

BOOK REVIEWS.

Modern Practice in Psychological Medicine. By J. R. REES. Butterworth. 50/-.

Messrs. Butterworth are at present issuing a *Modern Practice Series* covering special medical and surgical subjects under the general editorship of Lord Horder, in which each volume is edited by an authority of international repute. *Modern Practice in Psychological Medicine* is the first volume in this new series to be published. It is well printed and handsomely bound. It is edited by Dr. J. R. Rees, formerly Director of the Tavistock Clinic, London, and Consulting Psychiatrist to the British Army. Dr. Rees is eminent as a speaker, writer and organiser, and many Irish doctors will recall with pleasure the address he gave in Dublin a year ago. In the production of this work he has called in the assistance of 29 contributors. The collection of appropriate essays and articles from this small army of psychiatrists must have been no easy task for an editor.

The only fair method by which to judge this book is to see first what it sets out to do, and, secondly, is the execution equal to the occasion. In the foreword it is stated that the book is "intended for senior students of medicine and for general practitioners." The various contributors have been asked to realise they are not writing for specialists in psychiatry. In this varied and large collection of essays there is a lack of systematic presentation of psychiatric principles and practice. There are inevitable overlaps, apparent contradictions and inconsistencies. The work will have value for the critically minded practitioner and specialist who can winnow the wheat from the chaff, but it will only confuse the medical student who seeks the anchor of stable principles. The price is also a factor of importance for the average student.

An interesting contribution is that of Dr. R. G. Gordon on the construction of the normal personality. It is a balanced and concise presentation of our state of knowledge concerning this subject. In the structure of his article Dr. Gordon lays the foundation as a careful architect should, and with a Pauline touch builds a temple which is nothing other than "ourselves—the normal individual." His restatement of Christian philosophy is simple, free from intolerance and irrelevant reserves. The essay on "Health" by Dr. Brock Chisholm is less convincing. The foreword states that this chapter "deals with the wide problem of health and gives a certain perspective that we all need to have on our problems." But the essay is spoiled by the frequent use of vague generalities and the employment of words and catch-phrases as solutions of problems. He is scathing in his condemnation of parents who teach children to believe in fairies and Santa Claus. He states "these phantasies are of a piece with that regarding the benign providence who will look after good little girls and boys. . . ." In his search for reality he neglects the value of imagination and spiritual ideas. He contends that the classic stimulant to virtue—the three seated monkeys who "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil"—is a horrible little device which should be placed in a museum of perversion, and concludes that taboos of this nature are amongst the barriers to health and world peace. Surely, loose statements of this type cannot be of value to the medical student. An old-time verse from Assisi would be more appropriate: "Lord, make me an instrument for Thy Peace, Where there is hatred let me sow Love".

Other essays cover such topics as "The Diagnostic Interview", "Psychosomatic Medicine", "Psychotherapy" (an excellent summary by the editor himself) and "Medical Social Work". The complete list is too lengthy to mention, but there is much that is good in this symposium.

F. McL.

Current Therapy. Edited by H. F. CONN. Saunders. 50/-.

Therapy is so intimately associated with diagnosis and with the concepts of aetiology that one is naturally handicapped in writing a book on it alone. There are, however, many practitioners who believe that by experience they can label the vast majority of diseases which come their way and yet they feel the need of an up-to-date guide-book in treatment. The Americans have recognised that in recent years therapeutic advances are truly amazing compared with the advances in our knowledge of aetiology, national history and symptomatology of disease. Each of these three latter aspects had its allotted span of popularity, and each is now temporarily in a more static phase. The authors of this book are obviously catering for the current needs of a busy practitioner by giving him the very latest in therapy, and, therefore, in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Conn has selected twelve consulting editors and almost 250 different authorities to write short notes on each particular disease. Indeed, the same subject is often repeated thrice by different authorities; so that one is finally left with the unpleasant

duty to decide on the winner. The section on diabetes mellitus is remarkable, as in this case four authors partially fused their identity and performed a combined operation, which does not appear to run too sweetly at times. The respective authors (Duncan, Wilder, Joslin and Root) repeatedly interject their personal points of difference so that one reads four writers simultaneously.

