introductory lectures, the students are now working in small groups in centres at Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. They will later return to London for final discussions and the study of various special services.

Register of Speech Therapists

The *Register of Speech Therapists* for 1949 has now been published, and medical practitioners can obtain a copy free on application to the registrar of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Psychiatrist to Lecture in Australia

Professor Alexander Kennedy, Professor of Psychological Medicine in the University of Durham, has been invited by the Government of Victoria to advise it on mental health and psychiatric organization. The presentation to the Victorian Parliament of a new bill dealing with these subjects is being delayed until after his visit. Professor Kennedy will tour other States in Australia to lecture on mental health, under arrangements made by the British Council and the Australian Association of Psychiatrists.

Working Party to Investigate Fluorides

The Ministry of Education has announced that a Working Party has been set up to direct and organize an investigation on the prophylactic effect of the local application of a solution of fluorides to school-children's teeth. The members are as follows: R. Weaver, M.D., F.D.S., Ministry of Education (chairman); E. R. Bransby, Ph.D., Ministry of Health; Miss J. R. Forrest, L.D.S., Ministry of Health; W. G. Senior, O.B.E., Ph.D., F.D.S., Ministry of Health; G. J. Parfitt, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., Department of Preventive Dentistry, Eastman Clinic; B. R. Townend, F.D.S., West Riding Local Education Authority; W. Ritchie Young, F.D.S., London County Council; A. T. Wynne, M.D., Ch.B., B.D.S., L.D.S., Ministry of Education (secretary).

Wills

Sir Frederic Jeune Willans, K.C.V.O., Surgeon Apothecary to the King's Household at Sandringham, left £7,115. Dr. George Sandison Brock, of Jersey, left £27,712; Dr. Thomas Smith Duncan, of Nottingham, £19,370; and Dr. George Herbert Simpson, of Brighton, £16,022.

COMING EVENTS

Foot Inspection

The Foot Health Educational Bureau will hold a convention at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on September 30, from 2.15-5 p.m., on "Foot Inspection in Childhood and Adolescence." The speakers include Dr. W. G. Booth and Mr. T. T. Stamm. Admission is free on presentation of a ticket, which may be obtained not later than September 15 from the Bureau at 121, Ebury Street, London, S.W.1.

American Course in Gastro-intestinal Surgery

The American National Gastroenterological Association announces that a course in gastro-intestinal surgery will be given at the Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass., on October 27-29. It will be under the direction of Dr. Owen H. Wangenstein, Professor of Surgery, University of Minnesota Medical School, assisted by Lord Webb-Johnson. Enrolment is limited to 250. The fee will be \$35. Information may be obtained from the National Gastroenterological Association, Dept. GSJ, 1819, Broadway, New York, 23, N.Y., U.S.A.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

Tuesday

EDINBURGH POSTGRADUATE BOARD FOR MEDICINE.—At Anatomy Lecture Theatre, Edinburgh University, September 6, 4.30 p.m., "Synovial Membrane in Health and Disease," by Professor D. V. Davies.

APPOINTMENTS

CARLISLE, W. H., M.B., M.Sc., D.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.Ed., Consulting Surgeon, North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech, Cambs.

TAYLOR, D. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., Consulting Ophthalmologist, North Cambridgeshire Hospital and Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech, Cambs.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Jones.—On August 14, 1949, at St. Mary Islington Hospital, London, to Erica (née Axelrad) and Dr. Alun Howard Jones, a son.
Nabarro.—On August 26, 1949, at University College Hospital, to Joan (née Cockrell), wife of J. D. N. Nabarro, M.D., M.R.C.P., a son—David.
Petit.—On August 19, 1949, at the Lady Chancellor Nursing Home, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, to Joan (née Lamplugh), M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M.&H., wife of Joseph Petit, a daughter.
Pridie.—On August 24, 1949, to Joanna (née Egerton) and Kenneth Pridie, F.R.C.S., of 58, St. John's Road, Bristol, 8, a son—William Raleigh.

MARRIAGE

Sloan—Logan.—On August 27, 1949, at Glasgow, Flying-Officer J. Burnley Sloan to Mairi Buchanan Logan, A.M.I.A.

DEATHS

Belbin.—On August 22, 1949, at Hove Hospital, Harry Ashley Belbin, L.S.A., late of Cradley Heath and Rottingdean.
Blaber.—On August 21, 1949, at Farthings, Borough Marsh, Twyford, Berks, Percy Leonard Blaber, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Boat House, Marlow, Bucks, aged 77.
Cairns.—On August 23, 1949, at 36, Bankfield Lane, Southport, Lawson Miller Cairns, M.D.
Duffy.—On August 23, 1949, at 12, Glodwick, Oldham, James Joseph Duffy, M.B., B.Ch.
English.—On August 25, 1949, at Chilton Hall, Sudbury, Suffolk, Sir Thomas Crisp English, K.C.M.G., F.R.C.S.
Ferguson.—On August 27, 1949, at St. Helier Hospital, James Ferguson, C.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., of Cranleigh, Ashley Drive, Walton-on-Thames.
Gibson.—On August 19, 1949, at Lancaster, James Andrew Gibson, M.D.
Hopkins.—On August 21, 1949, at Croydon, Walter Kempson Hopkins, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Surgeon-Commander R.N., Ret., aged 79.
MacRobert.—On August 24, 1949, at Edinburgh, Peter Carmichael MacRobert, M.B., Ch.B., aged 79.
Mortlock-Brown.—On August 20, 1949, Constance Anderson Mortlock-Brown, L.M.S.S.A., of Boode, Braunton, Devon.
Ross.—On August 25, 1949, at Airdrannich, Inveraray, Argyll, Donald Ross, M.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B.
Shave.—On August 22, 1949, Edward Simpson Shave, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.V.S., of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, aged 93.
Welply.—On August 24, 1949, at Rosemont, Thurgarton, Nottingham, George Chinnery Welply, M.B., B.Ch., late of Forest Gate, London.

All communications with regard to editorial business should be addressed to THE EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, B.M.A. HOUSE, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1. TELEPHONE: EUSTON 2111. TELEGRAMS: *Aitology, Westcent, London*. ORIGINAL ARTICLES AND LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone. Authors desiring REPRINTS should communicate with the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1 (hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). TELEPHONE: EUSTON 2111. TELEGRAMS: *Britmedads, Westcent, London*. MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS should be sent to the SECRETARY of the Association, TELEPHONE: EUSTON 2111. TELEGRAMS: *Medisecra, Westcent, London*. B.M.A. SCOTTISH OFFICE: 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.