

Dr. Cameron's book needs no introduction, not only because it has gone through five previous editions but also because it has been a standard textbook for students.

The present edition serves to show that the author has had to work hard to bring the rapidly changing subject as up to date as possible. This has necessitated a thorough revision of almost all the chapters of the book. The sections dealing with the vitamins, diet and intracellular respiration have, in particular, been thoroughly revised and largely rewritten. The important recent work on the chemical nature of many crystalline viruses has been discussed, and further evidence favouring the view that many viruses are single chemical compounds has been quoted.

The book is a mine of information and gives much valuable and up-to-date knowledge. It is a valuable contribution to biochemistry and we have no hesitation in recommending it as such.

J. P. B.

THE DIABETIC A.B.C. WAR-TIME SUPPLEMENT.—By R. D. Lawrence, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. 1942. H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited, London. Pp. 15. Price, 9d.

THE war supplement to Dr. Lawrence's Diabetic A.B.C. is no doubt a great boon to the numerous diabetic patients particularly in countries where air raids are frequent and involve increased danger to diabetics. This book, in giving simple and practical instruction, warns them against such dangers, particularly the danger of severe cases missing even a single dose of insulin.

The problem of diabetic diet arising from the compulsory rationing, as also the modification of the dosages of insulin necessitated thereby, has been fully discussed in a very helpful manner.

J. P. B.

A SYNOPSIS OF HYGIENE (JAMESON AND PARKINSON).—By G. S. Parkinson, D.S.O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lieut.-Col., R.A.M.C. (Ret.). With a section on personal hygiene. By G. P. Crowden, D.Sc., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. Seventh Edition. 1942. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. viii plus 712, with 16 illustrations. Price, 25s.

A *Synopsis of Hygiene* is a very well-known book which is now accepted as the standard book in Great Britain; it has been brought up to date by the junior author. Sir Wilson Jameson is obviously too busy with his work at the Ministry of Health to allow time for this sort of thing, but the revision has been carried out very efficiently by Col. Parkinson with the help of Dr. Crowden of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

It is too early yet to see the effect of the war on the public health in Great Britain in proper perspective, but it is obvious that very considerable changes in the whole picture will result. Considerable immediate effects have been felt during the worst air raid years and have entailed new health measures. This aspect has been dealt with shortly, as it can only be at present, but readers will find this short section very helpful.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S HANDBOOK: A MANUAL FOR SANITARY INSPECTORS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—By Henry H. Clay, F.R.San.I., F.I.S.E., Major, R.A.M.C. Fifth Edition. 1942. H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited, London. Pp. xxii plus 534, with 97 illustrations. Price, 18s.

LIKE the earlier editions, this edition contains all the principal Health Acts which are pertinent to the duties of a sanitary inspector.

Some of the articles have been re-written, and valuable additions have been made.

More details could have been given on rapid and slow sand filtration, especially as to the quality and size of sand.

In chlorination no mention is made of the residual chlorine test.

Ventilation is well done, but the article on air conditioning is too brief, in view of the rapid multiplication of air conditioning installations, in the last few years.

The section on meat inspection is good, and the section on control of infectious diseases is better arranged than in previous editions, and also has some useful additions.

The book on the whole is very good and should be in every public health library.

B. R. D.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MASSAGE AND MEDICAL GYMNASTICS.—By Beatrice M. Goodall-Copestake. Sixth Edition. 1942. H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited, London (136, Gower Street, W.C.1). Pp. xx plus 370, with 129 illustrations (including 24 plates). Price, 16s.

MISS GOODALL-COPESTAKE has given us, in war time, a sixth edition of her book which was published originally during the last war. It is a book containing careful descriptions of all manipulations used for massage, and of their physiological effects. The chapters on muscle re-education are full, well arranged and easily followed. Exercises for medical and surgical conditions are carefully described with special emphasis on muscle work.

The volume is well illustrated. Special features of this edition are: an extension of the chapter on fibrositis and 'rheumatic' conditions; more information about congenital dislocation of hip and its treatment; a special chapter on war injuries, and the uses of plaster of Paris for immobilizing fractures. A bibliography gives titles of useful works on the subject of massage.

This book is one that can be used as a textbook for students, or as a reference book for those in practice.

P. B.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL. SPECIAL REPORT SERIES NO. 235. 'THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF FOODS.'—By R. A. McCance and E. M. Widdowson. Third Impression. 1942. Published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London. Pp. 150. Price, 4s.

THIS is the third impression of a book which has already established a place as a standard reference book on dietetics. Practically no change has been made in the form of the book, but it has been revised considerably. It is one of the easiest books to use in the preparation of diets; both grammes and ounces are given. The foods of course are English foods and will not cover the practice of those who have to prepare Indian diets; nevertheless, with the help of some small Indian pamphlet, such as Health Bulletin No. 23, where values of Indian diets are given, there should be no difficulty in meeting all eventualities.

Abstracts from Reports

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF THE LABORATORY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH, FOR THE YEAR 1941

THE Laboratory has now been over 50 years in existence. Despite the present adverse situation the research activities have been fully maintained. In addition, it now undertakes Government work for emergency hospitals and military services.

In the histology department, a special study of hæmatology was mainly directed to the establishment of different standards and simplified procedures. In the bacteriological section there was special work on *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Oidium albicans*. The chemists have continued the work on synthesis of organic bases of possible anti-malarial or trypanocidal power.

Reports issued from the laboratory number 17,182, compared with 16,035 in 1940. There were eleven publications during the year.