

Pneumothorax in suitable cases also made the lesions quiescent quicker. In this group the disease became quiescent at the end of three years in 65 per cent of cases, whereas in the conservative group it was 38 per cent. Working capacity was also increased in the pneumothorax group.

The author stresses the importance of after-care and states that it should be strictly followed both in pneumothorax cases and also those cases who quiesce without pneumothorax.

In conclusion, he states that in these 10 per cent of all cases the improvement was 20 per cent, so the improvement by this method of treatment in all cases would be about 4 per cent which will not materially alter the gross statistical results of all cases of tuberculosis. But this therapy will continue to be of vital importance to selected individual sufferers.

P. K. S.

**TRACHOMA.**—By A. F. MacCallan, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S. 1936. Butterworth and Company (Publishers), Limited, London. Pp. xvii plus 225. Illustrated. Obtainable from Messrs. Butterworth and Company (India), Limited, Calcutta. Price, Rs. 14

THIS monograph has been written to take the place of the author's former *Trachoma and its Complications in Egypt* (Cambridge University Press, 1913), and embodies the Hunterian Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons of England 1936 on the surgery and pathology of trachomatous conjunctivitis.

So much work has been done on trachoma during the last ten years that an up-to-date book on the subject was badly needed and surely no one was more worthy to undertake this task than Mr. MacCallan with his vast experience of this widespread disease. The author has discussed his subject in great detail in nine chapters. These consist of an introduction to the study of trachoma, the clinical manifestations, the sequelæ, the complications, the differential diagnosis, the treatment, the pathological anatomy, the epidemiology and, finally, the history. There are also two indices—the author and the subject.

In a country like India where trachoma is so prevalent, the chapter on treatment will be of special interest as many of the sequelæ one sees are due to incorrect medical treatment and mutilating operations. How often does one come across cases of trichiasis and entropion treated by the removal of a piece of skin from the lid which should never be done. One must question the accuracy of the figures in the incidence of trachoma in India although they are taken from the Annual Report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India 1931 and the War Office Report 1931. It would be of interest to know who was responsible for the investigations. In Bengal where there is a population of 50 millions trachoma is uncommon, except in those who have recently migrated from northern or central India.

It is also interesting to know that the ætiology of trachoma is still incomplete, as the *Bacterium granulosis* of Noguchi has not been proved to be the causative organism. The clinical diagnosis in the absence of elaborate apparatus may be impossible and no aids are to be obtained by microscopical or chemical tests.

The book is a most excellent one and can be regarded as a classic. It is written in a clear, simple manner and the illustrations and reproductions of paintings are numerous and most excellent.

India in general must owe a great debt of gratitude to the author for reproducing an up-to-date book on this important disease which is responsible for so much suffering and blindness. We strongly recommend it to all ophthalmic surgeons in India and to medical officers who are interested in the subject of trachoma.

E. O'G. K.

**FAVOURITE PRESCRIPTIONS.**—Edited by Sir H. Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. A. Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. 1936. Published on behalf of the 'Practitioner' by Eyre and Spottiswoode (Publishers), Limited, London. Pp. 227. Price, 10s. 6d.

WE have referred elsewhere in this number to that excellent journal, *The Practitioner*.

A very useful series of articles that they published during the last year or so was entitled *Favourite Prescriptions*; these have now been issued in book form. Each contribution was a short discussion on the pharmacopœia of one of the leading London hospitals, either general or special.

The first chapter is rightly devoted to the pharmacopœia of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London's old hospital, founded in the year 1133. Its first pharmacopœia was however not published until more than 600 years later, 1743. No prescriptions appear to have survived the two hundred years since this date, but many prescriptions have undergone few or unimportant changes during the last fifty years.

We claim to be followers of a progressive science but it may be said to our credit that when we see that a thing is good we are very ready to leave well alone.

An interesting contrast is the chapter on the favourite prescriptions of the Tropical Diseases Hospital. There quinine is almost the only drug that is not a parvenu. It must shake its family pride to have to associate with such upstarts as atabrin, neostibosan, carbon tetrachloride, yatren and tryparsamide.