In his choice of authors Dr. Conn has been very discriminating. The names of Paul D. White, Russel Wilder, Paul O'Leary, J. V. Meigs, H. Lissner, T. H. McCavack, Denny-Brown, and B. B. Crohn and many others set the hallmark of distinction on the work. Every aspect of internal medicine is dealt with, and as well venereal diseases, dermatology, obstetrics, gynaecology, and diseases due to physical and chemical agents. The price is reasonable when one considers the large size of 670 double-column pages. The low price is partly achieved by the notable absence of plates and futile diagrams.

It would be easy to make petty criticisms of small details in a book containing thousands of dogmatic statements. When a writer is cramped for space he may be forced to suggest a falsehood by suppression of truths. One could criticise the omission of the very latest drugs (e.g., intravenous iron therapy), but a book must go to press sometime, also the use of American names for drugs may at times confuse the European reader. The final impression is that of a valuable contribution, but only in the hands of an intelligent practitioner who is an adept in diagnosis. D. K. O'D.

Toxoplasmosis. By C. D. BINKHORST. Lewis. 19/-.

This is a clinical, serological and histopathological study of a disease unknown in these islands. Special and detailed reference is made to the ocular manifestations. Twenty cases of proved or presumable toxoplasmic retinopathy and retino-encephalopathy with associated ocular manifestations are presented.

There is a map showing the geographical distribution of the reported cases, most of which were in the United States of America, with a few in South America and in Europe.

Toxoplasma have been described as highly organised protozoan parasites with distinct cytoplasm and nuclear chromatin. A review of the literature is composed of chapters on epidemiology, diagnosis of toxoplasmic infection, reports on human toxoplasmosis, a description of the ocular manifestations and treatment. This is followed by the author's own observations, which consist chiefly of a detailed description of cases the most prominent features of which are ocular signs. The study concludes with a discussion and summary together with some excellent coloured fundus pictures.

It is not possible to do justice to this comprehensive work in a short review, but the book should be read by ophthalmologists who wish to become familiar with a subject about which, in all probability, more will be heard in the future.

A. J. M.

Viral and Rickettsial Infections of Man. By T. M. RIVERS. Lippincott. 45/-.

The literature on viruses and virus diseases has become so vast that only those with access to large libraries can hope to keep informed of even a fraction of the work now being done. The main value of this book is that it presents a very large cross-section of the experimental and clinical work carried out on these subjects within the past few years. It is written largely for clinicians, but public health and laboratory workers will find it of the greatest value.

It starts with a general discussion of viruses by Rivers—doyen of virus workers—in which he discusses their nature and poses, without answering, the question as to whether they are living organisms or autocatalysts. It is difficult to believe that these agents are not living. Most of the evidence for the autocatalytic nature of viruses comes from the work of the plant virologists; but even here there is, for the worker on human viruses at least, a considerable body of argument that the lesions caused in plants are essentially similar to those caused in man and animals. The different reactions are those due to the fundamental differences in the respective hosts. We seem to have reached a stage when too much attention is being paid to the parasite and too little to the host. While virus workers were able to build on the solid foundations of bacteriological techniques it may be that we have followed them too slavishly and in addition to becoming too interested in minutiae of technique, we have become too interested in humoral mechanisms in disease without paying enough attention to the processes at work in the infected cell.

The sections of the book of most interest to readers here will probably be those on poliomyelitis, influenza and infective hepatitis. The definition of the former should be studied. It demonstrates that paralysis is not an essential feature of the disease. The implications of this should be faced because it means that epidemiologically our methods of control of the infection are based on faulty premises, founded as they are on the paralytic case. With our present knowledge this point may seem academic, but one feels that only by an understanding of it shall we arrive at any method of epidemiological control which is not based simply on fear.

