the amount of evaporation and varied from that of an unguent to peeling flakes. Practically no damage was done to the tissues on removal of the gauze, which came away easily. In areas over which blisters had formed the hygroscopic action of the glycerine had caused the blister fluid to be withdrawn into the dressing; the wrinkled superficial epithelium covered the area. The surrounding skin was slightly dyed. None of these burns became infected.

On broken skin.—The jelly was applied in the same way as for unbroken skin. Where the blisters had ruptured a good tan-coagulum formed. This was separated at the end of ten to fourteen days, and the skin beneath, though thin, was soundly healed. The gauze incorporated in the coagulum facilitated its removal. None of these burns became infected. The tanned area, however, wherever joints were not involved, formed a continuous sheet; consequently there were no cracks. In two cases the burns affected the extensor and flexor aspects of the wrist. In these two cases no wool was used over the gauze dressings. The jelly dried fairly quickly, a good coagulum formed, and cracks developed. A slight amount of purulent exudate was noted, two days later, at the edges of the cracked tan. The patient, who complained of sore-throat, was observed on occasion to use his hand and wrist to shield his mouth on coughing. Bacteriological examination showed staphylococci (coagulase and

hemolysin-positive) present in the fauces and in the exudate from the wrist.

On fingers and hands.—Owing to the constricting effect of the tan on burns encircling fingers and hands completely, the tannic-acid jelly has not been used on such parts. Instead we recommend the use of a jelly of the following composition:—

Gentian or methyl violet	1.0 per cent.
Quinine and urea hydrochloride	0.5 "
in glycerine-tragacanth base	
(put up in collapsible tubes).	

We have not yet had an opportunity of using this jelly, but gentian violet has been used by others as an antiseptic and coagulating agent in burns.

COMMENT

This tannic-acid jelly appears to have several advantages. Apart from its antiseptic and analgesic qualities, the hygroscopic action of the glycerine in withdrawing the blister fluid is beneficial in making resorption of this fluid impossible. Bacterial growth is diminished by this action of the glycerine and by increased penetration and concentration of the antiseptic dye.

We are trying to obtain a jelly which will make for equal ease in dressing and produce a pliable softer incrustation rather than the rigid tannic-acid eschar.

Reviews

A GUIDE TO HUMAN PARASITOLOGY FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—By D. B. Blacklock, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Lond.), D.T.M. (L'pool), and T. Southwell, D.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.C.Sc., F.Z.S., F.R.S.E. Fourth Edition. 1940. H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited, London. Pp. viii plus 259, with 122 illustrations and 2 coloured plates. Price, 12s. 6d.

To produce a book of this kind needed courage and could only have been undertaken by men whose reputations are established beyond question as are those of both authors. The authors are, or were, teachers on the staff of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and are used to teaching post-graduate students; they are therefore unlikely to underestimate the capacity of the student to learn this subject. Yet, parasitology has been reduced by them to a much simpler and more practical form than one finds in most textbooks designed for students. The question arises, 'Are the authors right?' or 'Have they overdone the simplification?' We unhesitatingly give the verdict in favour of the authors. We are obviously not alone in our opinion, for this is the fourth edition, one edition having been reprinted, since the book was first published in 1931.

The book is essentially what the title claims for it; it is in no sense a textbook, but a *guide*. It will help the specialist only in so far as his teaching is concerned, but the practitioner will find in it all he will want to know about the diagnosis of the parasitic infections he is likely to encounter in his daily work, and sufficient about the life cycles of the parasites to enable him to institute preventive measures, when he has an opportunity to do so.

As far as protozoology is concerned, the sixty pages devoted to this will be sufficient for the qualifying and M.B. examinations, but for post-graduate examinations, such as the L.T.M. and D.T.M., a certain amount of supplementation will be necessary. The helminthological portion is however quite sufficient for either of these examinations.

No essential changes have been effected in this fourth edition, and few additions made, as it is not the type of book that becomes out-of-date readily, so that we cannot recommend those who have an earlier edition to buy the book, but we do very strongly recommend

it to those not already familiar with it. Teachers in medical schools and colleges will find the tables and diagrams, which are a prominent feature of the book, invaluable.

A SYMPOSIUM ON THE BLOOD AND BLOOD-FORMING ORGANS.—By various authors. 1939. The University of Wisconsin Press, 811, State Street, Madison, Wisconsin. Pp. viii plus 264. Illustrated. Price, \$3.50

SYMPOSIA have a way of being very disappointing and the reason is fairly obvious. When an individual writes a paper in a journal, it is usually because he has something he wishes to announce to the world, the results of a laboratory investigation or a series of clinical observations, or a theory he has formulated; he usually does this in his own time on his own initiative. Not so in the case of a symposium—being an authority on some particular subject, a worker is asked if he will contribute a paper on this subject, and, though he may have nothing new to say, he hashes up some of his old published work, adds a new observation here and there, and presents his hot-house plant in order not to disappoint his friends, or, in some cases we are afraid, because he feels he must keep his name before his public and the occasion is too good an opportunity to miss.

This is not such a symposium; on the contrary with very few exceptions the papers are very live contributions to a very virile subject by men who are actively engaged in studying the blood, its functions, and its dysfunctions. Contributors include C. P. Rhoads, Russell L. Haden, C. A. Doan, E. E. Osgood, Claude Forkner, E. B. Krumbhaar, and E. Meulengracht.

Haden's study of the nature of hemolytic anemia is particularly interesting and is very characteristic of work of this direct thinker. He starts with the red cell, its envelope, stroma, and contents, and points out that the assumption of the spherical shape allows a much bigger content for the same size of envelope, but when the contents increase beyond a certain limit the cell must burst, so that spherocytosis is a stage towards hemolysis. Comparing the functional capacity of a hemoglobin-containing disc and a sphere of equal volume, he shows that the disc with almost double the surface area for oxygen exchange is far superior.