This is a book which should prove to be a 'best seller' as it will appeal to many of us on account of the memories it revives, very much to our advantage if we have strayed away from the habit of writing simple and cheap prescriptions, and to others who were—in our opinion—less fortunate and received their medical training elsewhere by placing at their disposal time-honoured and cheap prescriptions suitable for almost any occasion that may arise in their daily practice.

L. E. N.

**EXOPHTHALMIC GOITER AND ITS MEDICAL TREATMENT.**—By I. Bram, M.D. Second Edition. 1936. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. Pp. 456, with 79 illustrations. Price, \$6.00.

THIS monograph on the subject of Grave's disease is based on the experiences of the author who has been treating this malady by medical means for over two decades and on his studies on this subject. The author has discussed the various theories as to the causation of the disease and has adopted the hypothesis that the disease is a 'generalized dysfunction of the vegetative nervous system and the entire chain of endocrine organs—a neuro-endocrine dysfunction'. The patient is believed to have an inherited or rarely an acquired neuro-endocrinopathy, serving as the predisposing factor, and it requires but the torch of an exciting cause, usually an emotional strain, a psychic trauma or, rarely, an intoxicant, to light up the symptoms. To support his theory as to the value of the exciting causes, he has cited a large number of case histories.

To the protean symptomatology of the disease no less than six chapters have been devoted and a fairly exhaustive account of the symptoms and complications has been given. A full description of the various eye signs associated with exophthalmos has been given. It is time that those signs that 'do not add materially to the ease and certainty of diagnosis' and that have become a tradition in medicine, should receive less important attention. Description and enumeration under symptomatology of all sorts of symptoms, *viz.*, neuritis, tetany, scurvy, osteoporosis, etc., observed occasionally in Grave's disease appear to be of doubtful value.

Diagnosis and differential diagnosis have been dealt with thoroughly. The author has tried to differentiate between thyrotoxicosis and Grave's disease by considering no less than twenty points of difference. The entity

of most of the differentiating points is, to say the least, doubtful and the difference between the symptoms of thyrotoxicosis and Gray's disease is really very little.

The author has discussed a large number of tests and has found the estimation of basal metabolic rate and the quinine test to be useful. No mention is made of the methods of estimation of the basal metabolic rate or of the simple formulæ, *e.g.*, Reid's, employed for the purpose.

The author believes the treatment to be entirely non-surgical by adoption of hygienic, psychotherapeutic and medicinal measures. He regards surgery and destructive radiation as palliative measures only. To support his views he has brought forward the successful results of a large number of cases treated medically.

If his methods are followed with similar success in other parts of the world by other authorities on the subject, the standard textbook teaching that medical treatment is but palliative and that curative treatment is either by surgery or destructive radiation of the thyroid, and the dictum that the 'indication for operation is the diagnosis of hyperthyroidism' will have to be revised.

R. C.

**THE OPERATIONS OF SURGERY.**—By R. P. Rowlands, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), and P. Turner, B.Sc., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Eighth Edition. 1936. Volume I. (The Upper Extremity—The Head and Neck, The Thorax, The Lower Extremity, The Vertebral Column.) J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. x plus 1045, with 435 illustrations (38 in colour). Price, 36s.

For nearly half a century Jacobson's 'Operations of Surgery' has been in the library of almost every practising surgeon. This first volume of the eighth edition has fully maintained the high standard of its predecessors, but one cannot help regretting that though the general arrangement and much of the text remain as written by the late Mr. W. H. A. Jacobson, his name has now disappeared from the title and has been given but brief reference in the preface.

The present editors have had the assistance of several distinguished members of the staff of Guy's Hospital in rewriting specialized sections of this edition. To one familiar with previous editions, the new sections are readily picked out. Without exception they are excellent; one would be surprised to find otherwise in this work. They are also well balanced in length and in manner of presentation, features usually lacking in works of multiple authorship. Continuity of style is fair, but in this respect perfection is impossible under the circumstances.

