

reviewer is not a favour of a total national health service but this fact does not detract from his admiration for the book.

The get up is excellent.

S. D. S. G.

TEXTBOOK OF OPERATIVE GYNÆCOLOGY.—By Wilfred Shaw, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.O.G. Published by E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London

THIS is a standard book on Operative Gynæcology. Dr. Wilfred Shaw did not live to see the last of his many remarkable contributions to Gynæcology. All the common operations have been very elaborately described and very clearly illustrated. The anatomical details are profuse. What is particularly appreciated is the notes from the author's varied experience. These are surely to be of great value to Junior workers in the field. The reviewer quotes from page 64: 'The clamp placed over the ovarian ligament and the Fallopian tube should be placed as near to the uterus as possible, for when the tissues enclosed by the clamp are ligatured the ligature material may cut through the tissue of the ovarian ligament and lead to troublesome bleeding'. How true! and what a valuable caution to the unwary surgeon!!

The author's valuable experience is everywhere in the pages of the book. While discussing recurrent cases of endometriosis on p. 188 the masterly summary is typical of the master's teaching. The reviewer had the good fortune of studying under the author when the latter was a surgeon of the outpatients' department. Years later he met him as a full surgeon. The paragraph referred to above shows what the spirit of the author was, not only in his teaching but also in the various textbooks that were written by him. The first chapter dealing with pre-operative preparation is perhaps sketchy. It is not in keeping with the rest of the chapters where the matters have been more fully discussed. Though there is a discussion of after-care and complications at the concluding paragraph of each section a separate chapter dealing with the above subject would have added to the general value of the whole book.

The illustrations are self-explanatory and the get-up is all that is desirable. It is an excellent book and should be kept in all teaching institutions. All students going for higher examination and all gynæcologists are advised to have their own copies.

M. N. S.

EDEN AND HOLLAND'S MANUAL OF OBSTETRICS.—By Alan Brews, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.O.G. (Lond.). Tenth Edition. Published by J. & A. Churchill Ltd., London

'THE primary intention of this book is to present the Art and Science of Obstetrics within a reasonable compass and in an easily readable form.' So says the author in the preface to the tenth edition. After

having gone through the book the reviewer declares that the author's intention has been more than fulfilled. It is one of the best books supplying at once the requirements of undergraduates as well as those of practitioners who may feel the necessity of refreshing their knowledge from time to time. There are certain special features which the reviewer commends to the readers. The last section in Part V—The puerperium deals with unexpected death (or near death). It is a novel item in such a book, but how interestingly written and of what great value to the reader. It is because of these special hits that one feels that post-graduates will be benefited by going through these particular chapters. If one has to prove one's thesis that the book contains information not ordinarily available one quotes the concluding section on 'Social care of Women in Pregnancy'.

The get-up of the book is excellent. The illustrations are well executed.

M. N. S.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN FEMALE.—By A. C. Kinsey, W. B. Pomeroy, C. E. Martin, P. H. Gebhard, 5 Consulting Editors and 9 Research Assistants. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. 1953. Pp. 842 plus xxx

BIOLOGISTS have looked at life as it is lived in America and recorded in this book their observations without fear or favour.

Some 8,000 women have contributed the data, on their emotions and urges in matters of sex, on which the book is based.

As a central theme, for the purpose of appraisal, may be taken Petting. Its technique varies. It may be simple kissing, deep kissing (French kissing) breast stimulation, mouth-breast contact, manual stimulation of female genitalia, manual stimulation of male genitalia, oral contact with female genitalia, oral contact with male genitalia and genital apposition.

These foibles of female urges and emotions are explained rather than condemned against a background of mammalian behaviour and history. The mammals indulge in sex play which is akin to petting and consists of muzzling, smelling, licking, biting, grooming, mounting without any attempt at genital contact, pulling out fur and urinating, etc. The humans of older generation engaged in flirting flirtage, courting, bundling, spooning, mugging, smooching, larking, sparking and other activities which were simply petting under another name. The extensive vocabulary is a proof of a very long past of the practice of petting. Eighty per cent of females born in a decade or so before 1900 (belonging to a generation which prided itself on being proper and sexually restrained) gave a history of petting.

