

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

bacillus in the human host. If the tuberculous lesion is to be found early, then it is increasingly important that clinician, radiologist and epidemiologist should equip themselves with a correct knowledge of the underlying morbid-anatomical processes of early spread. Such knowledge will prove a decisive factor in treatment programmes, and so all those engaged in tuberculosis work, in the public health service as well as outside it, should have a thorough grounding in Pagel's pathology.

Pagel has studied for years the morbid anatomy of tuberculosis, minutely, accurately and truthfully. Onto these findings he has focused his brilliant mind and has given his results in the first 214 pages. The remainder of the book bears witness to the correctness of his approach; furthermore, the groups in England and Ireland (including the present reviewer) who have followed his teaching find that his doctrines stand up to the tests of clinical experience.

This is not an easy book, but its 700 pages are warmly recommended to all who wish to study pulmonary tuberculosis in any but a superficial manner.

D. S. P.

The Thyroid and its Diseases. By J. H. MEANS. Lippincott. 2nd Ed. 72/-.

This book is an example of the best type of American monograph. Comprehensive and yet critical, detailed without being diffuse, it avoids the failing, common to many similar works from the United States, which leaves the reader no real impression of the author's own views and opinions.

Professor Means has seen the studies of the Thyroid Clinic of the Massachusetts General Hospital develop in widening spheres since he started it some thirty-five years ago. From the centre he has co-ordinated clinical observation with the most specialised experimental work of his colleagues. In this book he achieves a synthesis and maintains a balance between the experimental and the clinical approach, which is most valuable.

The opening chapters present a full exposition of the present status of thyroid physiology. The author then reviews extrinsic goitres, including those rarer forms due to an over-indulgence in cabbage or the prolonged administration of thiocyanate in the treatment of hypertension, as well as the commoner endemic type. Having dealt with myxœdema and cretinism, over one quarter of the column is rightly given over to the consideration of Graves' disease.

The story of our steadily increasing control of this strange disease is well told. For ten years after the introduction of B.M.R. estimations, x-ray treatment competed with a variety of surgical procedures, none of them very satisfactory. Then, in 1923, the introduction of pre-operative iodine by Plummer made subtotal thyroidectomy a safe and standard treatment. Next came the discovery of the anti-thyroid action of thiourea and the thiouracils, in 1943, and for a time this seemed likely to eliminate surgical treatment or greatly reduce its importance. More recently still the development of radio-active iodine as a therapeutic weapon has introduced new possibilities.

In the light of his experience of all these methods, Professor Means' views on the "best" treatment of Graves' disease are worth noting. In spite of all new discoveries the cause of the disease, and therefore its best treatment, remains unknown. Meanwhile, how may the hyperthyroidism best be controlled? This question, too, cannot be answered dogmatically until the newer methods have had time to find their true place in therapy. "With regard to anti-thyroid drugs, one statement can be made without reservation: By using them, combined with iodine, it is possible to prepare patients for operation more satisfactorily than was ever possible before. . . . Operative mortality is showing a marked decline in consequence. In fact, it is approaching the vanishing point." This only applies, as he rightly emphasizes, to highly-skilled surgery. Treatment with the drugs alone is always preferable to mediocre surgery.

Other chapters deal with inflammations and anomalies of the gland, and one comprises a useful review of the uses and abuses of thyroid medication in various non-thyroid diseases. Two of Professor Means' associates contribute to the volume. Dr. R. W. Rawson writes on thyroid pathology and on tumours of the thyroid, while the surgery of the thyroid is discussed by Dr. Oliver Cope.

This is probably the most complete and authoritative work on this subject at the present time. Perhaps not for everybody's bookshelf (or pocket) this book will be valued by all who have any special interest in "thyroidology."

D. M.

Prescribing Under the N.H.S. Act. J. B. PRIMMER. Heinemann. 3/6.

A 51-page formulary arranged under symptoms, a prescription for each symptom from abortion (morphine suppository) to whooping cough (ephedrine and belladonna).

R. H. M.