Epidemic influenza is fully treated in a most valuable chapter (Horsfall) which will be of even greater value if it strikes home the point that the condition is not pandemic influenza on the one hand nor any acute respiratory infection on the other. For some reason all virus diseases remain wrapped in a mantle of mystery, and influenza seems to have suffered even more than most from this attitude. Simple and accurate laboratory tests are now available for the diagnosis of this condition and should be availed of. Another pandemic will almost certainly come and our only hope of dealing intelligently with it rests on the work done on epidemic influenza before we are overwhelmed as in 1918-19.

Infective hepatitis is far more widespread in this country than is generally realised and Havens, in a most interesting contribution gives a thorough, if necessarily condensed, account of it. It is difficult for those with experience of rural outbreaks to agree fully with the emphasis he lays on the intestinal-oral circuit in the spread of the condition. That this type of spread is important in military outbreaks cannot be denied, but in civilian practice personal contact seems to be of more importance.

This is an excellent book. It is beautifully produced and each section is written by an acknowledged American authority. One might, perhaps, have liked to see contributions from some English and Australian workers but as an exposition of current American thought on a rapidly developing subject it could not be bettered. For these days the price cannot be regarded as high, and every laboratory worker interested in the subject, every epidemiologist, and every clinician—especially those concerned with teaching—should possess it.

P. N. M.

Some Common Psychosomatic Manifestations. By J. B. MURRAY. Oxford University Press. 7/6.

The title chosen by Dr. Murray is rather misleading for any potential reader who may imagine that a fairly wide field of psychosomatic ailments is discussed in this volume. It contains only 96 pages, of which 76 are devoted to the "effort syndrome." The "low back syndrome" occupies the remaining space. In view of his self-limited space the author might have spared the reader such platitudes as "if the case is not properly conducted the eventual result may be far from satisfactory." In a work of such small dimensions it seems ludicrous to waste space on a mention of a reference, dated 1872, in which leeches, cupping, or blistering were advocated. Dr. Murray feels that the low back syndrome has a very close resemblance to the effort syndrome. In the former ailment if the patient moves his spinal column there is a "stuttering movement" of the back, which is accompanied by "the expressionless grimacing of the hysteric." It will have been noted that the author is very interested in the effort syndrome, and his book will be very valuable to medical men who have a similar interest.

E. L. M.

NEW EDITIONS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By KAYNE, PAGEL and O'SHAUGHNESSY. Cumberlege: Oxford. 2nd Ed. 63/-.

After a lapse of nine years the second edition of this important work is most welcome. The regrettably early deaths of Gregory Kayne and Laurence O'Shaughnessy have necessitated the enrolment by Dr. Pagel of a fresh team of experts from Middlesex County. These have succeeded in keeping the book as "an organic whole" of original work, pathological and clinical aspects influencing and penetrating one another. The chapter on management should be invaluable to physicians in hospitals and sanatoria, as also the sections on cavity closure; the details of preparation and technique for minor and major surgery are excellent. Bacteriological investigations and an appendix on streptomycin are up to date and useful. The name of Dr. Simmonds (of Clare Hall) as collaborator is sufficient to ensure the high standard of the clinical and epidemiological sections, whilst Dr. MacDonal of Redhill Chest Clinic is responsible for management and prevention, and Mr. Fatti of Harefield for the surgical side.

Pagel's *Evolution of Tuberculosis* (see *Irish Jo. Med. Sci.*, 1937, 735) remains the theme of the book. With an extension of fifty pages and illustrations of excellent new specimens he has endeavoured further to clarify the *origin of bronchogenic tuberculosis*. He produces additional post-mortem evidence in support of an endogenous source. He enlarges on primary cavitation, apical foci and pleural caps. He further differentiates between chronic disseminated tuberculosis with its extra-pulmonary foci and the bronchogenic type which is restricted to the lung, although larynx and intestine may be involved.

Many of these matters are extremely complicated, but Pagel has done much to correct a certain confusion in one's mind which had not been decreased by recent anatomical reports in American and other literature. There is no doubt to-day of the demand for correct teaching to explain the behaviour of the tubercle