Reviews

LECTURES ON DISEASES OF CHILDREN.—By Sir Robert Hutchison, Bart., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., and Alan Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. Eighth Edition. 1940. Edward Arnold and Company, London. Pp. viii plus 471, with 107 illustrations. Price, 21s.

THE fate of medical 'classics' would be a very interesting study. In many instances it would be better if they disappeared with their original authors from the medical stage, and made room for new books by writers of the younger generation. A compromise is possibly the best solution. How this compromise can be effected is exemplified in the book under review. Sir Robert Hutchison, president of the Royal College of Physicians, has certainly not yet retired from the medical stage but he has relegated the work of rewriting one of his 'classics' to a junior colleague, whilst he is still capable of exerting his influence on the teaching contained therein, not solely by virtue of his past experience. This ensures continuity of the spirit of the teaching, even when the letter has to be changed.

The title of the book is particularly appropriate; the chapters are lectures in more than name. One can visualize Robert Hutchison lecturing and see his movements and expressions. Perhaps younger readers can visualize Alan Moncrieff in the same way; we have not had the privilege of hearing him lecture. The book is one of the most readable we know. It is arranged for reading rather than for reference, but reference is facilitated by the judicious use of heavy type.

The lectures themselves deal with all subjects connected with the health and the diseases of children, but emphasis is laid on the simple and every-day ailments, rather than on the rare diseases. The fact that no attempt is made to deal with tropical disease is, in our opinion, evidence of the honesty of the writer. The book is well and appropriately illustrated, the page pleasantly readable, and the volume a handy one. We can recommend this book very strongly to the general practitioner.

CHEMOTHERAPY AND SERUM THERAPY OF PNEUMONIA.—By Frederick T. Lord, M.D., Elliott S. Robinson, M.D., Ph.D., and Roderick Heffron, M.D. 1940. The Commonwealth Fund, New York. Pp. ix plus 174. Illustrated. Price, \$1.00. Obtainable from Oxford University Press, Bombay and Calcutta

THIS handbook on pneumonia deals with the clinical features and diagnosis of pneumonia and its treatment by chemotherapy and serum therapy.

The book is divided into fifteen chapters. The first six chapters discuss the problem of pneumonia, the clinical features, methods of diagnosis—clinical and bacteriological, immunity factors in pneumonia, and the prognosis. The rest are devoted to a full discussion of chemotherapy and serum therapy, the details of mode of administration, indications, contra-indications, toxic effects and dangers of each type of therapy, and the results obtained by each separately and when administered together. Mass statistics collected from different parts of the world (the figures include those of two articles published in this journal in 1939) have been presented to show that the gross mortality of sulphapyridine therapy is 6.1 per cent, while with serum therapy the mortality was 12.5 per cent in type I and 20.5 per cent in type II pneumococcal pneumonia in America, where elaborate arrangements for serum therapy of pneumonia were made. In control cases, the fatality rate was about 25 per cent according to very conservative estimates. While the writers agree that chemotherapy yields much better results, they have emphasized the dangers of toxic effects to such an extent and have advised the adoption of so many bacteriological, biochemical, and hæmatological

examinations to prevent these, that this may discourage the general practitioner from using one of the most potent remedies against pneumonia. The reviewer fully agrees that the recommendations are scientific, but such elaborate laboratory facilities are not available in most parts of the world, and it will be a real tragedy if the general practitioner apprehensive of serious toxic effects, the risk of which is undoubtedly very small, should hesitate to treat any of his pneumonia cases by adequate dosage of sulphapyridine.

The book is a mine of information regarding modern methods of diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia, and as such will be found to be extremely useful by the medical profession.

P. C. S. G.

THE HUMAN MIND: THE ORGAN OF THOUGHT IN FUNCTION AND DYSFUNCTION.—By Murdo Mackenzie, M.D., M.R.C.P. 1941. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. vii plus 216. Price, 7s. 6d.

THIS is a very strange book. On page 37 we find the following statement: 'The reactions of Simplification are best described as Assertion on the one hand, and Depression on the other; qualifying Assertion by Immediacy, and Depression by Deliberation. The neuroses of Simplification are, then, Assertion and Depression; and the symptoms of Assertion are often experienced in clinical practice'. Admittedly it is a little unfair to take the above out of its context but even read with the context, it evokes in the reader's mind a sensation like that caused by the noise of clashing bells or the breaking of glass. One reads on, bewildered. In the last chapter the author brings his psychological technique to bear on the present war. We are informed that Nazi propaganda is the propaganda of a 'perverted Immediacy' in defence, and that 'its effect on the stable deliberate is inappreciable; much of it is rejected as absurd, and the rest as fatuous fussiness. But in a deliberate already the prey of persisting conflict, the effect of raising the intensity of the moment is to increase his pre-existing Anxiety', and so on. As a specimen of therapeutic procedure recommended by the author for combating mental dysfunction the following may be cited: 'The patient is first asked to look at the match-box on the consulting-room desk: the match-box is then removed, and he is asked to make a visual image of it and discuss matches, wood and any other chance association'. The simplicity of such procedure is commendable, but its therapeutic value is difficult to apprehend without some explanation but none is given.

O. B-H.

THE THEORY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FOR STUDENTS AND NURSES.—By Norah A. Haworth, M.A. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., and E. Mary Macdonald. 1940. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. ix plus 132, with 81 illustrations. Price, 6s.

In his foreword to this little book Sir Robert Stanton Woods very rightly calls attention to the fact that occupational therapy, in spite of being one of the oldest agents employed in psychotherapy (first introduced into English mental hospitals by Sir William Ellis in 1817), has only quite recently gained widespread recognition. Even now, its value is either not recognized or actively opposed in many general hospitals. In tuberculosis sanatoria and in the surgical wards of general hospitals, the employment of occupational therapy makes slow progress except in the United States. Sir Robert Stanton Woods is quite justified in describing this state of affairs as 'a grave reflection upon the medical profession'. In such circumstances this book on the theory and practice of occupational therapy should find a place in every up-to-date hospital. The authors discuss the subject from the standpoint of psychotherapy as well as from that of physiotherapy; the latter including orthopaedic and surgical