Condemnation of the practice is quoted. 'If the young women of America only knew how lightly they

are estimated by those who so passionately seek their favours in this manner (i.e. petting) they would certainly resist them if the effort cost them their lives.' 'The demi-vierge is vicious in body and soul.' Such is the orthodox opinion. 'An increasing number of the Protestant clergy and laity, however, have begun to believe that pre-marital petting may have some value in developing the emotional capacities of youth and in contributing to their future marital adjustments'.

The author points out that while much is said against the practice and its own consequences on the health, nothing is said on the evil consequences on the psychology of the condemned, of the condemnation itself of a practice which is almost universal. The basis of the condemnation is the Judeo-Christian Code.

Premarital coitus had taken place only in 17 per cent of the sample although 64 per cent of married females had experienced sexual orgasm prior to their marriage (mostly through other means including petting).

Patterns of marital coitus are gone into in detail with respect to relative positions of the parties of extra-marital partners.

Married women are less desirous of a changes than are married men. This is a basic difference between men and women.

These are only a few items taken as samples (besides the central theme). The readers will find the book an encyclopædia on sex matters. The physicians will use it in healing neurosis in the young and middle aged wives, the psychologist will use it in mending breaking marriages and the educationist will use it in imparting sex-education. In India, perhaps, the book will not be found so useful immediately but is bound to become so within the next 5 years or so (in conformity with the next 5-year plan). Wars, rumours of war, industrialisation, peace, publicity and many other activities are bound to take women out of their kitchens, and make them more free, more responsible and more venturesome also, though not necessarily less virtuous. One need not grieve over the change. Fuller life is not a matter for grief. With fuller knowledge (such as the book imparts) homes will be firmer, not weaker, than they have been for centuries and, consequently, worthier. Life will be more worth living.

An excellent publication.

S. D. S. G.

THE PRACTICE OF REFRACTION.—By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, K.C.V.O., M.A., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. Sixth Edition. 1954. Published by J. & A. Churchill Ltd., 104, Gloucester Place, London, W.C.1. Pp. xii plus 355. With 239 Illustrations. Price, 21s.

Only minor changes have been made in this edition with the exception of the section on contact lenses, the practical applications of which have advanced

considerably in recent years. This subject has, therefore, received a chapter to itself.

This well-known book continues to be one of the very best on the subject. Theoretical and practical aspects are dealt with that clarity of expression and balance of view so well-known in the writings of Sir Stewart Duke-Elder.

E. J. S.

TEXTBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, VOL. VI INJURIES.—By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, K.C.V.O., M.A., LL.D., D.Sc. (St. And.), Ph.D. (Lond.), M.D., F.R.C.S. Published by Henry Kimpton, 1954, London. Pp. xxvii plus 1197 with 1,145 Illustrations including 144 in colour. Price, 105s.

THIS is Volume VI of Sir Stewart's monumental work and covers the subject of ocular injuries. As in the former volumes, the subject is dealt with exhaustively and in incredible detail. The entire world literature on the subject is accurately referred to item by item, and there are something like fifty references to every few pages of text. Details of every conceivable aspect of ocular injury will be found. It is interesting to turn the pages at random and note that there is scarcely a page to be found in which there is not some point mentioned of which one was ignorant. For example, lens opacification follows injury from lightning stroke more rapidly than after contact with the very much less powerful industrial currents; lacerated injuries (of the lids) may be caused by the teeth of an animal or a human being, the latter in circumstances as different as assault or the ecstasies of love; the details of injury by osmium tetroxide or beryllium phosphors; ophthalmia nodosa may be caused by the hairs of grasshoppers as well as caterpillars; and so on. The writing, illustrations and printing are of the supreme standard that we have been led to expect. Every ophthalmologist in the world will of course wish to possess this book.

E. J. S.

THE ANATOMY OF THE EYE AND ORBIT (Including the central connections, development, and comparative anatomy of the visual apparatus).—By Eugene Wolff, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Fourth Edition. 1954. Published by H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., London. Pp. viii plus 491 with 406 Illustrations, including 52 in colour. Price, 63s.

'WOLFF's Anatomy' is now one of the standard books on the anatomy of the eye and its connections and is deservedly well-known to ophthalmic surgeons throughout the world. The feature that makes this work so outstanding is its superb illustrations. These are so good that they have become 'standard' and have been reproduced in many other works on Ophthalmology.

The present edition contains a number of new illustrations and there are some changes and additions in