

**STUDENTS' HANDBOOK OF OPERATIVE DENTISTRY.**—By R. Ahmed, D.D.S. Calcutta: The Indian Dental Journal, 1928. Pp. ii plus 418. Price, Rs. 20.

DR. AHMED has been very ambitious in attempting to put before his students notes on Dental Anatomy, Dental Histology, Dental Therapeutics, Operative Dental Surgery and Dental Electro-Therapeutics in one volume of 400 pages.

His task has been a very arduous one and he has not met with as much success as his efforts deserve.

According to the bibliography at the end of his book, he has consulted in all about 80 works. Dr. Ahmed would have been more successful, if he had consulted only the most recent work in each subject.

Yet there are a number of discrepancies and at the same time some subjects seem to have been dealt with more fully than one would expect in a book of this nature.

For example, while seventy pages are given to the description of the anatomy of the teeth, cavity preparation is dismissed in less than four pages.

There are many points to which one might take exception. It will suffice to quote one—from page 299 dealing with the technique of extraction of the upper central incisor.

"The operator should stand behind the patient, his left arm should be placed upon the head of the patient and with the palm of his hand the lips should be retracted and some of his fingers should support his jaws."

A stance behind the patient would not appear to be the best position for the operator in extracting any upper teeth, the orthodox position on the patient's right front being preferred, whilst the retraction of the lips by the palm of the hand seems almost impossible.

The book itself is well produced and well printed on good paper, but the price at Rs. 20 makes it rather costly from a student's point of view.

J. E. G.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TECHNIQUE OF SECTION-CUTTING, FROM THE NOTES OF THE LATE MR. PETER JAMIESON.**—By Frances M. Ballantyne, M.A. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1928. Pp. xii plus 80, with 11 illustrations. Price, Rs. 2-4. Obtainable from Messrs. Butterworth & Co. (India), Ltd.

THIS is an excellent little book on technique compiled from the notes of the late Mr. Peter Jamieson of the Department of Zoology in the University of Glasgow.

In it are described briefly and clearly methods of preparing tissues, and of cutting sections by the paraffin and celloidin methods. Many points are described in connection with the various procedures and beginners, even in the tropics where special difficulties not mentioned in it are encountered, will find it a valuable guide.

G. S.

**DEAFNESS AND ITS ALLEVIATION.**—By Vincent Nesfield, F.R.C.S. (Eng.). London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 1928. Pp. v plus 85, with 19 illustrations. Price, 7s. 6d. net.

THE operation that Mr. Vincent Nesfield now describes for the alleviation of chronic deafness does not give us the thrill of a novelty. It was advocated by Aristide Malherbe as many as 29 or 30 years ago, and then quickly was lost sight of until its present resuscitation. Briefly the operation is one in which a new communication is made from the outside through the mastoid cortex posterior to the tympanum to the antrum. It would appear that the special indication for the operation is Eustachian obstruction, but Mr. Nesfield has also performed it with success in cases of oto-sclerosis.

Mr. Nesfield has operated on over 300 cases. Of this vast number, the results of only 11 cases are given and one is left in complete ignorance of what happened to the remaining 289 patients. The results of these 11 cases are not in the least bit convincing as Mr. Nesfield has not given any definite clinical picture of the cases

before or after treatment, so that one does not know what the functional tests of hearing were before and after. He states that his best and almost miraculous results have been in 2 cases where deafness was of only 2 years standing.

Such statements as "Three months later, i.e., after operation, she could hear a tuning fork on the mastoid bone for ten seconds" and in another case "A year later she was able to hear her name when spoken to in the dark at 2 yards and went to a lip reading class and improved her apparent hearing very considerably" are given as proofs of the remarkable results of the operation. Mr. Nesfield's book might have served a very useful purpose, either to prove or disprove the utility of this operation, had he based his observations on more scientific lines, but as it is, we are unconvinced and remain completely in the dark.

N. J. J.

**HANDBOOK OF DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR, FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.**—By W. S. Syme, M.D., F.R.F.P. & S.G., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1927. Pp. 400, with 26 text illustrations and 21 coloured and X-ray plates. Obtainable from Butterworth & Co. (India), Ltd., Calcutta. Price, Rs. 9-6.

IN this small handbook of the Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear a very wide field has been covered, indeed so wide is the field and so small the book that of necessity the author has touched very briefly on most topics. The book, owing therefore to the very superficial treatment of the subject, is hardly one where information on difficult points is to be obtained. The aim of the book, however, is "to stimulate the interest of students in the specialty" and from this point of view, the book is an excellent introduction of the subject to a student just commencing his classes in the Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear Departments.

N. J. J.

**DISEASES OF THE THROAT, NOSE AND EAR.**—By Dan McKenzie, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. Second Edition. London: Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd., 1927. Pp. 677, with 3 coloured plates and 254 figures in the text. Price, 45s. net. Agents: Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

SEVEN years have elapsed since the appearance of the first edition of this admirable work. The present edition is larger by nearly one-third and in it is given a clear and concise account of the diseases of the nose, throat and ear upon all points that come within the scope of this branch of surgery. The book, however, expresses the author's point of view and opinions, some of which may be challenged, and it does not attempt to be a book of reference which, for its size, it might well be. Nevertheless, it is the expression of a long experience and sound judgment, and for this reason it is to be commended. The book has been written mainly from the practical point of view and there are many excellent accounts dealing with the operative surgery of these parts.

Malignant disease and its treatment, surgical diathermy and endoscopy are all fully dealt with, and the book has been brought thoroughly up-to-date. One would not hesitate in recommending it as a first class text-book.

N. J. J.

**PRACTICAL GUIDE TO DISEASES OF THE THROAT, NOSE AND EAR, FOR SENIOR STUDENTS AND JUNIOR PRACTITIONERS.**—By William Lamb, M.D., C.M., M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Fifth Edition. Revised by F. W. Sydenham, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Vict.). London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1927. Pp. xvi plus 450, with 31 plates and 78 figures in the text. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

THE fifth edition of Lamb's Practical Guide to the Diseases of the Throat, Nose and Ear, is an excellent little book on the subject. The aim of the author is to present to the student and practitioner a guide to