THE CARE OF YOUNG BABIES.—By John Gibbens, M.B. (Cambridge), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). 1940. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. ix plus 169, with 8 plates and 5 text-figures. Price, 3s. 6d.

MANY books on the subject of the rearing of infants have been produced in recent years: some good; some indifferent.

This little book is not only in the former category, but is in the highest class, and the author is to be congratulated on the extremely good advice he has laid down for mothers in language which is easily understandable to the lay mind, for the book is in no sense of the word, a medical one *per se*.

Dr. Gibbens makes reference to many of the 'old wives tales' which were in vogue during the latter part of the last century and the beginning of this one, and disposes of their, in many cases, misleading dicta with logical arguments.

He makes reference to the fond grandmamma who so often upsets the careful routine laid down for the infant.

He cites instances where good advice has been flouted, with such firmness, that one may be excused for believing that he would like to have added to the Litany, 'From the stupidity of some mothers, Good Lord deliver us'.

This is a truly excellent booklet which every mother can read with advantage.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF BANDAGING AND FIRST-AID.—Compiled by Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N. (Leeds and Lond.). 1940. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. vii plus 248. Illustrated with 290 photographs. Price, 6s. Postage, 6d.

'It is the aim of this book to enable the student, by means of pictures, to quickly master (Oh, Lois!) the science and art of bandaging and first-aid in fractures and hæmorrhages'. 'For the sake of clarity the operator is not always shown in the position that he would normally occupy in relation to the patient, and, for the same reason, not always holding the bandage exactly as it would be held in the natural circumstances'. We've got you, and the idea is a very sound one, but 'for the sake of clarity' it might have been expressed rather differently.

These two sentences will, we hope, give the reader a line on the scope of the book and on the weakness of the writer's literary style, but we do not honestly think that the latter matters. The photographs are excellent, and, even if a large percentage of the explanatory sentences contain unattached particples, the meanings of such sentences as 'note that the ears are covered up, in applying this bandage' are really quite clear.

There are four sections, triangular bandaging, roller bandaging, first-aid in hæmorrhage, and first-aid in fractures.

It is a book that will be useful to the doctor, the student, the nurse and the 'first-aider', and all those that have to teach them.

TEXTBOOK OF PUBLIC HEALTH.—By W. M. Frazer, O.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., M.Sc., D.P.H., and C. O. Stallybrass, M.D. (State Medicine), Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Order of St. Sava. Tenth Edition. 1940. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. x plus 504. Illustrated. Price, 21s. Postage, 7d.

THIS tenth edition is practically a new text. It accomplishes fully its stated objective of covering the information required by examining bodies for the English D.P.H. A mine of information has been compressed within the 500 pages. The text possesses the great advantage of having been compiled by authors who are both teachers of a university and at the same time are practitioners of public health administration. It is of interest to note that this textbook began its career in 1874 as 'Medical Police' with subsequent evolution of its title through 'Forensic Medicine and Public Health' to 'Public Health' alone, reflecting the trend of practice. The full accounts provided of the

recently consolidated Public Health (1936), Housing (1936) and Food and Drugs (1938) Acts will be found particularly useful. The chapters on Genetics and Mental Hygiene are somewhat superficial and lack practical indication of their specific utilizability in administration. Also the advice as to site and construction of hospitals, particularly isolation, is not in line with present epidemiological knowledge but conforms to legal requirements that lag very badly in this respect. One trusts that the concluding chapter on Medical Aspects of Civil Air Defence may be required no longer 70 years hence in a textbook of Public Health. Technical description of types of bombs and their action indicates the queer twist given to the trend of public health by world conditions.

The tenth edition can be heartily recommended to anyone desirous of reference to English public health practice. Its value in India lies in furnishing basic information, particularly with respect to the impersonal public health services. In its personal public health, the absence of consideration of particular problems of rural public health would be considered the chief drawback under local conditions.

BENIGN LYMPHOCYTIC MENINGITIS: (ACUTE ASEPTIC MENINGITIS).—By Rustom Jal Vakil, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. (Lond.), F.R.F.P.S.G. 1939. Printed by V. V. Bambardekar at the India Printing Works, Fort, Bombay. Sole Agents:—The Popular Book Depot, Grant Road, Bombay 7. Pp. viii plus 94

THIS small handbook contains a summary of the work done and clinical features and diagnosis of that little-understood condition acute aseptic meningitis which is also known as benign lymphocytic meningitis. The general medical profession, particularly in India, is not at all familiar with this condition and it is generally labelled as meningism, poliomyelitis, tuberculous meningitis or encephalopathy due to various diseases. A comprehensive description of the disease will therefore be welcome to the profession. The author states that benign lymphocytic meningitis is a definite disease of the central nervous system involving the meninges and is caused by a filter-passing virus which has been identified and isolated. In the blood of infected person and experimentally-inoculated animals, antibodies develop and the demonstration of the latter by protection experiments constitutes an important test for diagnosis of the condition. The writer lays emphasis on the confusion which this condition often causes in the diagnosis, particularly of tuberculous meningitis and he has therefore devoted a special chapter to this subject. He says that while tuberculous meningitis is uniformly fatal, benign lymphocytic meningitis has always a favourable prognosis. At the end of the book, there are records of five English cases and two Indian cases. A very exhaustive bibliography is also appended and this will be of great help to anybody who may be interested in the disease.

The two Indian cases reported by the author are not very convincing and certainly one of them has been diagnosed purely on clinical grounds even without the help of the lumbar puncture. In this respect Dr. Vakil cannot be considered to have escaped the errors of a general practitioner although, of course, he has suggested benign lymphocytic meningitis.

The book is an excellent critical review of benign lymphocytic meningitis and should be read by every practitioner in India.

M. N. D.

HYGIENE FOR NURSES.—By John Guy, M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.), F.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), and G. J. I. Linklater, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., M.R.C.P. (Edin.). Fifth Edition. 1940. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. xiii plus 239. Illustrated. Price, 5s. Postage, 5d.

THIS subject is too often rendered dull and tedious to nurses by much superfluous subject-matter. The