Textbooks on operative surgery are usually encumbered by the description of a number of operations which are often set as tests of surgical anatomy at operative surgery examinations, though seldom performed on the living subject. The post-graduate finds these operations fully described for his benefit in several books on surgical anatomy. They should have no place in a work of an essentially practical nature. In this volume several of these have been omitted. There is, for example, no mention of the Chopart and Lisfranc amputations. The editors are to be congratulated on having the courage to leave them out, and it is to be hoped they will carry the principle further in future editions.

J. C. D.

**SYNOPSIS OF ANO-RECTAL DISEASES.**—By L. J. Hirschman, M.D., F.A.C.S. 1937. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. Pp. 288, with 174 text illustrations and 6 coloured plates. Price, \$3.50.

We have nothing but praise for Dr. Louis J. Hirschman's little book, *Synopsis of Ano-Rectal Diseases*, for it clearly describes the outlines of diagnosis and treatment of all the common affections of

the anus and rectum in a manner which will be of great assistance to the general practitioner.

The first third of the volume is entirely devoted to methods of examination, enumeration of equipment, etc., and, though this may seem to be excessive in a work of this size, the description is so excellent and so full of sound common sense that the amount of space taken up could not be lessened without detracting from the usefulness of the book.

In the section on hæmorrhoids the author, like that great English proctologist, Ernest Miles, exhorts the general practitioner to take a greater interest in this disease, and never to treat a case of rectal bleeding as merely one of piles, without a very full examination of the anus and rectum. Plate I which illustrates a carcinoma of the rectum complicating prolapsing hæmorrhoids is an example of the great importance of examining all cases of piles in the fullest manner.

Anal papillitis, rectal prolapse, and the removal of foreign bodies from the anal canal and rectum are fully dealt with. The book is well printed and the illustrations are good.

H. E. M.

**WEIGHT REDUCTION DIET AND DISHES.**—By E. E. Claxton, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. With Recipes by Lucy Burdekin. 1937. William Heinemann (Medical Books) Limited, London. Pp. x plus 199. Price, 8s. 6d.

A STUDY of the history of man has shown him at all times concerned with his self-preservation and protection in a world which was full of unforeseen and often unpleasant contingencies. Abstinence from food or drink in the interests of a propitiating diety and later on asceticism in the hope of salvation in the next world were often the motives. The present century has however seen a waning absorption in the future and a greater attention of man on himself, his fellows and the present.

The cult of weight reduction by diet and exercise is probably designed to attain better health, retain youth, and the approval of others, in which notably the desire for sex appeal plays a large part. The methods employed, namely diet and exercise, are probably the modern form of the abstinence practised by primitive man along with the more positive athleticism of the Greeks. Whatever Freud may say about the real nature of inhibition taboo, who can deny that the present cult is more or less rational in its object and in its methods?

The author has written quite a sensible book on weight reduction, not quite but almost, without tears. The main principle simply is that the calorie intake should be suitably adjusted so as to be slightly below the requirements but not such as to cause a great loss of protein or an acidosis. No drugs are recommended, attention to exercise and food are the bulwarks of the scheme. A number of useful recipes is given—a biscuit sweetened with saccharine and containing bran, gum and mineral oil as a dough mixture is the most formidable. The scheme is graduated and success depends largely on self-discipline while carrying it out.

H. E. C. W.

**A TEXTBOOK OF SURGERY.**—By American Authors. Edited by F. Christopher, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. 1936. W. B. Saunders Company, Limited, Philadelphia and London. Pp. xix plus 1608, with 729 illustrations. Price, 42s.

A WELL-BOUND, well-printed and well-illustrated book following the classical arrangement of the English surgical textbooks. Indeed, the similarity of the arrangement to those of Rose and Carless is rather striking.

The subject has been divided into many small sections, each signed by its author. One hundred and eighty-nine authors have taken part in the compilation, the list of them occupying ten pages. Many names of international repute occur in this list and no pains have been spared to make the contributions as complete as was consistent with space available.